

**St. Clair County Animal Services**

**Minutes for Meeting**

**Conference Room: 6:00 P.M.**

**March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

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**Members Present:** Robert Trentman  
Scott Greenwald, Asst. Chairman  
Mike O'Donnell  
Lonnie Mosley  
G.W. Scott, Jr.  
Robert Wilhelm  
Harry Hollingsworth

**Others Present:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mr. Trentman.

**Roll Call and Declaration of Quorum**

Stand for the Pledge of Allegiance

Roll call and a quorum declared present.

**Public Comment:**

Mr. Trentman: Public comment. Please keep your comments or questions to about 2 minutes and direct them to this chair. There are a lot of people here, so we need to stay at about 2 minutes so everyone gets a chance to speak who wants to speak. Alright, who is first?

Robin: I'll go.

Mr. Trentman: State your name, if you would so that we can make this a little bit easier.

Robin: My name is Robin Schaefer. I am born and raised in Belleville, IL. I'm sure many of you have heard of me through social media. I want to make something clear right away that some people think that these concerns are coming from disgruntled or former employees or volunteers and that's simply not true. These individuals who spoke up, were walked out or fired after reporting issues. These are people with experience, knowledge and moral ethics to say

something. I have also spoken to others who have quit because they are disgusted on how the facility is being operated and managed. I've been involved in animal rescue for around 20 years. Much of that has been funded out of my own pocket. I know work with an amazing organization that truly does right by the animals. But they are not in my jurisdiction and that is why I stepped up to help within my own community and I went to animal control. When you are involved, you have people come to you. They ask for help and that's exactly what started happening here. So I went to animal control, started volunteering in my own community so that I could help those who were coming to me. Within an hour of walking through those doors, I saw red flags. Not long after, people started coming to me begging for help, sharing their experiences and concerns. I was shocked, I was disgusted. I started digging into things because this is my community. I won't go into everything right now, but I will speak on one major issue. Animals are being denied to transfer rescues. Rescues are willing to pull them and they are ready to take them. Animal Control provides the bare minimum, we all know that. They are not equipped to handle the medical care that these animals need. When rescues step up and are denied, the animals are left there, sitting, declining and suffering; for months or even over a year. That is unacceptable. When this facility became a no kill operation, there was no proper protocol put into place and I believe that still hasn't changed. The data reflects that, the conditions reflect that. Meanwhile, strays are running at large. The burden falls on the community which is why we are all here. If you are going to operate as a no kill facility, you must have the structure to support it. Fostering programs, rescue partnerships and proper processes. That is not optional. Right now, leadership is denying rescues to access to these animals. That's unprofessional, unacceptable, and its causing animals to lose their lives and the community to suffer.

Mr. Trentman: Thank you, who is next?

I will follow up on Robin.

Mr. Trentman: Ok.

Claire: I am not going to say a whole lot. I just have seven copies to hand out.

Mr. Trentman: Can you state your name?

Claire: I am Claire Weygandt. I am not disgruntled, I am a former employee. Here are the seven copies of just the little bit of information. My first red flag should have been the first staff meeting that I went to when I witnessed the warden lean forward to stop another employee from talking about something they witnessed involving a cat. That should have been my first red flag. Knowing how management will yell at you for no reason, belittle you, call you stupid, should have been another red flag. There were plenty of red flags that I saw. But I stuck it out because this is what I wanted. I had been volunteering for 5 years and I decided that this would be fun to just go ahead and get a part time job and anything but. So what I am passing around is called the bare minimum. The Bare Minimum, what Ashley Jett thinks is acceptable; food, water, shelter. The bare minimum of letting dogs sit there not being treated for heartworms, but yet its ok to take 4 thousand dollars out of your medical budget to spend on a kitten that you are pretty sure isn't going to make it. Four thousand dollars and that kitten didn't make it. Heartworm treatment on a dog is \$400 through Gateway Pet Guardians. But the vet that they have a contract with wants to charge \$800, so make that make sense when the vet that they are contracted with wants to charge more for heartworms than going to Gateway Pet Guardians. But anyway on the bare minimum packet that I just passed out is an example of I don't know, maybe 6 dogs that I monitored their weight while I was there and they go from gaining weight

to being severely emaciated because the “medical person” uses a calculator without putting eyes on the animal and when they lose weight, they bump down their food, the next weight they ask for, they lose weight, they bump down their weight again. Suddenly, you have a 42-pound dog that is now 33 pounds in a matter of a month and a half, it’s just not acceptable. Anyways, I’m done. I’m not going to speak anymore.

Mr. Trentman: Alright, thank you. Who’s next?

