



Animal Services Bureau Advisory Group

March 4, 2026
341 S. Birdneck Rd
Virginia Beach, VA 23451

Minutes

Attendance

Members Present

Stephsi Seger, Deanna Board, Carla Stone, Erica Feiste DVM, Kelly Copeland, Lisa McDonnell

Members Absent

Michael Berlucchi, David Hutcheson

City Staff Present

DC Wichtendahl, Christopher Mauldin, Jessica Wilde, Adam Blankenship, Phyllis Buckner

Approval of Minutes

December minutes are approved

Discussion Items

Shelter Updates

1. Staffing continues to be an issue
 - a. Need Caretakers and Clerks
 - b. Abacus Temporary workers contracted now
2. 135 dogs currently in the shelter
 - a. ALL TIME HIGH
 - b. Adoptions not keeping up with surrenders
3. 2025 Year End Report- Key

Enforcement Updates

1. Staffing is still low
 - a. 11 ACOs on the road currently
 - i. One on light duty
 - b. Budgeted for 17 ACOs
 - c. One supervisor position vacant as well

Clinic Updates

1. Dr. Schmidt starts March 26th, 2026
2. Still looking for second LVT

Other Business

Goals for 2026

1. Version of Managed Intake
 - a. Coordinated and scheduled
 - b. Safety Net Team
2. Animal Enforcement Staffing
 - a. Fill open positions

Volunteer Programs Coordinator

1. New Position

Dog Bite Update

- If a citizen is bit by their own animal and report it, ACO can now just call citizen and mail exposure report.

Public Comment

When is budget season to get new jobs approved?

- We do not think these jobs are in the current fiscal budget. Looking at FY27

Any progress with sharing accountability on picking up dead animals? Ie-Public Works?

- Due to staffing issues, this issue is still with the City Manager's office.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Next Meeting Date: June 3rd, 2026