



Community & Veterans Services
1112 Manatee Ave West
Bradenton, FL 34205
Phone: (941) 748-4501
mymanatee.org

Manatee County Animal Services Advisory Board Clarifying Scope of Authority (Based on Resolution R-26-006, adopted February 17, 2026)

The Animal Services Advisory Board (ASAB) is an **advisory body only**. It has no decision-making power, no enforcement authority, and no ability to direct County Staff or operations. It exists solely to provide recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) and County Administration on matters the BOCC or Administration refers to it.

The ASAB's value comes from staying strictly within the advisory role defined by Resolution R-26-006: accepting referrals, studying them carefully, and offering clear, consensus-based recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners and County Administration.

This keeps the Board's work focused, lawful, and useful to the decision-makers who hold authority.

To keep the Board focused and effective, it is helpful to distinguish three categories of issues:

1. Procedural / Policy Recommendations Related to Animal Services (Within the Board's advisory scope)

These are the matters the Resolution expressly authorizes the ASAB to address when referred:

- Recommendations to improve County **policies and procedures** that relate to the legal duties of the department/division responsible for animal services and welfare.
- Recommendations concerning the County's Code of Ordinances **as they relate to animal services/welfare**.
- Proposals to better coordinate efforts between private animal-related groups and the County.
- Assistance with educational materials and programs on responsible pet ownership, volunteering, and fostering.
- Recommendations on future **funding, resources, and operational options** the County may consider for its animal control agency functions.
- Any other specific animal-related question or issue the BOCC or County Administration refers to the Board.

VACANT
District 1

AMANDA
BALLARD
District 2

TAL
SIDDIQUE
District 3

MIKE
RAHN
District 4

DR. BOB
MCCANN
District 5

JASON
BEARDEN
At Large

GEORGE W.
KRUSE
At Large

Key limitations that still apply even to these items:

- The Board may only act on items **referred** to it. It has no authority to self-assign projects, issues, or initiatives.
- All recommendations are non-binding advice. The Board cannot adopt policy, set procedures, or take any position in the name of the County unless the BOCC specifically authorizes it.

2. Operational / Day-to-Day Management (Outside the Board's authority)

These matters belong to County Administration and the Animal Services/Animal Welfare Division under the direction of the County Administrator (or designee):

- Daily shelter operations, staffing decisions, and work schedules.
- Individual animal intake, medical treatment, euthanasia, adoption, or foster decisions.
- Enforcement actions, citations, investigations, or case handling by Animal Control Officers.
- Internal administrative procedures, purchasing, contracts, personnel matters, or facility management.
- Implementation and execution of any policy once the BOCC has adopted it.

The ASAB may be asked for **recommendations on operational options** (see category 1), but it does not manage, supervise, or direct operations. Making or attempting to make operational decisions exceeds the Board's authority.

3. General County Policy Unrelated to Animal Services (Outside the Board's authority)

The ASAB has no role in:

- County-wide budget priorities unrelated to animal services.
- Land use, planning, transportation, public works, parks (except animal-related aspects), or other departmental policies.
- General personnel, collective bargaining, or administrative policies that apply across County government.
- Political advocacy, positions on state/federal legislation, or any matter outside animal services and welfare.
- Taking public policy positions in the name of Manatee County or the Board of County Commissioners.

Summary Rule of Thumb

Type of Issue	ASAB Role
Animal-services policies and/or procedures (when referred)	May advise / recommend
Day-to-day operations & staff management	No authority
General County policy not related to animal services	No authority
Self-initiated projects or un-referred issues	Not permitted