

Animal Services Advisory Board (ASAB) Meeting Talking Points for 9/9/26

- Why were the October & November meetings removed from the calendar? Is this another Administrator decision made because the August primary election is over? These meetings must be scheduled monthly.
- Why is there still no outside veterinarian on this board?
- Increase the issues to be addressed by animal welfare
 - Cat colony explosion
 - Invasive species
- We all must insist the Bishop trailer kennel band-aid plans and invoices be made available to the ASAB members, as well as the public.
- Request all trailer area band-aids over a specified dollar amount be reviewed by ASAB members for common sense spending:
 - Example 1) Obviously the no vision doors that came with the trailer kennels never should have been allowed in the first place but did you know \$70,000 was spent on new doors with tiny little windows? Anyone on this board who has volunteered anywhere would have advocated for real windows allowing the better line of site required for safety.
- Example 2) Permanent shade structure common sense questions could have been asked and more information requested before spending the \$1M included as a Consent Agenda item. Grading & drainage should have been considered first for example
- Increase the annual animal welfare budget to reflect the size of Manatee County. It is currently approximately 0.4% which translates to approximately \$6 million. Of that, roughly \$3.76 million is dedicated to personnel and the rest to operations. The \$6 million dollar budget is not enough to provide the community with the public safety services required.
- Tie future annual increases to animal welfare budget to percentage of revenue indexed for county growth
- We want this Advisory Board to succeed even if the Administrator and Board of Commissioners don't.