



# DU PAGE COUNTY

## Animal Services Committee

### Summary

421 N. COUNTY FARM ROAD  
WHEATON, IL 60187  
[www.dupagecounty.gov](http://www.dupagecounty.gov)

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**Tuesday, February 18, 2025**

**7:30 AM**

**Room 3500A**

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**2. ROLL CALL**

Chairman Krajewski requested to have on record that member Deacon Garcia is sick and will be absent.

<b>PRESENT:</b>	Cynthia Cronin Cahill, District 5 Dawn DeSart, Grant Eckhoff, Krajewski and Sheila Rutledge
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Paula Garcia

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comments were offered.

**4. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS - CHAIR KRAJEWSKI**

Chair Krajewski remarked that preparations for the Gala are in full swing. The Gala will be held on Friday, April 25, 2025 at the Sheraton Naperville Lisle.

**5. MINUTES APPROVAL**

5.A. [25-0516](#)

Animal Services Committee - Regular Meeting - Tuesday, January 21, 2025

**Attachments:**     [Summary Minutes January-2025](#)

<b>RESULT:</b>	APPROVED
<b>MOVER:</b>	Cynthia Cronin Cahill
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Dawn DeSart

**6. PROCUREMENT REQUISITIONS**

6.A. [25-0517](#)

Recommendation for the approval of a contract to Turner Vet Services LLC, to provide spay/neuter and backup veterinary services for Animal Services, for the period March 1, 2025 through November 30, 2025, amount not to exceed \$25,900. Other Professional Services not suitable for competitive bid per 55 ILCS 5/5-1022(c). Vendor selected pursuant to DuPage County Procurement Ordinance 2-353(1)(b). (Animal Services)

Member DeSart asked how many animals and for how long a time frame the \$25,900 contract funding will cover. Laura explained that Dr. Turner is a surgeon for the mobile veterinary vehicle during the months of April through October. His services mostly include high volume spay/neuter of mostly community cats through our partnership with Feral Fixers. Member DeSart wanted to know how many surgeries we do annually on average. Laura responded that we could do anywhere from 500-800 surgeries, depending on Feral Fixers trapping success.

**Attachments:**     [Turner Vet - Procurement Review Comprehensive Checklist \(PRCC\)](#)  
[Turner Vet - Fee Schedule 2025](#)  
[Turner Vet - Vendor Ethics](#)

<b>RESULT:</b>	APPROVED
<b>MOVER:</b>	Dawn DeSart
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Cynthia Cronin Cahill

7. **GRANTS**7.A. [FI-R-0042-25](#)

Acceptance and appropriation of the DuPage Animal Friends Unrestricted Grant PY25, Company 5000 - Accounting Unit 1310, \$50,000. (Animal Services)

**Attachments:**     [DAFUNR25 Budget - Attachment I](#)  
[DAFUNR25 Grant Award Letter - Attachment II](#)

<b>RESULT:</b>	APPROVED AND SENT TO FINANCE
<b>MOVER:</b>	Cynthia Cronin Cahill
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Sheila Rutledge

7.B. [FI-R-0043-25](#)

Acceptance and appropriation of the DuPage Animal Friends Foundation Coordinator Grant PY25, Company 5000 - Accounting Unit 1310, \$5,000. (Animal Services)

**Attachments:**     [DAFFC25 Budget - Attachment I](#)  
                              [DAFFC25 Grant Award Letter - Attachment II](#)

<b>RESULT:</b>	APPROVED AND SENT TO FINANCE
<b>MOVER:</b>	Cynthia Cronin Cahill
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Dawn DeSart

7.C. [FI-R-0045-25](#)

Acceptance and appropriation of interest earned on investment for the DuPage Animal Friends Foundation Coordinator PY24 Grant, Company 5000 - Accounting Unit 1310, \$43. (Animal Services)

**Attachments:**     [DAFFC24 Appropriating Interest Budget - ATTACHMENT I](#)

<b>RESULT:</b>	APPROVED AND SENT TO FINANCE
<b>MOVER:</b>	Cynthia Cronin Cahill
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Dawn DeSart

**8. ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE**

Laura shared that 2024 stats are posted on DuPage County website. DCAS 2024 Live Release Rate (LRR) was 94%. Intakes were lower in 2024 because of construction and intentionally working with community partners to find alternate solutions. DCAS took in just shy of 1,850 animals. Animal investigations and field call stats were included in the 2024 infographic. Laura also recommended to add outreach and education numbers to our stats for next year.

