



DU PAGE COUNTY

Animal Services Committee

Final Summary

421 N. COUNTY FARM ROAD
WHEATON, IL 60187
www.dupagecounty.gov

Tuesday, May 19, 2026

7:30 AM

Room 3500A

1. CALL TO ORDER

7:30 AM meeting was called to order by Chair Krajewski at 7:30 AM.

2. ROLL CALL

PRESENT:	Cynthia Cronin Cahill, District 5 Dawn DeSart, Grant Eckhoff, Krajewski and Melissa Martinez
ABSENT:	Paula Garcia

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were offered.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS - CHAIR KRAJEWSKI

Chair Krajewski stated the DuPage Animal Friends Gala on May 15, 2026 was a huge success and thanked Laura and Jill for their hard work planning the event. The DAF board is undergoing some changes as DAF expands the level of support and increases fundraising for the shelter. Recruiting is underway to bring on new board members to assist in meeting DAF's ambitious fundraising goals.

5. MINUTES APPROVAL

5.A. [26-1509](#)

Animal Services Committee - Regular Meeting - Tuesday, April 21, 2026

Attachments: [Summary Minutes - April 2026](#)

RESULT:	APPROVED
MOVER:	Cynthia Cronin Cahill
SECONDER:	Dawn DeSart

6. GRANTS

6.A. [FI-R-0084-26](#)

Acceptance and appropriation of interest earned on investment for the DuPage Animal Friends Phase II Capital Project Grant, Company 5000, Accounting Unit 1310, in the amount of \$15,598. (Animal Services)

Attachments: [DAFCAP2 Appropriating Interest Budget - ATTACHMENT I](#)

RESULT:	APPROVED AND SENT TO FINANCE
MOVER:	Cynthia Cronin Cahill
SECONDER:	Dawn DeSart

7. ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE

Laura thanked everyone that attended the DAF gala on Friday and thanked Jill for her hard work on the event. More events and restaurant givebacks are coming up this year.

Laura introduced DCAS's new Operations Manager, Tiffany Janda. Tiffany has 7 years experience in the animal welfare field and expressed she is excited to be on board.

The animal population is currently at 148 animals. There has been a recent surge in dog intake. Staff are discussing ways to creatively market and move dogs into forever homes, capitalizing on the wave of news and interest surrounding recent beagle rescue to highlight our own community's animals still waiting to be freed from their cages. DCAS currently has animals that have been in the system for well over 60 days. The longest resident is a court case dog that spent more than 200 days before being signed over to Animal Services so that an outcome could be secured for her. Staff are now actively seeking permanent placement for her.

Community events are now being scheduled for the summer and fall months. Events are communicated via DCAS social media channels, e-newsletter, and will soon be included in the event calendar on the County website.

Chair Krajewski inquired whether a heat map exists that shows where the most at-risk animals are located. Laura said this data does exist and that management uses this info to strategically target outreach in communities where the need is greatest. Laura stated that cats present the biggest challenge, so a lot of effort is being funneled into services that prevent cat intake and unwanted litters.

Brian inquired about a possible mega adoption event. Laura shared nothing is scheduled yet, but the Chicagoland Humane Coalition is weighing options. There will be adoption activities coinciding with PetSmart Charities National Adoption Week.

Nick and Geoff provided an update on the status of HVAC unit replacement. Animal Services is solar-ready. If a donor were found to purchase the solar panels, the shelter could convert to solar energy.

Member DeSart asked for clarification on the estimated proceeds from the DAF gala. Laura stated that the estimated gross revenue is around \$280K. Chair Krajewski stated that expenses are kept as low as possible - all liquor for the event was donated and the venue provided steep

discounts for the event.

8. OLD BUSINESS

No old business was discussed.

9. NEW BUSINESS

Member Eckhoff shared copies of the most recent DCBA Brief highlighting current legislation. Laura and Chair Krajewski gave an update on Humane Lobby Day last month in Springfield where the animal forfeiture bill, puppy mill loophole bill, and CVT administered rabies vaccine bill were discussed with legislators.

10. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.