

Item # 6

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL

Regular Meeting

FEBRUARY 11, 2020

SUBMITTED AT THE REQUEST OF

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION and
GROWTH MANAGEMENT**



Environmental Protection and Growth Management Department
115 S. Andrews Avenue, Room 329 • Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301 • 954-357-6612 • FAX 954-357-8655

TO: Bertha Henry, Broward County Administrator

FROM: Henry A. Sniezek, Director
Environmental Protection and Growth Management Department

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "HS", is written over the name of the sender.

DATE: February 10, 2020

RE: Item # 6 – February 11, 2020 Board Agenda

Staff was notified of an email, believed to have been sent to several Board members, from Ms. Roz Harris, dated November 7, 2020. The correspondence includes several questions about the planned Animal Care and Adoption (ACAD) "Wellness Clinic." For your information, attached are responses from ACAD to each of the questions raised.

In addition, staff has prepared and attached for your information a summary of recent ACAD data and program status.

Please feel free to contact me at your convenience if you have any questions.

/HAS
Attachments

cc: Monica Cepero, Deputy County Administrator
Andrew Meyers, Esq. Broward County Attorney
Robert Melton, Broward County Auditor
Leonard Vialpando, Deputy Director, EPGMD
Lauralei Combs, Director, Animal Care and Adoption Division

Broward Animal Care (ACAD) Responses
Questions from February 7, 2020 Email from Constituent Roz Harris
Regarding Item #6 – February 11, 2020 Agenda

Request for a Public Hearing on Feb. 25, 2020, to amend sections 40.9 and 40.10 of the County's Administrative Code is on the commission agenda for Feb. 11, 2020.

I have several important questions regarding the Wellness Clinic's euthanasia policy. Euthanasia is being removed from the list of services under the county shelter, and being added under services in the proposed Wellness Clinic. This is highly concerning and inherently problematic.

WELLNESS CLINIC EUTHANASIA POLICY CONCERNS:

1. Aren't the new fees *encouraging* euthanasia as a less expensive option?

ACAD Response: No. The clinic service is intended to provide pet owners a lower cost option to separate from their sick pet.

2. Are non-county resident surrender fees being removed or will surrender be denied, yet have a euthanasia option at the Wellness Clinic?

ACAD Response: Yes, ACAD does not accept out of County Owner surrendered pets. The County Code is being updated to reflect Division policy. A euthanasia request will be assessed by the staff Veterinarian, if deemed not medically valid, the procedure will not be performed by the County.

3. Will Wellness Clinic euthanasia cases be allowed to circumvent the county shelter's live release rate statistics?

ACAD Response: No. Wellness Clinic data will be published on ACAD website as a separate practice from the shelter. However, the shelter will post statistics on the ACAD website reporting clinic euthanasia within the context of the live release rate.

4. Will treatable Wellness Clinic euthanasia requests be required/encouraged to relinquish pets so treatment can be networked as an option? (Please keep in mind MOST owner requested euthanasia is voided when treatment options and/or rescue are made available)

ACAD Response: The proposed service would be available by appointment, with the request to be assessed by the staff Veterinarian. If the staff Veterinarian deems euthanasia not medically valid, they will offer an owner surrender option through ACAD admissions.

5. How will this be monitored to encourage transparency, all possible treatment options and all possible live outcomes?

ACAD Response: Wellness Clinic data will be published on ACAD website as a separate practice from the shelter. However, the shelter will post statistics on the ACAD website reporting clinic euthanasia within the context of the live release rate.

**ANIMAL CARE AND ADOPTION
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
February 10, 2020**

1. Live Release Rate

January 2020: **86.1%*** (Dogs – 87.1% / Cats 85.6%) *preliminary
December 2019: **84.5%** (Dogs – 83.2% / Cats 85.1%)

2. Status of Pompano shelter

Good Karma received the keys to the shelter on January 26, 2020. They are in the process of cleaning, updating and painting some rooms. There are a few building issues (replace some kennel fencing, and a leak). ACAD staff is coordinating with Good Karma to hold a “ribbon cutting” event during March. Good Karma has begun increased efforts pulling animals from the main shelter.

3. Status of the moveable FORTs (Moveable Pop-out Structures)

One of ACAD’s spay/neuter FORTs is currently at the Broward County Humane Society, in their parking lot. It is being used 5 days a week for spaying and neutering pets. The second ACAD FORT is scheduled to be delivered on February 11, 2020 to the Pompano facility and set up as a kitten nursery, to be staffed and run by our partners, Good Karma and the Pet Project.

4. Shelter Assessments

The group American Pets Alive, visited the shelter, at no cost to the County, February 7 and 8, 2020. A focus of the American Pets Alive assessment was cleaning and sanitation procedures and practices. The group Maddie’s Shelter Medicine Program at the University of Florida, has offered a no-cost, week long operational and programmatic assessment, tentatively scheduled to begin on July 21, 2020. Additionally, staff has contacted the Big Dog Ranch Rescue, based in Palm Beach County. Big Dog Ranch Rescue has indicated an interest in providing a consultation on shelter operations and program.

5. Status of Fiscal Year projection for tag sales.

Based on 4 months (October through January) of tag sales entered into the ACAD tracking system, the pace is 112,000 tag sales for this fiscal year. However, staff continues to enter tag sale information from the past 4 months into the system, and the projection may be increased. Last fiscal year, approximately 105,000 tags were sold.

6. Current Shelter Population

On February 10, 2010, the shelter population consisted of **153 dogs** (27 below capacity) and **157 cats** (four above capacity). A prior report sent to Department staff, dated January 25, 2020, reflected a shelter population of **177 dogs** (three below capacity) and **186 cats** (33 above capacity)