Amber: I did just come to listen, because I am still just curious on everything. So actually, two – three years ago, I found 2, well actually the police found 2 dogs, and they brought them to my vet office. I really wanted them, but they had to be held, because they were possibly someone’s. They were transferred from Ashley to rescue. So, I’m not sure where they don’t transfer animals, because I did rescue and I’m not just saying that. My ex-boyfriend has those two and they did come from a rescue. Maybe they don’t transfer all of them, but they do transfer some. So, I’m sorry that you...

?: When did this happen?

Amber: Two-Three years ago. So recently, I’ve got that. So just also to chime in on the weight loss. I started in animal control, started at a shelter, and now I work in vet med. Stress on an animal in that environment can cause it as well. So, I just wanted to kind of educate you all.

Mr. Trentman: Thank you. Who is next.

I’ll talk. For the record Dennis Barecevic, Fairview Heights. I have been volunteering for animal control on the adoption side for almost 9 years, before Ashley started in a management position. She can correct the math, I’m not sure how long it is. I enjoy doing it. I have never seen an animal abused. I have never seen an animal underfed. I have never seen an animal medically prevented from receiving care. I am amazed at the interest and care that Ashley and the staff, Eddie, put on for these animals and for the residents of Fairview Heights. They come in and out of there and are adopted. Right now, we are kind of slow, but animals go out of there to families at a great rate. And some families have been denied due to the knowledge that animal control has; maybe the animal isn’t a good fit. So, they are doing what’s best for the county and for the city. If the county gets rid of Ashley, you guys are really doing a bad job.

Mr. Trentman: She’s not going nowhere.

Jennifer Schilling: I’ll talk. My name is Jennifer Schilling. I am from Millstadt. Obviously, I was here last month and spoke to you guys on our best experience that we have had with rescue, shelters, fostering, the whole nine yards. I can firmly attest that medical services are being provided for these dogs. I have one of them that I took as a medical foster to adopt in September. Leg amputation, tail amputation, whole nine yards. I also recognize a few faces in the back corner from BAHS that I know that they are the number one transfer partner for St Clair County and take an immense amount of dogs from Ashley and probably cats too, but cats aren’t my thing. Sorry, cat people. Just not my thing. In addition, I seen some posts in the last month going around about some dogs in Caseyville that really brought my attention and unless things have changed since I was in civics decades ago, the last I knew state couldn’t come into county facilities and strong arm themselves. County couldn’t go into cities. As far as I know, that is still the case. That’s the way that the police operate, that’s the way it’s always been. So, all the trashing of Ashley on Facebook for these posts of these dogs down in Caseyville. Which I know now that you have talked to Caseyville and they are getting a protocol into place and they made

a post about that, like I'm not understanding like is there a breakdown or does county just cover county. Because that's the way that I always understood it to be. Oh, and more fundraising for Ashley. I do have, finally, Glo Bingo for St Clair County Advocates. So, if anyone would like to have one of these when you leave, just let me know. Tickets are on-sale for more medical funding.

Mr. Trentman: Thank you. Alright, next. You spoke right, ok...next.

Kurt: I'm Kurt Swanson, from Belleville, IL. I mean a lot that was mentioned by Robin I cannot really speak to. I do not know how animals are pulled or rescued or stuff like that. I am more of a community advocate, also help operate another rescue. I know a lot of people think that I am up here advocating for my friends at Animal Control, my responsibility is to the dogs. If I thought that they were being mistreated, I would be right there with you, without question. I have not seen one bit of neglect, personally. I think Eddie gets the ass end of everything – all day long, everyday. He gets to deal with every jerk in town and I don't know how he does it. I just want to let you know, that a lot of you know me from social media and I would be the first in line, and I don't shut up well, if I thought there was real abuse going on there.

Mr. Trentman: Just so you know when it was real subzero temperatures, Kurt was coming by my house and picking up stray daily and taking it down to Cahokia, State Park, wherever they needed it. I asked if he wanted me to go and he was no, I got it. So we would load the bails onto his truck and off he went. He's a good guy. Anyone else want to speak?

?: I just had a question about her question with the county to city verses what she was talking about. Does it go county to city or does it go from state to county. What exactly does it do, what she was talking about.

Mr. Trentman: You mean like the dogs, like Caseyville.

?: Yeah, does it go to Caseyville, does it go to Belleville, does it go to? Does it go from state to city, what exactly does it do.

Mr. Trentman: We will address that in Ashley's report. How's that?

?: I would appreciate that.

