

Animal Services Advisory Board - Agenda Item Request

Submitted by: Anonymous user

Submitted time: Aug 25, 2026, 7:21:57 AM

Full Name:

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Nature of Proposed Item:

Procedural: Detailed, standardized step-by-step methods, written protocols, documentation requirements, tracking systems, and formal processes for performing specific tasks or ensuring consistency, accountability, and transparency (the "how" of individual activities and record-keeping).

BOCC or County Administration Referral:

No

Type of Agenda Item:

Discussion / Information Sharing

Proposed Title / Topic:

Presentation from Director MCAW

Concise Summary of Proposed Item (255 character limit):

Dr. Johnson has agreed to my request to give the board a presentation to provide an overview of the department. She will answer questions after completing the presentation.

Detailed Description, Background, Justification & Community Impact:

Dr. Johnson will present a 30-45 minute presentation of the municipal shelter responsibilities, sharing data and statistics regarding our shelter vs. other area municipal shelters. This presentation is designed to provide the CAB and community valuable insights. Dr. Johnson will be prepared to answer questions after completing the presentation. I would request that each member be mindful of time and that we keep the Q&A to approximately 30 minutes. Please notify CAB members of this presentation and ask them to come prepared with questions.

Requested Board Action or Outcome:

None

Requested Timing or Priority:

High Priority / Urgent: Needs discussion at the next available meeting; may require expedited staff work or a special meeting

Justification for High Priority / Urgent Status:

As a newly formed board this presentation will provide us with valuable perspective and help us moving forward.

Additional Comments, Questions, or Context for Staff and Board:

Dr. Johnson has agreed and prepared for this presentation.

Attestation and Acknowledgment:

I have read, understand, and attest to the above

Manatee County Animal Welfare Overview



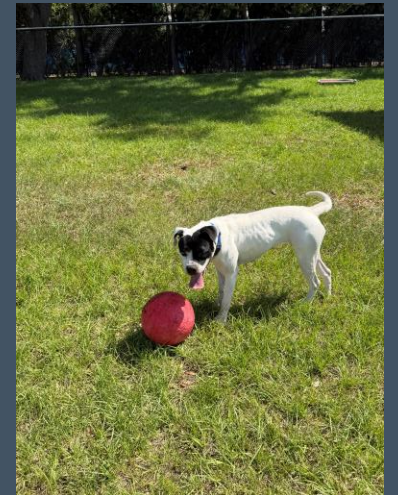
Mission & Role

- **Protect public health and safety**
- **Enforce Animal Ordinance 25-33**
- **Promote responsible pet ownership**
- **Reduce pet overpopulation**
- **No-Kill Resolution R-11-127**

