

Animal Services Advisory Board - Agenda Item Request

Submitted by: Anonymous user

Submitted time: Aug 26, 2026, 12:19:54 PM

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:

Yes

Related BOCC Item or Task:

BOCC consideration of staffing and resource needs at Manatee County Animal Welfare to support effective shelter operations and animal welfare outcomes, including behavioral enrichment and adoption initiatives.

Type of Agenda Item:

Animal Welfare staffing and resource allocation

Proposed Title / Topic:

Staffing Support to Restore Canine Playgroups

Concise Summary of Proposed Item (255 character limit):

I recommend the BOCC evaluate and provide additional Animal Welfare staffing needed to restore and sustain structured canine playgroups at MCAW, supporting behavioral health, enrichment, assessment and adoption outcomes.

Detailed Description, Background, Justification & Community Impact:

MCAW previously conducted canine playgroups and has a Behavior Coordinator to oversee them. Morning playgroups can be difficult to sustain when staff are simultaneously responsible for feeding, cleaning and animal care, yet mornings are especially important in Florida due to heat. Playgroups provide exercise, socialization, enrichment and valuable observation of dog-to-dog behavior outside the kennel. Dogs Playing for Life reports that 99.6% of surveyed shelters saw improved quality of life, 99% reported better adoption matching and 98% improved dog-to-dog assessment. Participating shelters also reported reduced length of stay. Restoring consistent playgroups could improve welfare, adoption promotion and placement decisions. Discussion of staffing and resources needed to support these outcomes is consistent with the CAB's advisory role.

Requested Board Action or Outcome:

I request that the Citizens Advisory Board discuss this proposal and recommend to the BOCC that MCAW's staffing needs be evaluated to determine what additional resources are necessary to restore and sustain regular canine playgroups.

Requested Timing or Priority:

For Next Regular Meeting: For the upcoming scheduled board meeting

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

This recommendation is intentionally focused on the desired animal welfare outcome rather than prescribing a specific number of employees, job classifications or operational structure. MCAW administration is best positioned to determine the staffing model necessary to support the Behavior Coordinator and safely operate consistent playgroups. If restored, I also encourage tracking participation, length of stay and adoption outcomes to measure the program's impact.

Attestation and Acknowledgment:

I have read, understand, and attest to the above



Dogs Playing for Life: Why Playgroup Matters


Happier Dogs
Brighter Tomorrows

-  **Provides** exercise and mental enrichment
-  **Reduces** kennel stress, frustration, and anxiety
-  **Builds** social skills and healthy dog-to-dog communication
-  **Gives** staff valuable behavior assessment information
-  **Boosts** confidence and overall emotional well-being
-  **Helps** match dogs with adopters and the right home
-  **Improves** adoptability and quality of life

PEOPLE + PLAY + A BRIGHTER TOMORROW

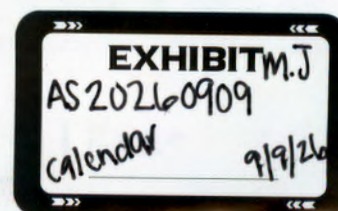


**Animal Services Advisory Board Meeting Schedule
June 2026 – January 2027**

Day	Date	Event	Time	Location
Wed	June 17	First Meeting	1:00 pm	Manatee/Osprey Room County Admin – 5 th floor
Wed	Aug 12	Regular Meeting	1:00 pm	Manatee/Osprey Room County Admin – 5 th floor
Wed	Sept 9	Regular Meeting	1:00 pm	Manatee/Osprey Room County Admin – 5 th floor
Wed	Oct 14	Regular Meeting	1:00 pm	Manatee/Osprey Room County Admin – 5 th floor
Tues	Nov 10	Regular Meeting	1:00 pm	Manatee/Osprey Room County Admin – 5 th floor
Tues	Dec 8	Regular Meeting	1:00 pm	Manatee/Osprey Room County Admin – 5 th floor
Wed	Jan 13	Regular Meeting	1:00 pm	Manatee/Osprey Room County Admin – 5 th floor

ASAB meetings are advertised on the monthly County meeting calendar
www.mymanatee.org.

Manatee County Administration Building
1112 Manatee Ave W, Bradenton, FL 34205,
Room as stated above
E-Mail ASAB@mymanatee.org for assistance.





CAB Proposal Synopsis

Happier Dogs
Brighter Tomorrow

To successfully implement shelter playgroups, additional staffing is needed to safely facilitate them on a consistent basis. Structured playgroups give dogs exercise, enrichment, socialization, and valuable behavior assessment opportunities, which can reduce kennel stress and improve adoption outcomes. Because current staff are already stretched thin, dedicated personnel are necessary to move dogs, supervise groups, and document behavior. Increasing staff support would make playgroups sustainable and directly improve both animal welfare and adoptability.



PEOPLE + PLAY + A BRIGHTER TOMORROW