
Animal Welfare Advisory Committee

Annual Work Plan and Accomplishments Report: 2025

Chair: Perry Koon

Board Liaison: Julie Johnson, Sarah Gilley

Brief History of Board/Committee

The Animal Welfare Advisory Committee was established by Resolution No. 2024-02 on May 24th, 2022.

Responsibilities and Duties

The Committee has the following purpose and duties, unless otherwise directed by the Board: A. Elect a Chair and Vice-Chair and operate the Committee pursuant to this Resolution. B. Assist the County in promoting the adoption of shelter pets, the welfare of animals, and the importance of the human-animal bond. C. Assist the County in promoting positive and greater community awareness of Alachua County's Animal Resources ("ACAR") and its mission, programs, and accomplishments. D. Carry out the responsibilities of a community engagement body in order to work with and support ACAR. E. Engage with and receive reports from ACAR as well as the various local not-for-profit Anima! Welfare Organizations (AWOs) and relevant stakeholders, F. Assist and advise the County on future animal-related policies and issues. G. Prepare an Annual Work Plan and Report of Accomplishments. H. The Committee shall not operate in a supervisory, regulatory, or authoritative capacity. The Committee does not have the authority to establish policies or make decisions for the ACAR, the County, or the Board.

Prior Year Accomplishments

- Guidelines for Public Comment were established, including allowing citizens three minutes to make their comments and creating a designated agenda item to respond to the comments at the discretion of the committee members
- Resolution was updated to modify quorum to be majority rules in filled seats
- Reviewed and approved a checklist for found animals for use in veterinary practices
- Election of Chair and Vice Chair
- Welcomed several new members: Dr. Julie Levy, Kristen Young

Goals for Upcoming Year

- Continue to provide guidance to the staff at ACAR
- Review findings from the study with Jenny Applebaum to support the Pet-Inclusive Housing initiative
- Assist with community feedback for the new shelter
- Fill remaining vacancies