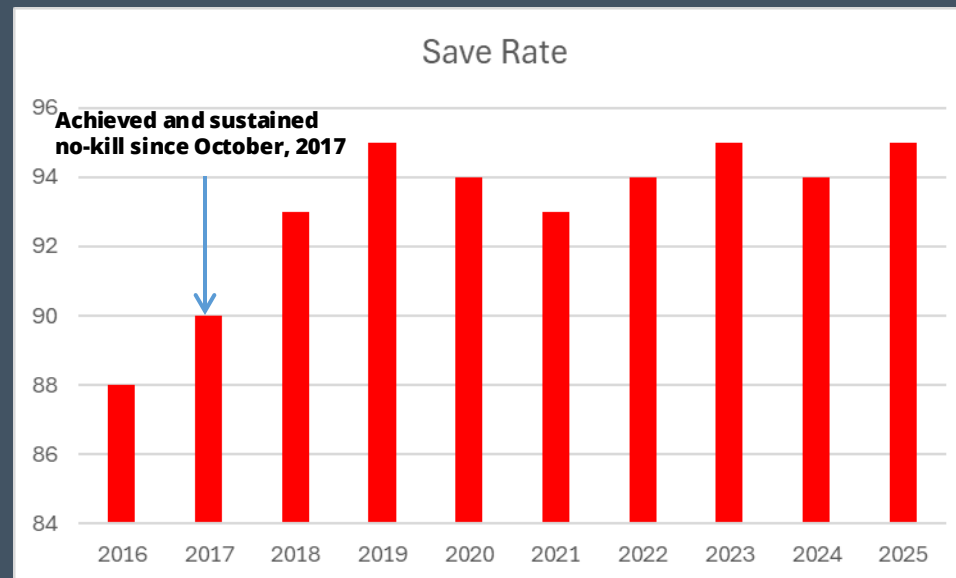
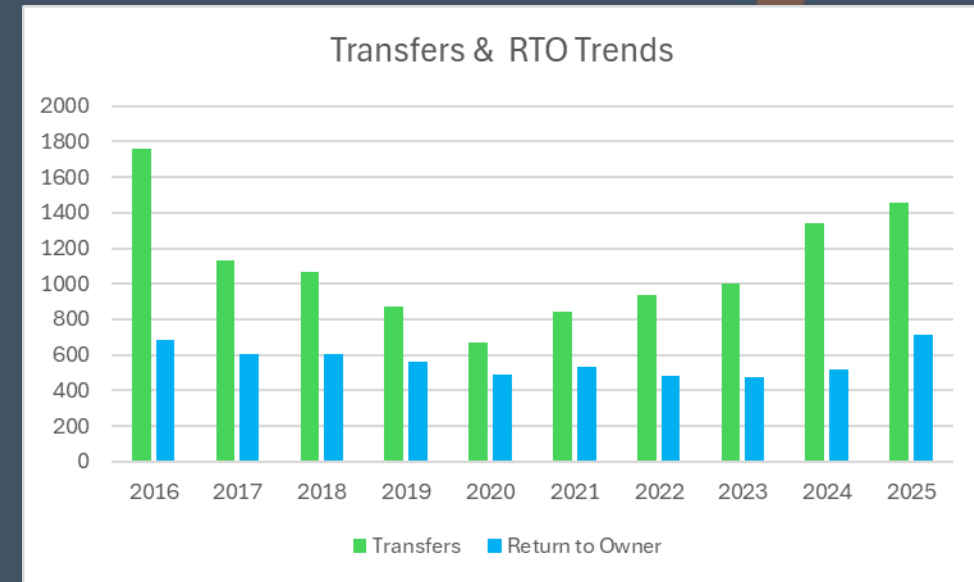
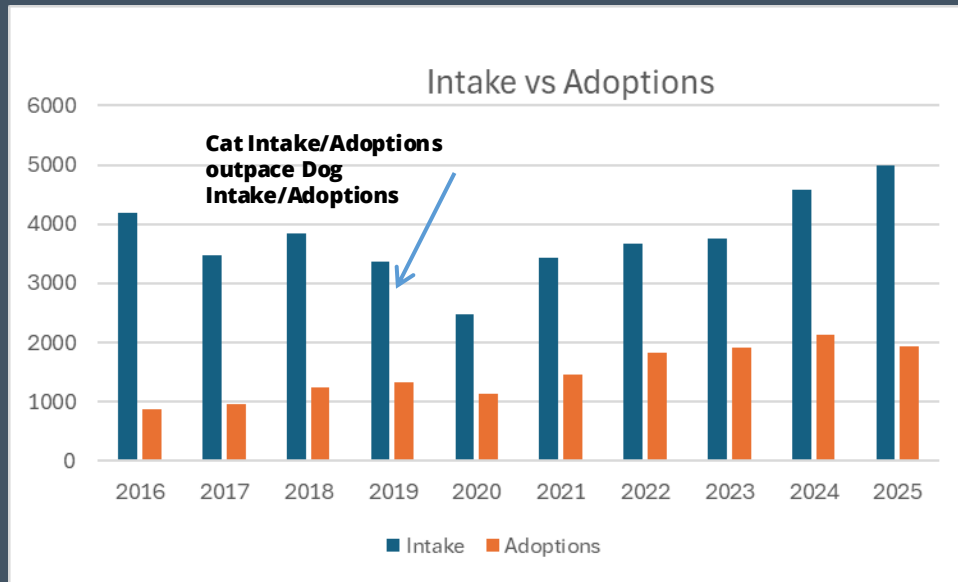


