



## ***Proclamation***

Board of County Commissioners  
Manatee County, Florida

**WHEREAS**, in 1999, Laurie Crawford began a movement for dog parks in the County, and succeeded, with Happy Tails at G.T. Bray Park being the first; and

**WHEREAS**, this movement led to the creation of Animal Network, with a motto of “helping people help animals” and a strong belief that rescue groups share resources and help each other grow; and

**WHEREAS**, Animal Network has organized events such as the Canine Christmas Festival and Yappy Hour at Motorworks, supports No Kill Manatee, and assists Manatee County Animal Services staff, with the help of volunteers, at the cat and kitten adoption center; and

**WHEREAS**, Laurie was a member of the Animal Services Advisory Board, serving as the Chairperson for many years; and

**WHEREAS**, Laurie sought and demanded justice in animal cruelty trials, revolutionized how the County and our society view animals and their treatment, and inspired new generations for animal welfare to carry on the work.


**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED** by the Board of County Commissioners of Manatee County, Florida, that December 18, 2018, shall be known, designated, and set aside as

### ***Laurie Crawford Day***

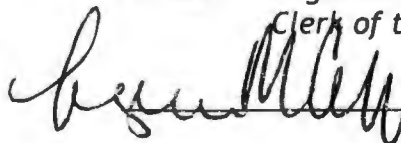
in Manatee County, Florida, in memory Laurie and her dedication to all things animal in our community.

**ADOPTED** with a quorum present and voting this 18<sup>th</sup> day of December 2018.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Priscilla Trace, Chairman

ATTEST: Angelina Colonnese  
Clerk of the Circuit Court

  
\_\_\_\_\_



**APPROVED** in Open Session

Manatee County Board of County  
Commissioners

Manatee County Government Administrative Center  
Patricia M. Glass Commission Chambers, First Floor  
9:00 a.m. - December 18, 2018

12/18/18

December 18, 2018 - Regular Meeting  
Agenda Item #6

Subject

Laurie Crawford Day - December 18, 2018

Briefings

None

Contact and/or Presenter Information

Board of County Commissioners

Action Requested

Adopt Proclamation designating December 18, 2018, as "Laurie Crawford Day" in Manatee County, Florida.

Enabling/Regulating Authority

Background Discussion

County Attorney Review

Not Reviewed (No apparent legal issues)

Explanation of Other

Reviewing Attorney

N/A

Instructions to Board Records

None

Cost and Funds Source Account Number and Name

N/A

Amount and Frequency of Recurring Costs

N/A

Attachment: [Laurie Crawford Proclamation.pdf](#)



## ***Proclamation***

Board of County Commissioners  
Manatee County, Florida

**WHEREAS**, in 1999, Laurie Crawford began a movement for dog parks in the County, and succeeded, with Happy Tails at G.T. Bray Park being the first; and

**WHEREAS**, this movement led to the creation of Animal Network, with a motto of “helping people help animals” and a strong belief that rescue groups share resources and help each other grow; and

**WHEREAS**, Animal Network has organized events such as the Canine Christmas Festival and Yappy Hour at Motorworks, supports No Kill Manatee, and assists Manatee County Animal Services staff, with the help of volunteers, at the cat and kitten adoption center; and

**WHEREAS**, Laurie was a member of the Animal Services Advisory Board, serving as the Chairperson for many years; and

**WHEREAS**, Laurie sought and demanded justice in animal cruelty trials, revolutionized how the County and our society view animals and their treatment, and inspired new generations for animal welfare to carry on the work.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED** by the Board of County Commissioners of Manatee County, Florida, that December 18, 2018, shall be known, designated, and set aside as

### ***Laurie Crawford Day***

in Manatee County, Florida, in memory Laurie and her dedication to all things animal in our community.

**ADOPTED** with a quorum present and voting this 18<sup>th</sup> day of December 2018.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

---

*Priscilla Trace, Chairman*

**ATTEST:** *Angelina Colonnese*  
*Clerk of the Circuit Court*

---

6.

In memory of

**LAURIE CRAWFORD**

1954 to 2018

Founder of

**ANIMAL NETWORK, INC.**

**"Helping People Help Animals"**

*Scanned*



**HOW ONE CITIZEN'S IDEA**

**IMPACTED HER COMMUNITY**

*r.i.p.*



# ANIMAL NETWORK

HELPING PEOPLE, HELP ANIMALS

4008 39<sup>th</sup> St W

Bradenton, FL 34205

(941) 216-4829

Sue Kolze-Treasurer

Wendy Crawford-Secretary

Pam Freni-President

Joanne Sampson -Vice President

---

501 (c)(3) Organization

59-3591574

**The Animal Network was founded in 1999 as MCOLA, a grass roots organization formed by Laurie Crawford to convince Manatee County to provide dog parks in Manatee County. Once our first dog park was completed, we expanded our mission to helping our entire Manatee County animal community, thus the name change to Animal Network, Inc. and our new mission statement "Helping people help animals".**

**Following are examples of our past and current projects:**

### **We Promote a No-Kill Manatee County**

In April 2011, three Animal Network personnel and two of the top staff people from Manatee County Animal Services attended Nathan Winograd's No-Kill seminar in Houston. We returned home believing that Animal Network could help our Animal Services lead Manatee County to become a No-Kill community. We became the first county in Florida to have our County Commissioners pass a resolution to become no-kill. We promised them we could do this without requiring extra funding during the terrible economy. We set our goal to be a 90% "save rate" by December of 2012, in 2016 we often surpassed that goal monthly, and for Fiscal Year 2017 Manatee County Animal Services registered a 93% save rate.