Tim: Tim Price and I am from Belleville. I just have a couple of quick things. Regarding the Caseyville dogs; I work for the Illinois Department of Transportation and my experience with dogs from that area, some of which I think were these. We managed to get ahold of the owners previously, saying that the dogs had been on 255 – we got response back on Facebook that their dogs don't go on the highway; a week later, my guys buried that dog on the highway. I don't know what you do with people who are not responsible dog owners, or what you are dealing with down there, or who has the limits of who does what. Regarding the amount of money that's spent on the dogs, Gateway vs. private vet – with contracted for the government, I don't know what the county has set up, I recently had a \$3,000 repair bid on by a company, but under state contract, it's \$11,000. So contracts are not always a good thing for government. But we are stuck with them.

Mr. Trentman: Who else?

Robin: Can I speak again?

Mr. Trentman: You already spoke, Robin, right?

Robin: I did.

Mr. Trentman: Anybody else? Mom, come on?

Glen: Glen Areny, from shiny Shiloh. Mines not a question, more of a suggestion that you update your website so that it is clear. There is a lot of confusion on if it's county, or city. I think that the website is kind of vague on detailing that, that Animal Control gets a lot of negativity on social media online because its so vague in the wording. I think that would help a lot.

Ashley: We are working on that currently. We had a social media firm hired or are consulting with a social media specialists currently to be able to help us with a website; to have a FAQs – something to make it a little more broad.

Glen: You seem to already be on it.

Ashley: No, I appreciate it.

?: The recent dogs that Belleville Area Humane Society tried to pull were George, Slim Jim, and Schatze from them but they were denied.

?: And what was your name? Sorry.

Mary: Mary Scahefer.

Mr. Trentman: Thanks Mary. Ok, anyone else.

Savannah: I'm Savannah and I am the Executive Director of the Belleville Area Humane Society, and I want to make a very important distinction here that 285 times last year, we transferred animals from St Clair County Animal Services. There were times that you all wanted to keep the animals for your adoption center. That's not abusive though, that's running your business in a different way that I think would be most effective. But its certainly not abusive and certainly not neglect.

Mary: What would you call it?

Mr. Trentman: Thank you for your comment.

Savannah: Inefficient but that's not illegal or morally wrong.

Mr. Trentman: Thank you. Anyone else. Now is your chance.

**Approval of Minutes:**

**MOTION: by Mr. Mosley to approve the minutes from the February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2026 meeting.**

**Second by Mr. Greenwald.**

**Vote: Yes: 7                      No: 0                      Motion Carried.**

**Ashley Report**

Mr. Trentman: Report from Ashley, our AC Director.

Ashley: So, for the month of February, we had an 89% live release rate. That is 45 intakes and 44 live outcomes; 5 of them being shelter euthanasias, which brings our total to the 89%. We did do 24 adoptions and transferred 17 animals to our adoption center and we brought in the rest of them via confiscation, owner surrender, returns to the shelter, strays essentially. As far as transfers, we had 16 of them that left the building. 4 of them went to the humane society; 2 dogs, 1 puppy and 1 cat. 9 of them went to Heping Strays; 2 dogs, 1 puppy, 4 kittens, and 2 cats. 1 to Is Today my Day Rescue, 1 to Needy Paws Rescue and then 1 cat to St Clair TNR and Rescue. As far as addressing some of the things that were talked about; our jurisdiction is no different than the service jurisdiction of the St Clair County Sheriff's Department. If St Clair County Sheriff's Department goes to that jurisdiction, then that's where we go as well. City of Belleville has their own animal control officer, Caseyville should have their own, Marissa has their own, Fairview has their own, O'Fallon has their community service officers that handle their jurisdiction. We will help when we have the availability to do so, but our priority is St Clair County's jurisdiction and what we are funded to handle. As far as heartworm positive dogs, we did have a really good working relationship with Gateway Pet Guardians, until the lost, unfortunately lost their veterinarian Dr Frei. At that point, we were still on working standards with Alicia their director, but they needed some time to be able to fill that position before they would be able to help us with the heartworm positive dogs. That was about a 6 month lapse and in that 6 month lapse we decided to hire Dr. Koss to come in as a part time veterinarian to administer those heartworm injections for us. We purchase the Diroban and she does the injection. She comes straight to us. As far as Dr Niemann, I am not sure who got the \$800 price, but Dr Niemann has never quoted a price through Dr Niemann to provide those services. He will be doing those services when we move to the new facility, and it will be included in his contract fee, but \$800 did not come from me from any knowledge. We are doing our best when it comes to heartworm positive animals. We actually went through the list of the amount of animals that came into the facility from 2024-current and how many of them were actually treated through our facility as opposed to how many of them were sent to different rescue organizations: and I lost my booklet. 58 animals tested positive for heartworms that were brought into our facility in the last 2 years; one was treated through an adopter, who was actually going to school, so the school offered to pay for and covered that, 25 were treated through us, 1 was returned to the owner with the knowledge that his dog was heartworm positive, 14 were transferred to BAHS, 7 were transferred to GPG, 5 were euthanized due animal aggression, 1 was transferred to Is Today my Day Rescue, 1 transferred to Angel Dog Alliance, 4 were euthanized for advanced stages of medical. That's a pretty good ration of how many animals – that's 43% that we treated out of all the animals that came into our facility. Not to mention, they are getting monthly heartworm prevention, so regardless of the fact, they are still being treated and its considered the slow kill method but if you are giving an animal nexgard plus monthly, its still the "slow kill method" of heartworm treatment, so they are not going without any sort of medical treatment, they are being treated just the rescue feasible way and not the fast kill method that most people do choose. I don't know how much more I have. I can talk about the new building. New building is going well. We are about 82% done with progress. They have grid ceilings going in, concrete is being poured, tiles are up on the walls, and the flooring will be going in next week. All the millwork is up, so all the cabinetry and those types of things. Kennels are ordered, all of those should be in within 10-12 weeks, so we are moving along very well and we are

