## Alachua County Animal Welfare Advisory Committee Minutes

February 22nd, 2023

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| **Members Present**Melissa MoomawBrandi Ormerod | **Members Absent**Amy TateShannon MurphyMeredith MontgomeryStacy HudakChelsea Bower |
| **Staff Present**Julie JohnsonSarah GilleyFaren HealeyFaye Gould |  |

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 1:01pm

**Approval of the Agenda**

Motion could not be made to approve the agenda as quorum was not met. Final Agenda will be approved at the next meeting.

**Agricultural Center**

Diana Johnson shared that events can be held at the Agricultural Center. She suggested we look into this venue to coordinate future events. Questions about pre-approved activities at the venue can be sent to Julie.

**Meetings from Previous Meeting**

Brandi Ormerod asked if anyone had questions regarding minutes from previous meeting, no one did.

**Public Comments**

Floor was opened for public comment. The following questions were raised:

* 1:05pm - Citizen wanted to address current cases. Citizen wanted to praise Director Julie Johnson for taking action and addressing old cases. The citizen shared a document from Marcy LaHart regarding one of the cases to open dialogue. The citizen emphasized the importance of caring for the owners, stated we should offer resources and support. Julie informed the citizen the cases are ongoing, so we could not discuss details, but Julie informed the citizen that teams of human resource assistance were onsite for the case regarding cats, emphasized the importance of getting help for the owners. Julie stated the public can continue to bring concerns to us, and our goal going forward is to handle these cases with compassion. The citizen thanked Julie for being thorough and transparent with the cases.
* 1:17pm – Citizen asked if we could look into having a SOP for cases where ACAR works with the local police department to have a more cohesive discussion between departments. The citizen asked specifically about the Cava Case, Julie informed the citizen the case was ongoing, so we could not discuss details, but we were not made aware of warrants being executed. The citizen requested we work on developing better procedures for future cases.

**Update on Managed Intake Policy**

* 1:20pm – Discussion of agenda began. Julie began the discussion by stating “take in what you get out.” We are striving for balance between incomes and outcomes. There will be days where we cannot achieve perfect balance, so exceptions will be made as needed. Our goal is to have ~10% of kennels open at all times to have space for those exceptions. Our focus needs to be on lifesaving instead of numbers. Managed intakes will assist in limiting the spread of diseases and prevent another overcrowding situation that overwhelms staff and volunteers. Brandi asked about public perception of this policy. Julie stated there may be pushback in certain cases, but we are doing our best to be transparent and share our numbers every day to better explain why we are moving to this policy.
* 1:23pm – Brandi addressed website accuracy, stated website appears more accurate and looks better than before.
* 1:25pm – Brandi began discussion of found animals, specifically what information veterinary practices are receiving in regards to found animals. Sarah Gilley explained we do have a bullet point list now available for veterinary practices along with a Found Animal Guide that can be distributed to finders. Staff at veterinary practices should make an effort to refer finders to our facility for further instruction if they are unable to hold a found animal. If a practice ends up with a found animal, they should report the animal to our dispatch line. A Found Report can be generated on 24PetConnect immediately.

**Update on Hiring Needs**

* 1:28pm – Faye Gould provided an update on hiring needs,

**Upcoming Meeting**

* At 2:25pm, the next meeting date was set for February, 8th 2023 at 1:00pm in the same location, the Community Support Services Building.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40pm.

The Alachua County Animal Welfare Advisory Committee is scheduled to meet again on February 8th, 2023 at 1:00pm in the Community Support Services Building.