Shelter System Overview

- **MCAW Overview The ONLY open-admission shelter in Manatee County**
 - **Field Operations**
 - **Bishop Animal Shelter (primary)**
 - **Cat Town (adoption center)**
 - **Resource Center**
 - **Community-focused approach**



By the Numbers



Tampa Bay Region Comparison

Measure	Manatee County Animal Welfare	Tampa Bay Municipal Peer Range
Reported outcome measure	96% save rate	83%–92.5% reported live-release/save-rate measures
Annual intake	5K 2025	2.5K–13K animals annually
Required dog walks	2 staff walks per dog, per day	Varies by agency; almost solely depend on volunteers, cleaning-release time, yards otherwise
Owner surrenders	Managed admission	Managed admission is regionally adopted noting that surrenders are scheduled and resources are provided to find alternatives



Field Operations Overview



Respond

Respond to animal-related calls (loose, aggressive, bites)

Enforce

Enforce county ordinances and state laws

Issue

Issue citations and ensure compliance

Investigate

Investigate cruelty, neglect, and nuisance complaints



Cruelty Cases-Emaciation



October 2025 40#s



35 days later 90#s

Cruelty Cases- Severe Neglect



Hoarding- 2025 Case

- Large scale hoarding case of >200 cats
- ON SITE spay/ neuter of 100 cats
- Large scale rescue partnership throughout Manatee County plus statewide partnerships
- Large scale adoptions/Barn cat program
- Severe medical



Bishop Animal Shelter

- **Primary operations hub**
 - **–Lost & Found, Confiscation, Medical Cases, Bite Cases, Dog Adoptions**
- **Medical and behavioral care**
- **Expanded enrichment space**
- **Focus on shorter stays**



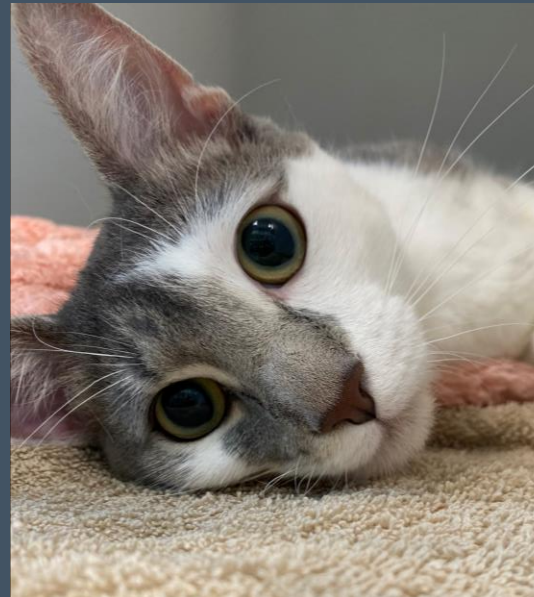
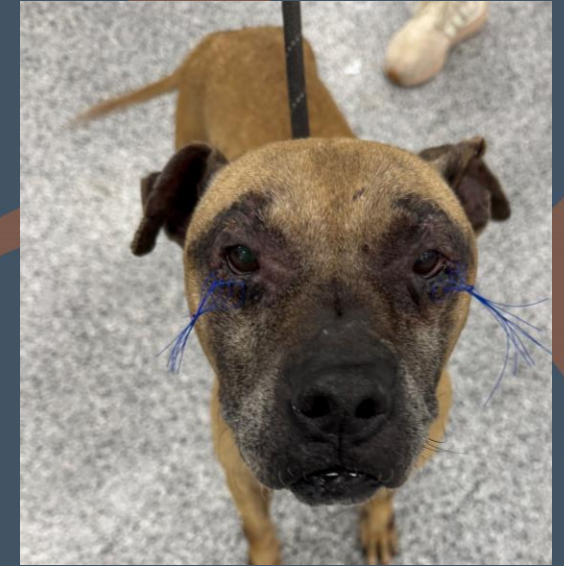
Bishop Animal Shelter-Impound

