

ANIMAL CONTROL ADVISORY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Date and Time:	Wednesday, June 18, 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 Scorson, Carol Pickelmann, Laureen Lutenski, Tom McIntyre, Sharon Maher
Council Members Absent:	Emilie Lyday, Demetrios Scott, Jonna Godley
Others in Attendance:	Rachel Horton, Jaime Ceja, Alycia Norton, Jen Speckhard, Diane Niederstadt

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Slodowski called the meeting to order at 4:30PM

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Member Pickelmann made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from May 21, 2025. Member McIntyre supported. Motion passed (8-0).

III. DIRECTOR'S REPORT, RACHEL HORTON, DIRECTOR

- a. **Surgical Center** – Hosted vaccine/microchip clinic. As soon as dates are released, they are booked. Dr. Mielke performed 6 spay/neuters in the surgical center.
- b. **Shelterluv** – Started using ShelterLuv on May 6 and it has been a quick transition. Benefits include volunteers as well as staff having access to notes, ACO's have quick access on their phones in the field. Adoption applications and payment can be processed from handheld devices when in the field.
- c. **Playgroups** – Currently adding more volunteers to the list of those able to help with playgroups. Playgroups happen daily. Data needs to be collected for about a year to show the positive impact these groups have.
- d. **Staff/Volunteers** – ACO Joe Duncan started and is in training now and will be introduced a bit further down the road. Member Pickelmann asked if there is a volunteer sign up available for upcoming events. Director Horton stated not a lot is needed, at the Loons game we will walk through the park with the dogs on leash and for the Paws and Beyond event we are staffed well. We would need volunteers who are trained to do meet and greet's. Paws and Beyond will be doing onsite consultations and anyone who adopts will get a coupon for a training class. Member Lutenski asked what the holdup is with Pets Supplies Plus. Director Horton stated that she filled out all the paperwork and submitted it and has still not been contacted by the store to set up an adoption event. Member Lutenski stated she would reach out. Member Mahar stated that Rachel is going a great job.

IV. AGENDA

- a. **Council Mentorship Program** – Chairman Tany brought this up with Chair Slodowski as a possible Council initiative. The idea would be for Council members to train and mentor new volunteers. Director Horton stated that council members would have to be trained in a lot of areas first, dog handling, behavior, shelter procedures. Mary Catherine stated that this may a discussion to see where Chairman Tany would want the emphasis to be. Is it to get the Council more involved, because they are very involved. Member Lutenski asked Director Horton what she needs

help with specifically. Director Horton stated that before anything can be delegated, she would need to create the training and then disburse it. Vice Chair Scorsone asked where the group who formed the 501(c)3 is at. Director Horton stated that those who were doing it have been dissolved but that Alycia Norton has started one, with the entire community as the focus, not just the shelter.

- b. **Educational Outreach** – Vice Chair Scorsone stated that she has been doing a lot of research and found a program for young children that can be mirrored. The sub-committee decided that they want to focus on one area, grade school. Decided that August is a good month to reach out and everyone will come back to the next meeting with ideas. If we get the response we want, then we will need help from the council. Member Pickelmann stated that she was a teacher previously and would love to be involved. Vice Chair Scorsone stated that if the training room is available would the council be able to get a key for the weekends? Mary Catherine stated that the intent would be for staff to open and close the building so the events would need to coincide with the hours the shelter is available on Saturday and Sunday which is 8AM-2PM. The training room can currently be reserved by filling out the facilities use form and submitting it to the administration office. Next meeting will be July 16th at 3:30PM at SCACC. Jaime will send invite.
- c. **Dog Park** – Vice Chair Scorsone – No report at this time. Member Winiecke asked what the park needs. Director Horton stated that there is glass and metal in the dirt, it would need to be removed, replaced and grass replanted. Someone should reach out to Brian at Parks and Recreation to see what is necessary to have a dog park.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

- a. **Jen Speckhard – Dog Parks** – Voiced concern over having a dog park at animal control, disease, dog fights, possible animal dumping are all possibilities. Director Horton stated that the idea would be to use it as an agility course for shelter dogs. Jen also asked if volunteers have access to Shelterluv to see and make notes about dogs. Director Horton stated that currently only staff have logins, and she is trying to figure out how to lock some of the information, while keeping other information open to review. Jen also stated that the playgroups are having a very profound impact on animals at the shelter, very positive.
- b. **Member Lutenski – Cat Testing Dogs** – asked if dogs are cat tested. Director Horton stated they are not because it has been found to be very stressful for cats, and it is not a good predictor of how a dog will react to a cat in a home environment. Alycia Norton, a member of the gallery, stated that she also always recommends a very slow controlled introduction between cats and dogs.

VI. NEXT MEETING

- 1. Next meeting will be held Wednesday, August 20, 2025 at 4:30PM.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

- 1. Member Winiecke made a motion to adjourn. Member Maher supported. The meeting adjourned at 5:16PM.