



MINUTES

ANIMAL CONTROL BOARD

1st QUARTER MEETING 2025

DATE: Wednesday March 26, 2025

Location: Michigan City Police Department's Community Room

Time: 12:30 pm

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 12:28 p.m.

Roll Call

Present:

David Cooney

Dr. Rex Bailey

Don Przybylinski

Chairperson / MCPD

Michigan City Animal Hospital

Michigan City Council Member

Absent:

Karen Edwards

{Vacant Position}

Quorum: Yes

Michiana Humane Society (MHS)

Director of Animal Control (A/C)

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from 4th Quarter meeting dated December 2024.

Motion: Approve the 2nd Quarter 2024 meeting minutes.

1st – Don Przybylinski

2nd – Dr. Rex Bailey

The motion was approved by all board members present - **Motion carries.**

Previous Business

- **Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) Program Updates**
 - TNR is ongoing - December 2024 (6 cats), session this week (approx. 10 cats).
 - Traps are currently out; cats are trapped, spayed/neutered the next day, and released the following day.



- Residents where traps are set are informed cats will be returned, but no formal release signed.
- TNR conducted regardless of cat ownership (community cats included).
- Current surgeries are paid via the approved funds; providers (Freed's to start; Michiana Humane Society soon) are reimbursed for their services. Estimated number of cats covered per \$6,000 allocation to each group is unclear and under review.
- TNR schedule is monthly with each partner, aiming for two sessions monthly by April.

Kennel Expansion

- Presentation by Andrew Matanic:
 - Technology and Facilities Department is handling kennel expansion.
 - Plans drafted for 30x64 ft building, with separate office and kennel areas.
 - Utility locate/drawings in progress; architectural floor plans forthcoming.
 - Construction to be partly in-house; anticipated project start: July 2025.

New Business

- **Donations and Public Outreach**
 - Public donates supplies (towels, food, bowls, kennels); outreach occurs via Facebook and email (mcac@michigancity.com).
 - Difficulty accessing Animal Control's Facebook (still under prior director), but efforts are ongoing to regain admin rights for better communication.
- **Animal Transport & Liability**
 - Discussion of situations where Animal Control transports privately-owned injured animals:
 - Owners remain responsible for associated care and costs.
 - Friction and staff abuse reported when owners are not clear on this policy.



- Suggestion: Require a release if animals are handed over for euthanasia or medical decisions.
- Need to review procedures with city attorney—transportation liability, legal ability to move animals, and potential need for fees.

Review of Michigan City Animal Control Activities for 4th Quarter 2024 presented by Chairperson Cooney:

4th Quarter Report 2024

Total impounds: 120

Dogs: 76

Cats: 44

DOGS

Michiana Humane Society (MHS): 5

LaPorte County Small Animal Shelter: 5

Guardians of the Green Miles: 2

Valparaiso Lakeshore Paws: 8

Owner reclaims: 54

Fostered: 1

Deceased: 1

Euthanize: 0



CATS

Fried's Cat Shelter: 15

MHS: 5

LaPorte County Small Animal Shelter: 6

Humaine Indiana (Munster, IN): 6

Owner reclaims: 5

Fostered: 3

Deceased: 4

Euthanize: 0

- **Discussion:**

- Who handles deceased deer? That is handled by the street department.

Public Comments:

- Judy Coall (resident) gave feedback on the TNR program:
 - Advocates expansion and awareness—relies on word-of-mouth currently as some do not use Facebook.
 - Requests information also be posted to website/radio; seeks improved scheduling and volunteer coordination.
 - Noted out-of-pocket expenses averaging \$3,500/year for her personal TNR work.
 - Suggested exploring other programs (e.g., Silver Stray) and developing a formal volunteer program.



- Recommendation: Have formal releases for trap placement/return obligations to manage confusion and liability.
- TNR Program Details Discussed:
 - Most cats receive microchips and vaccines (distemper, rabies), ear-tipping for identification; some shelters offer more services than others.
 - Standard TNR appointment cost mentioned: roughly \$60/cat (Humane Indiana).
 - Suggestion for volunteer transport help to free up Animal Control resources and to grow capacity.

Board Comments:

- Launch of new City and Police Department website scheduled for Friday, including dedicated Animal Control page for public information.
- Ongoing discussions to expand animal intake contracts to additional foster/rescue facilities (requires ordinance amendment).
- Recognition of Animal Control Officers for TNR program management. Also recently achieved empty kennel for the first time in years, showing progress.

Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting.

1st – Chairman Cooney

2nd – Councilman Przybylinski

Motion carries.

*Minutes Approval @
3rd Quarter Meeting 2025
A/C Doree Cooney 248*



Notes:

- *This meeting was very informative, covering several important issues related to animal control in Michigan City.*
- *Several action items were assigned to address these issues, and the board showed commitment to finding solutions.*
- *The board expressed appreciation for the hard work of Animal Control and their dedication to the well-being of animals in the community.*