- **11 Animal Care Staff**
- **Holds for stray wait, cruelty/confiscates, pending court cases, medical and behavior holds**
- **Reunification efforts, RTO surgeries**
- **Foster services**
- **Stray wait: Dogs-5 days, Cats-3 days (unless feral/TNR)**

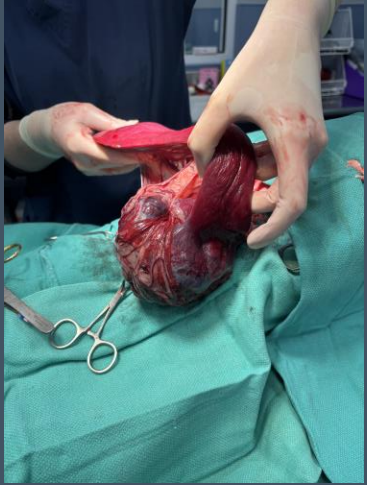


Bishop Animal Shelter-Medical

- > 3,500 surgeries in 2025
- High rate of RTO surgeries
- Specialty surgery in house
- Critical/emergency care
- In house diagnostics
- Infectious disease management
- Routine primary care
- Intakes
- Daily rounding



Above & Beyond Medical Care-In House

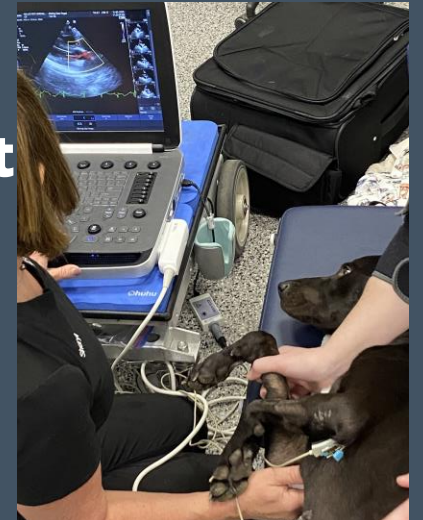


- In house transfusions
- In house emergency surgery
- Parvo and Panleukopenia virus
- Polytrauma/HBCs
- Diagnostic capabilities
- Dentals



Above & Beyond Medical Care-FOMCAW

- **Friends Of Manatee County Animal Welfare**
- **Heal My Heart Program** funds heartworm treatment for shelter dogs
 - Up to 1/3 of dogs are heartworm positive
- **Grace & Friends Medical Fund** covers Specialty surgical and medical cases
 - Supports animals with treatable injuries/conditions
- **Slumber & Enrichment Fund** Provides Kuranda beds, Toys and enrichment items, training, pools, benches etc.
 - Improves quality of life and reduces stress in shelter
- **Food for Ferals** supplies food and resources for community cat caregivers
 - Supports colony management and reduces intake



Programs Overview

- **Adoptions**
- **Working Cats**
- **Behavior/Enrichment**
- **Dog Day Out/Playgroup**
- **Foster Program**
- **Volunteer program**
- **Vaccination Clinics/Resource Center**
- **Food Pantry**
- **Education/events**