### **Yappy Hour at Motorworks**

is an event organized by Animal Network. It is held on the third Sunday of each month in at the brewery's beer garden in Bradenton, and a different shelter, rescue, or animal welfare organization is featured and receives the funding earned that day. It includes dogs for adoption from the featured group, vendors, silent auction, gift basket drawings, and a 50/50 split. People are encouraged to bring their own social dogs. Over \$55,000 was distributed through 2018.

### **Our Pet Emergency Fund provides funding to assist sick, owned pets in our community**

**\*\*\$50 medical certificates:** for sick pets whose owners cannot afford an appointment with a veterinarian. Certificate eligibility is determined by an individual's situation.

### **We originated the annual "Canine Christmas Festival"**

Animal Network began organizing this festival in 1999 to promote awareness of shelter and rescue pets in our community. We invited local rescues and shelters to set up tents and bring their adoptable pets. Local vendors also participate. The dog-friendly festival attracts 3000+ people and results in adoptions of 50+ dogs and cats each year. This festival is run by Bishop Animal Shelter since 2015.

### **We founded the Downtown Meowtown MCAS Offsite Cat & Kitten Adoption Center**

We were approached in January 2015 to re-open the DTMT adoption center for MCAS. We built a volunteer base of 35+ volunteers who completely ran the center. This successful venture has produced superior results, we did our 200th adoption in mid-October 2015. As of 2016 the cat adoption center is run by MCAS staff with the help of the volunteers.

### **The Kitty Korner Division of Animal Network (has now become its own 501c3 as All Kitty Korner)**

- Kitty Korner Division of Animal Network was set up to rescue adoptable cats and kittens: taking in stray, abandoned and owner turn-in cats, providing medical treatment & care in foster homes, spay or neuter, and micro-chipping before adoption. Kitty Korner provides feral cat trap-neuter-release. Kittens are fostered and tamed, provided medical assistance, spayed/neutered, given current shots, microchipped, and adopted to good homes through our Petsmart Adoption Partner program. Provide funds, food, traps, and pay for spay/neuter for feral cat colonies and individuals who wish to help free-roaming community cats in their neighborhoods. This program was granted its own 501c3 and now operates as All Kitty Korner.

### **We Funded Heartworm Treatment for Manatee County Animal Services dogs**

In mid-2012, Animal Network identified the need for a fund to treat MCAS dogs that had heartworm.

Heartworm positive dogs were routinely being euthanized because people would not adopt them due to the expensive treatment required. The expense for heartworm treatment also prevented Rescues and other Shelters from taking these dogs. We established the No Kill Manatee Fund to deal with this critical situation. Donations were used to treat the heartworm positive dogs that were adopted from MCAS or transferred to a rescue or other shelter. This program was turned over to Friends of Manatee County Animal Services (FoMCAS), a 501c3 organization formed to support only Manatee County Animal Services, in 2017.

Animal Network's funding level:

2012 = 48 dogs = \$7,200

2013 = 130 dogs = \$19,500

2014 = 209 dogs = \$35,000

2015 = 184 dogs = \$30,360

2016 = 98 dogs to 11/5 = \$16,170.

**TOTAL = 669 dogs = \$108,230**

### **We helped Save the lives of injured animals from Animal Services**

Due to budget and space constraints, Animal Services often could not keep dogs & cats with medical issues and they were routinely put to sleep. In 2008 Animal Network began taking many of these animals, put them in foster homes, paid for medical treatment, spays or neuters them, provided testing, vaccines and a microchip, and then adopted them to good homes or returned them to MCAS for adoption. Friends of Manatee County Animal Services (FoMCAS), a 501c3 organization formed to support only Manatee County Animal Services, in 2017.

Examples:

- Axel, Pit Bull hit in head with hatchet, shattered his skull. Surgery & 6 months recuperation with a local trainer who has trained him to be a well behaved dog and adopted him.
- Sparky: Pit Bull mix chained in back yard, badly embedded collar. Vet did surgery, in foster 3 months, adopted.
- Phaedra: Siamese cat, pregnant and ready to deliver, dumped at Animal Services. Had litter of 4 kittens in our foster home, all were raised and mother & kittens adopted to good homes.
- Sugar: white cat had been tied in a yard on a rope. Had infected sores around her neck, very pregnant. We fostered her, she and her kittens were adopted to good homes.

### **Promote spay/neuter and micro-chipping programs**

- Awarded \$20,500 Animal Friend's Spay/Neuter Grant 2009 to spay/neuter 200 Pit Bulls & Pit Bull mixes, and 300 feral and free-roaming cats.
- Refer individuals to the Free and low cost spay and neuter programs in our effort to assist Manatee County become a "No-Kill" community.
- Provide Animal Network Funds to spay/neuter owned pets if they do not qualify for the Free County program and cannot afford the low-cost certificate program
- Partner with HSMC at free shot clinics in targeted neighborhoods to encourage people to sign up to spay/neuter their pets at HSMC.
- Awarded \$23,400 from Florida Animal Friends in 2016 for trap/neuter/release of feral cats in 3 zip codes north of the Manatee River.
- Awarded \$8,000 in 2018 for Animal Network's pet retention program to provide microchips for pets in our community so that if lost, they can be returned to their owners and not be transported to MCAS shelter.

### **RAM (Remote Area Medical) Family Health Clinic - Pet Component 2016**

Internationally, RAM offers Free Medical Clinics for people who have little or no access to basic medical care. The initial Bradenton area RAM event was in November 2015. The two day event touched the lives of 1868 citizens by providing free dental, vision and medical care. There were over 1000 separate health care procedures and dental procedures that helped our underserved population.