



Agenda Item Summary

File #: 25-00770

Agenda Date: 1/27/2026

Agenda Item Name:

Animal Shelter Update

Presenter:

Michele Lieberman, County Manager

Description:

Animal Shelter Update

Recommended Action:

1. Select the new Animal Shelter location.
2. If the UF site is selected, approve the Agreement for Ground Sublease in substantially the same form as attached and authorize the Chair to execute same when finalized by both parties; and authorize the Chair to sign the Sublease in substantially the same form as attached when the County Manager determines that the site is acceptable for the development and operation of the Animal Resource Facility in accordance with the Agreement for Ground Sublease
3. Authorize any corresponding budget amendment(s) to undertake the County's due diligence.
4. If the Weseman Tract is selected, authorize staff to amend the PD as necessary to allow this use.

Prior Board Motions:

Jan. 23, 2024 - direct staff to move forward with the negotiation of a lease with the University of Florida (UF) for an Animal Resources Site to be brought back to this Board for approval. The motion carried 4-1 with Commissioner Wheeler voting "Nay".

June 24, 2025 - moved staff recommendations to explore other sites and to have a decision by the September 23rd, 2025, meeting.

Fiscal Note:

N/A

Strategic Guide:

Infrastructure

Background:

The County has been in negotiations with the University of Florida for a land lease for more than one year for our new Animal Shelter. The contract with the architect has been executed and the construction manager at risk has been selected.

As reported in June, an available County-owned property was identified as suitable for the Shelter. In December, the Governor and Cabinet unanimously approved moving the reverter from this property and placing it on the Alachua County Agriculture & Equestrian Center.

Staff will provide an update and requests the Board prioritize which property should be pursued as the future home of our Animal Shelter