Adoptions and Staff

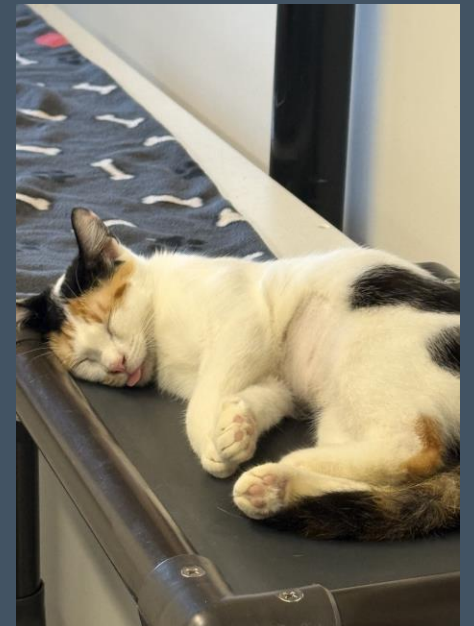
1,171 adoptions YTD

- Matchmaking/adoption counseling
- 12 FT adoptions staff
- Dog-dog introductions
- Behavior counseling
- Daily walking (2+) and enrichment
- Cleaning, feeding, daily care
- Adoption events
- 120 max capacity



Adoptions- Cat Town

- 6 Group Housing Adult Rooms
- Three Indoor/Outdoor
- 2 Kitten Group rooms
- Soft Max capacity 60 cats
- Increased hours
- One staff daily



Adoptions- Dogs

- 8 pods-120 kennels (vs 80)
- 11 play yards (vs 8)
- Bishop grounds, additional walking space
- Adoption building





Working Cat Program

- **Placement for non-traditional cats**
- **Farm/business environments**
- **100% success since its inception in 2017**



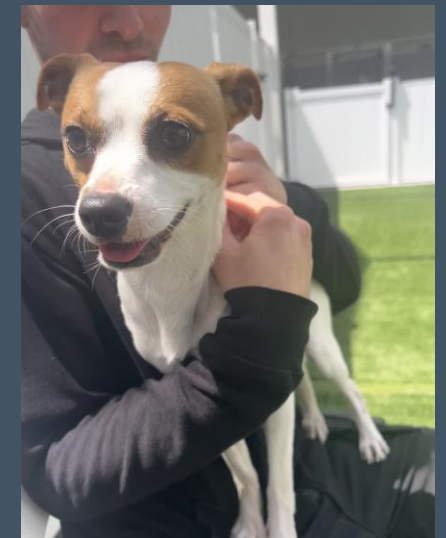
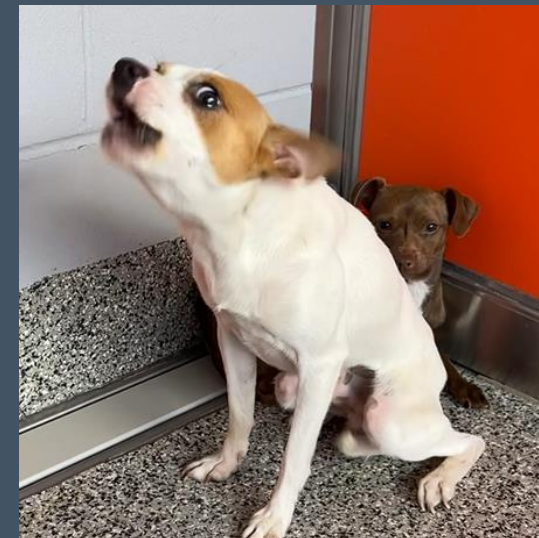
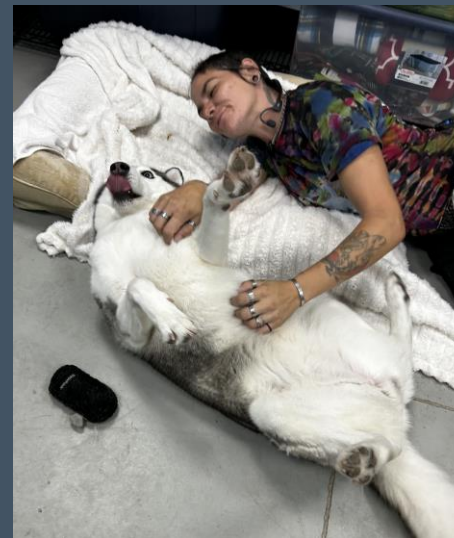
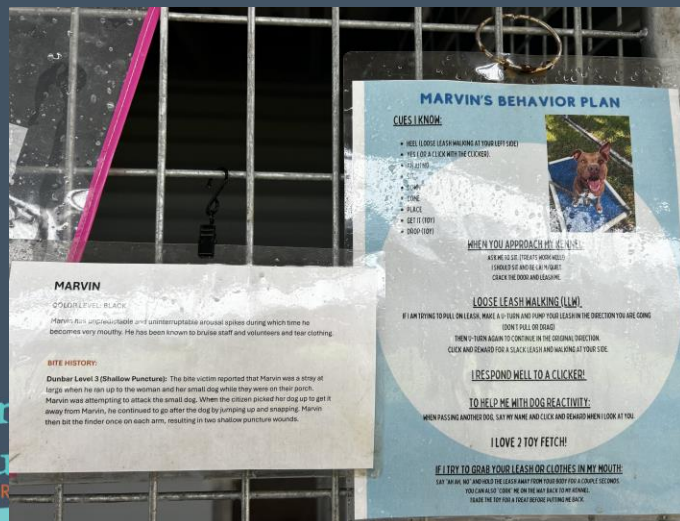
Petco

