

ANIMAL CONTROL ADVISORY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Date and Time:	Wednesday, March 19, 2025 *4:30PM
Location:	Saginaw County Animal Care & Control Resource Center 5615 Bay Road, Saginaw, MI 48604
Council Members Present:	Dr. Mielke, Tracey Slodowski, Cynthia Winiecke, Kelli Scorsone, Carol Pickelmann, Jonna Godley, Laureen Lutenski, Tom McIntyre, Demetrios Scott (Arrived at 5:20)
Council Members Absent:	Emilie Lyday
Others in Attendance:	Rachel Horton, Jaime Ceja, Mary Catherine Hannah, Pam Goodeyne, Diane Niederstadt, Dolores Kellet, Lori Brown, Lindsay Sammons, Alycia Norton, Diane Booth, Sharon Maher, Linda Leonard, Jen Speckhard, Christine Madrigal-Sawyer

- I. **CALL TO ORDER**
Chair Slodowski called the meeting to order at 4:32PM
- II. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
Member Scorsone made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from January 15, 2025. Member McIntyre supported. Motion passed (8-0).
- III. **PROCEDURE AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS: SECRETARY**
 - a. **SECTION 5.1 Number and Election.** The officers of the Council shall be elected by a simple majority of the Council members and shall be a Chair, Vice Chair and a Secretary. The Council may also elect one Assistant Secretary.
Member Winiecke made a motion to nominate Demetrios Scott as Secretary. Member McIntyre supported. Motion passed (8-0)
- IV. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT, RACHEL HORTON, DIRECTOR**
 - a. **Surgical Center** – Ribbon cutting April 30. Michigan Pet Alliance would like to speak. Jaime to put on agenda. Spay it forward fund created to help people pay for their spay/neuter surgery. It will be tracked by ACO's and staff. The only way you get a spay/neuter voucher is from the ACO's and/or Dr. Mielke. The oxygen generator project is done, finalizing training and signage. Member Godley asked if animals at the shelter are the priority for spay/neuter. Director Horton stated yes, once everything is up and running our animals will always be the priority. Goal is to have animals spayed/neutered as soon as they come off stray hold.
 - b. **Best Friends Conference** – Learned about high volume low cost spay/neuter. Met a lot of shelter vets from all over; VA, TX, FL. Alycia is in the leadership program with Best Friends, via university of Utah. SCACC joined the Paws up challenge/return to owner – track how many animals have been returned to their owners. PartnerUp Challenge, shelters partner with each other to network and transfer animals. April will be a large transfer month.
 - c. **ShelterLuv/Office Ops** – Met with IT today and we are almost there with Shelterluv. Katie is the new office assistant. Calls will be routed to 3 phone lines to help streamline the process.

- d. **Staff/Volunteers** –Alicia is going to TN for training at end of month. More time for enrichment, leash walking, playgroups all because volunteers have more time. Volunteer handbook was approved by the Board of Commissioners. We have never had a handbook. It will be nice to have standards and guidelines for all volunteers. We will have a large meeting where its introduced. Volunteers will be invited to help at the surgical center opening. All existing volunteers will have to sign the handbook. Previously, there was the volunteer application with waivers. This goes into more detail. Member Pickelmann asked if there a provision that it must go back to the board for revision? Mary Catherine stated no, the director has authority to make changes, but they must be approved by the Administrator before becoming effective.
- e. **Adoptions** – Yankee was adopted, Speedy Q was adopted. Yankee received a freedom walk because there were a lot of staff on site for an adoption event, someone recorded it, and it just took off. Chair Slodowski stated we need more of that content.
- f. **Michigan Pet Alliance Spotlight** - Will release an article tonight on Facebook. Highlights staff and surgery center. Transfers have been high because we have been trying to get animals out of the shelter.
- g. **Tahoe** – Member Pickelmann thanked Director Horton for everything she has been doing for the shelter. Horrified by how the community has treated her and Dr. Mielke. There is a myth that the millage provides enough money to pay for this building and operations. We always need more money at the shelter. The personal threats, volunteers commenting the correct information and being attacked. Tahoe was not suffering while he was here. He was not in pain. Hopeful that as a Council, we start a committee on training this community to remove the myths. Chair Slodowski made it clear to all volunteers, even if you do not agree you are welcome to call me. You may not like the answer but I'm available.

V. NEW ISSUES- N/A

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

- 1. **Jenn Speckhard** – SCACC has been trying to post positive things in place of negative. Chair Slodowski stated that the bad side of social media is that people feel comfortable being a bully online. Can't believe that they attacked Rachel but then they started attacking Dr. Mileke too.
- 2. **Diane Booth** – Hats off to Rachel, she has a young family, this was terrible and never should have happened. Volunteers are embarrassed by what has happened.
- 3. **Alycia Norton** – In conversation with Dr. Mileke after one meeting, she said she just wants all the animals to feel loved.
- 4. **Mary Catherine Hannah** – Just want to address the financing of animal control. The County bonded out for this building so there is a debt service of \$600K due each month. Millage dollars cover the debt service and everything else comes out of general fund.

VII. NEXT MEETING

- 1. Next meeting will be held Wednesday, April 16, 2025.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

- 1. Member Pickelmann made a motion to adjourn. Dr. Milleke supported. The meeting adjourned at 5:30PM.