looking at progress and looking to be open hoping end of June, beginning of July at the latest. We are participating in the Slumber Pawty, the 2026 Slumber Pawty, so for those of you who don't know – about 15 of my staff and myself included will be sleeping in kennels for 24 hours to raise money for the shelter. We also have a Glo Bingo that Jenn mentioned, through Tribouts on 5/15 where we will be raising more money for the shelter. We do intend on having a Grand Opening for the new facility which will include an Adopt A Thon, which we used to do in the past. We are also going to be participating in the fairgrounds for the 2026, Fair St Clair. We will have a booth there with adoptable animals as well. We are at the fairgrounds every month. Dawn goes and brings an adoptable dog. Trying to get our name out there and make sure that we are doing the best we possibly can for these animals. I don't consider bare minimum feeding, watering and sheltering because they are getting enrichment, out of their kennels 2-3 times per day, they are being out into playgroups, they are being treated for the medical that they need, a doggy day out program, we have a foster to adopt program, we have a foster programs for animals that are pregnant, nursing, injured, sick, medical. We play music for these animals. You are not going to find another animal control facility who is doing these things for these animals. You wont find another animal control facility in the State of Illinois that has a no kill resolution and is actively still getting 90% every year. We are not doing bare minimum, we are doing far above bare minimum. We are providing extreme medical for animals who need it and our priority is to prioritize the animals that need to be treated and that's the priority. If they need it, they need it and we make sure they get it, and if we cant provide it we reach out to find someone else who can. We appreciate everyone's support, we appreciate everybody who comes and is asking questions for knowledge purposes, you don't find the things you need to know unless you ask the questions. We appreciate you all for coming.

Mr. Trentman: How many dogs do we have at the shelter now.

Ashley: Our kennels are full. Our adoption center has 18 dogs in it. We just filled our last 6 kennels today, that we had open waiting on a humane care to come through.

Mr. Trentman: Do you happen to have the numbers of the different organizations that have pulled animals this year through March?

Ashley: I don't have the ones that have pulled through March, I just have the totals from February.

Mr. Trentman: You have through February.

Ashley: I just have Februarys totals that I read on here for who pulled in the month of February. So 16 animals leave to go to rescue in February.

Mr. Trentman: What organizations took them.

Ashley: Belleville Area Humane Society, Helping Strays, Is Today my Day, Needy Paws, St Clair TNR and Rescue.

Mr. Trentman: So how many did Belleville Area Humane Society pull.

Ashley: 4, 9 to Helping Strays, 1 to Is Today my Day Rescue , 1 to Needy Paws and 1 to St Clair TNR and Rescue.

Mr. Trentman: Is this something that you can get every month so that we know.

Ashley: Yes.

Chairman Kern: And as far as jurisdiction goes, we handle bite cases throughout.

Ashley: Yes, we handle all bite cases and humane cares.

Chairman Kern: That's the thing that we attempt to cover in all municipalities, even within cities.

Ashley: We ask that since we are licensed through the state as humane care investigators that we handle because if we handle from the beginning its easier for us to not have to start over once another jurisdiction has already tried to take into that. We have had issues in the past where we have had dogs removed on humane care cases without getting impound numbers from the state of Illinois and then they are ot filing forfeiture paperwork in the right amount of time so we ask that we are the ones who handle those and they are willing to let us.

Mr. Trentman: Dawn, do you have anything to add to Ashley's report.