- **New partnership in 2026**
- **30 cats adopted YTD**
- **Monthly events**
- **Donations**



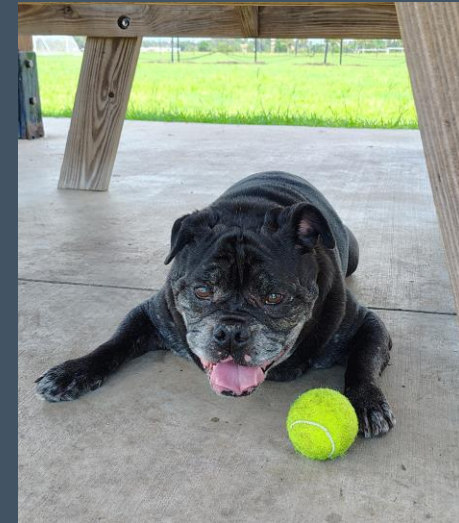
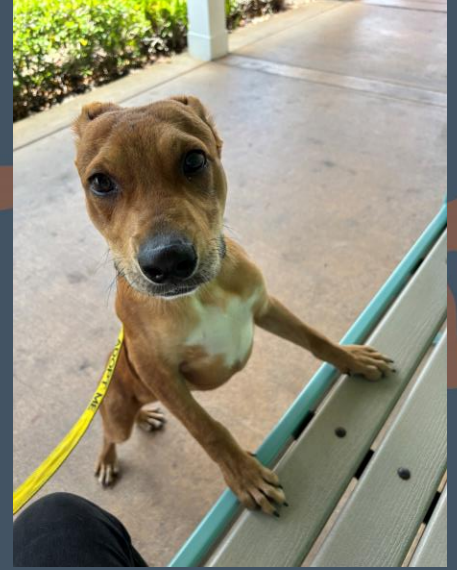
Behavior/Enrichment

- In-kennel and yard enrichment
- Playgroup
- Office dogs
- Spicy dog rehabilitation
- Jail dog program
- Behavior waivers- transparency
- Alpha Basic Partnership
- Office dogs/staff and volunteer time
- Pharmacotherapy (rare)