Laura discussed avian flu. DCAS received some poultry and waterfowl. She shared that Dr. Tvrdik has developed a new intake and testing protocol. DCAS has tested some of the birds with negative results. Staff have been educated about what to look for in birds and feral cats that could have possibly come into contact with avian flu. She mentioned we are fortunate to have our new isolation areas. We will be increasing social media posts and including information in our newsletter to increase public awareness. Member Cahill asked if animals are testing positive that we would not bring the animal into our building or isolating. Laura responded that this is difficult because they come in and then are swabbed and the test needs to be sent out. Staff are wearing PPE when handling any birds that could have been exposed. The ducks that we have tested came from an unhouse woman and were not of high risk of exposure, however we tested them as a precaution due to their general poor condition and they were negative.

Member Rutledge inquired about the volunteer program being increased now that we are in new building and stated what a great program it was. Laura responded that DCAS has a temporary occupancy permit, and is still settling into the new space. Volunteer coordinators are still working on updating trainings and protocols related to risk management in the new space with the goal of having it going by midsummer. She mentioned that we are looking at a Saturday June 7th for a tentative date for the grand opening. Member Rutledge and Laura discussed current volunteer openings on our website and how we are actively assessing our new volunteer needs as we get used to how everything works in the new space. Laura gave the examples of: increased need for cat adoption cleaning assistance, small mammal socialization, and front desk greeter as a result of the new and different space. She stated that he positions will be posted as they become available.

Laura then shared that volunteer appreciation event will be an open-house style event with the “Theres no place like home” theme on Saturday April 19,2025.

Laura stated that the Raise the Woof Gala is on April 25th. Sponsorship and in-kind donation packets are available at [www.DAFgala.org](http://www.DAFgala.org) . Laura encouraged committee members to share information with their contacts.

Animal population is hovering around 100 animals. Staff are still getting used to operating in the new space and anticipate some change to come as the next phase is finished. Member Cahill asked what the anticipated intake would be after construction. Laura responded that while we have a larger facility, the addition and renovation resulted in more appropriate spaces for animals, not necessarily a significant increase in housing. Member Krajewski remarked that we seemed to have fewer hoarding cases this year than last. Laura explained that projecting future

animal intake is difficult to predict.

Laura shared that on March 19th DCAS will host another field service training event for officers.

Member Rutledge requested more information on hosting a low-cost microchipping event in her district. Laura will send the fees and information.

Member Cahill inquired about the bankruptcy of Save this Life and how to go about registering pets microchipped with them. Laura responded that DCAS will be addressing this in our newsletter and on social media. She shared the AAHA microchip lookup information. Member Eckhoff recommended that the SA office can reach out to bankruptcy trustee to get information of individuals with pets registered with Save this Life.

Member DeSart wanted to discuss bird flu further and mentioned the deceased bald eagle in Cook County and expressed concern about cats that have encountered sick birds. Laura explained that the surgery for Feral Fixers occurs off-site on the mobile veterinary vehicle, which isolates those cats from our shelter. Laura also shared that the separate intake entrance may further limit disease transmission. Feral cats that come into the shelter are also typically not being handled due to their fearful and unsafe behavior. Symptoms DCAS is monitoring for include upper respiratory and neurological symptoms.

Chair Krajewski inquired about Giving DuPage Days. Laura shared that it is now a one-day event on May 1st. DAF will be participating. Members discussed the change from multiple day event to single day event and pros and cons.

Chair Krajewski inquired about dog behavior training for staff. Laura shared that the Caretaker Supervisor is training staff directly. Discussions are happening about possible dog training classes in the new space.

**9. OLD BUSINESS**

No old business was discussed.

**10. NEW BUSINESS**

No new business was discussed.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.