Dawn: Not really. We have the fundraisers coming up next month and also in May.

Mr. Trentman: That's the Slumber Pawty

Dawn: Sleeping in a kennel for 24 hours.

Mr. Trentman: I made it half way through the night.

Ashley: And we gave you the big room.

Mr. Trentman: I ended up in the lobby. I tried. I need a motion to accept Ashley's report.

**MOTION: by Mr. Wilhelm to approve Ashley's report. Second by Mr. Greenwald.**

**Vote: Yes: 7 No: 0 Motion Carried.**

Mr. Trentman: We don't have any ordinances or resolutions. Any other business to come forward? Any board members on this committee have anything to say.

**MOTION to adjourn by Mr. Hollingsworth. Second by Mr. O'Donnell.**

**Vote: Yes: 7 No: 0 Motion carried.**



# Kennel Statistics, Including Animals Left

Intakes from 3/1/2026 to 3/31/2026

	<b>DOG</b>	<b>PUPPY</b>	<b>CAT</b>	<b>KITTEN</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>59</b>
<b>BORN</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>
BELLEVILLE	0	6	0	0	6
<b>CONFISCATE</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>
BELLEVILLE	1	0	0	0	1
FREEBURG	1	0	0	0	1
<b>EUTH REQ</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
BELLEVILLE	0	0	1	0	1
<b>OWNER SUR</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>9</b>
BELLEVILLE	0	0	0	2	2
EAST ST LOUIS	1	0	0	0	1
NEW BADEN	0	0	1	5	6
<b>RETURN</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>
(no jurisdiction)	0	0	1	0	1
BELLEVILLE	1	0	0	0	1
<b>STRAY</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>27</b>
BELLEVILLE	9	0	2	0	11
BROOKLYN	1	0	0	0	1
CAHOKIA	2	0	0	0	2
CASEYVILLE	1	0	0	0	1
DUPO	0	1	0	0	1
EAST ST LOUIS	1	0	0	0	1
FAIRVIEW HEIGHT	2	0	0	0	2
FREEBURG	2	0	1	0	3
MASCOUTAH	0	0	1	0	1
O FALLON	2	0	1	0	3
WASHINGTON PARK	1	0	0	0	1
<b>TRANSFER</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>12</b>
BELLEVILLE	2	0	0	2	4

	<b>DOG</b>	<b>PUPPY</b>	<b>CAT</b>	<b>KITTEN</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
EAST ST LOUIS	2	0	0	0	2
FREEBURG	1	0	0	0	1
O FALLON	1	0	0	0	1
SHILOH	2	0	0	0	2
STATE PARK	1	0	0	0	1
WASHINGTON PARK	1	0	0	0	1



# Kennel Statistics, Including Animals Left

Outcomes from 3/1/2026 to 3/31/2026

	<b>DOG</b>	<b>PUPPY</b>	<b>CAT</b>	<b>KITTEN</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>ADOPTION</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>10</b>
(no jurisdiction)	1	0	0	0	1
BELLEVILLE	3	1	0	2	6
SHILOH	1	0	0	0	1
SWANSEA	0	1	0	1	2
<b>DIED</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
BELLEVILLE	0	0	0	2	2
<b>EUTH</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>
BELLEVILLE	2	0	0	0	2
CAHOKIA	1	0	0	0	1
<b>O/R EUTH</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>
BELLEVILLE	0	0	1	0	1
EAST ST LOUIS	1	0	0	0	1
<b>RELOCATE</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>12</b>
BELLEVILLE	2	0	0	2	4
EAST ST LOUIS	2	0	0	0	2
FREEBURG	1	0	0	0	1
O FALLON	1	0	0	0	1
SHILOH	2	0	0	0	2
STATE PARK	1	0	0	0	1
WASHINGTON PARK	1	0	0	0	1
<b>RTO</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>
BELLEVILLE	5	0	1	0	6
CAHOKIA	1	0	0	0	1
FREEBURG	1	0	0	0	1
O FALLON	1	0	0	0	1
WASHINGTON PARK	1	0	0	0	1
<b>TRAN IN ST</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>

	<b>DOG</b>	<b>PUPPY</b>	<b>CAT</b>	<b>KITTEN</b>	<b>Total</b>
BELLEVILLE	2	0	3	0	5
FAIRVIEW HEIGHT	1	0	0	0	1
FREEBURG	0	0	1	0	1
O FALLON	0	0	1	0	1

Animals Left In Shelter  
on 03/31/26

<b>DOG</b>	<b>PUPPY</b>	<b>CAT</b>	<b>KITTEN</b>	<b>Total</b>
61	7	10	7	85