

Oconee County Animal Services Advisory Board

Minutes from: Wednesday, May 7, 2025

Animal Services Conference Room, 6:00 PM

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Melody Brooks. Board members present: Melodie Brooks, Kelsey Fox, Terry Ruffin, Fran Leathers, and Nancy Baumann. Also present: Crystal Berisko (OCAS, Manager), Nina Wingrove (Friends of OCAS, President), Angie Eades, Angela Young, and Nathalee Simoneau (The Oconee Enterprise)

2. Approval of February 5, 2024 minutes

- Correction on HW and flea/tick preventatives of shelter program to provide one free dose to adopters instead of two.

Minutes from February 5, 2024 were approved. Motion to approve by Ruffin, 2nd by Leathers.

3. Public Comments

No comments

4. Manager of Animal Services Updates-Crystal Berisko

- Budget
Michelle was approved for the Pet Smart position until June 30. She is also helping at OCAS since there's not many cats at Pet Smart.

First reading will occur on May 20 with adoption on June 3. Contract labor positions will be replaced with 2 permanent part-time positions of 25 hours each per week. Positions won't have benefits but will accrue sick leave and personal leave. Michelle may apply for a position since her position at Pet Smart ends on 6/30.

Ms. Sue Helzerman has been hired through the Best Friends Grant. She is very experienced, and we are excited to have Sue working with OCAS. Sue currently volunteers with Atlanta Boxer Rescue.

Experienced people are needed on weekends. Tentative plan is to have officers work 4 ten-hour shifts with working a weekend every third week. This would provide two paid employees working on a weekend when OCAS is busiest. Many volunteers arrive on the weekend which overwhelms the current weekend staff. Having experienced officers will make for better management of volunteers.

- Projects

Door Project and Keyless Entry will be a combined project with other departments in Oconee County. Quotes given for different systems are drastically different. It has been difficult to coordinate with so many different departments. Funding will not be lost and can roll over to the next year. Better quality camera and keyless entry will be the result.

- Stats

Intake 1/1/2025-5/7/2025

Clinic: 5

Owner/Guardian Surrender: 50

Seized/Custody: 3

Stray: 116

Transfer In: 10

Wildlife: 3

Total Count: 187

Fiscal Year to Date 7/1/2024-5/7/2025

Clinic: 50

Owner/Guardian Surrender: 146

Return: 10

Seized/Custody: 7

Stray: 389

Transfer In: 11

Wildlife In: 3

Total Count: 616

Outcome 1/1/2025-5/7/2025

Adoption: 82

Clinic Out: 5

Euthanasia: 26

Return to Owner/Guardian: 29

Transfer Out: 52

Total 194

Fiscal Year to Date 7/1/2024-5/7/2025

Adoption: 327

Clinic Out: 51

Died: 4

Euthanasia: 68

Missing: 2

Return to Owner: 63

Transfer Out: 199

Total: 719

Current Inventory is 60 animals-72 cats and 18 dogs. The low inventory has enabled extensive spring cleaning from pressure washing, steam cleaning, washing walls, baseboards, sterilizing, and yard work.

FYD: 616 animals to date. On track to come under 2024 total. Very grateful for that.

Calls for service: 17 calls in May 2025 234 calls from 1/1/2025-5/7/2025
615 calls from 7/1/2024-5/7/2025

- Events

Latest events: Pet Supply Plus, Union Christian Church, United Community Bank, and Akadema Brewing Company. The church was a great location for the rabies clinic. Akadema was a wonderful event with many OCAS alums attending. The kitten shower planning is in progress. Dog treats are desperately needed. All the dogs are potty trained and need frequent walking and treats. Volunteers walking dogs also use many treats. Treats should be organic, no unnatural dyes. Board members can request treats on social media. Also use Amazon and Chewy wish lists.

Also needed is kitten and puppy wet food.

- Other

Thank you to Melody and Kelsey for your service. Term ends June 30. There are many great applicants for the next term. Closing date for application is May 15.

A welcome letter will be sent to the new board members. Rules will be explained. An invitation will be extended to visit OCAS.

The biggest call issue is strays. 60% involves stray cats and 30% involves dogs. Many dogs are reclaimed.

The biggest issue with volunteers is having them come and follow the rules. OCAS is affiliated with the GivePulse database. UGA is also affiliated. Allows volunteers to sign up for an event and provide feedback about the experience.

5. Meeting Dates

July 9, 2025, and October 1, 2025

6. New Business

No new business

7. Closing Comments

Everyone thanked Melody and Kelsey for their hard work and dedication.

8. Melody Brooks adjourned the meeting at 6:30 pm. Second by Fran Leathers.