Dog Day Out/Playgroup

- Temporary outings for dogs
- Reduces stress
- Improves adoptability



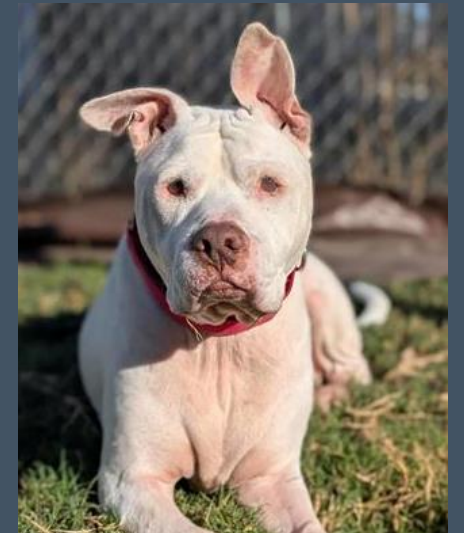
Education/Events

- Regular adoption events
- Community outreach and education events
- Assisted living facility visits
- Adoptapalooza and Black Friday Adoption Event



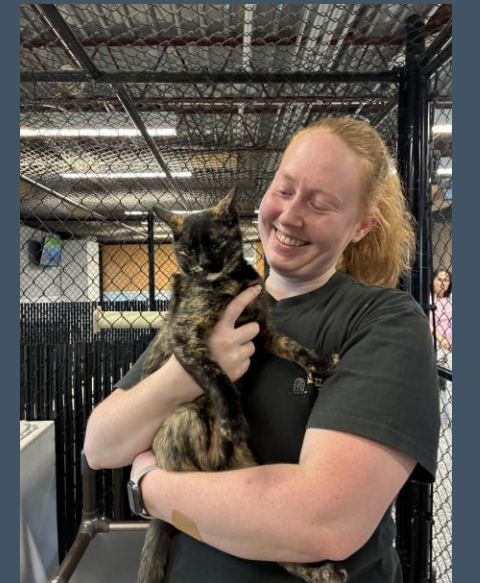
Foster Program

- 150-250 animals in foster at any given time in 2025
- Fospice
- Neonatal/ feed and grow kittens
- Medical fosters
- Foster to adopt
- Behavior fosters
- All supplies and medical provided



Volunteer Program

- Dog Walking program- different color levels
- Photography
- Transporting animals
- Medical volunteers
- Support tasks (dishes, laundry, cleaning, enrichment)
- Cat Town volunteers
- Bishop cat volunteers
- Events



Volunteer Program

Volunteer Data 2026

- 293 volunteers (2025 188)
 - 115 cat vols, 178 dog vols
 - 40 vols who work with both species
- 15,879 hours volunteered YTD (vs 18,654 for all of 2025)
- Onboarding approx 25-40 new volunteers per month



Resource Center

- **Front-end services**
- **Pet retention support**
- **Food Pantry (also at Bishop)**
- **Low-no cost care access**
- **Reduces intake, Keep People and Pets Together**



Vaccination Clinics/TNR clinics



- **Low-cost/free services**
- **Working towards expanding to regular schedule**
- **Improves community health**

Manatee County Jail Kennels



- Pilot program
- 10 dogs currently
- 8 week program
- Basic obedience
- Goal to focus on overlooked dogs and increase adoptability
- Specific criteria



MCAW 2025 Snapshot

- **Intake**

- Approx 5K animals
- 14% Owner Surrenders
- 83% strays
- 41% dogs, 58% cats

- **Outcomes**

- Approx 2K animals adopted
- Approx 1.5K animals transferred
- 703 RTO
- Approx 1K TNRs
- Approx 1700 in and out of foster system
- 96% save rate



Progressive Sheltering Wishlist

- Expand the Community Resource Center into a full-time hub offering pet-owner support and, as capacity allows, wellness exams prioritized for qualifying households while remaining available to all residents.
- Support for staffing "Behavior team"
- Permanent shade structures
- Increased adoptable space for cats – COMING SOON
- Consider second offense sterilization/first time microchip – NOTE – remember that the state of Florida considers microchipping a small surgical procedure – meaning it will need a legal review.
- Eliminate stray wait for neonates (ordinance)

