



DU PAGE COUNTY

Animal Services Committee

Summary

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

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

7:30 AM

Room 3500A

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. ROLL CALL

PRESENT:	Cynthia Cronin Cahill, District 5 Dawn DeSart, Grant Eckhoff, Paula Garcia, Krajewski and Melissa Martinez
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3. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were offered.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS - CHAIR KRAJEWSKI

Foundation Coordinator Jillian shared that 2026 DAF fundraising calendars are now available for sale. Calendars are \$20 each or \$25 if shipped. The calendar cover was a live auction item at the May gala. Individual months were part of the gala silent auction. All proceeds benefit DuPage Animal Friends.

Giving Tuesday is on Tuesday, December 2nd. DAF has a Giving Tuesday fundraising goal of \$20,000. Opportunities to join as a match donor or as a "friendraiser" are available. All communications will come from DAF e-newsletter and socials.

5. MINUTES APPROVAL

5.A. [25-2769](#)

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

Attachments: [Summary Minutes - October 2025](#)

RESULT:	APPROVED
MOVER:	Dawn DeSart
SECONDER:	Paula Garcia

6. GRANTS

6.A. [FI-R-0195-25](#)

Acceptance and appropriation of the DuPage Animal Friends Unrestricted Grant PY26, Company 5000 - Accounting Unit 1310, in the amount of \$50,000. (Animal Services)

Chair Krajewski shared that this is an annual unrestricted grant that is used for medical emergencies, specialty medical care, high volume spay/neuter veterinary services, exotic veterinary services, and more.

Attachments: [DAFUNR26 Budget - Attachment I](#)
 [DAFUNR26 Grant Award Letter - Attachment II](#)

RESULT:	APPROVED AND SENT TO FINANCE
MOVER:	Paula Garcia
SECONDER:	Dawn DeSart

6.B. **FI-R-0196-25**

Acceptance and appropriation of the DuPage Animal Friends Marketing Coordinator Grant PY26, Company 5000 - Accounting Unit 1310, in the amount of \$100,000. (Animal Services)

Chair Krajewski shared that Jillian's position was created to assist DAF board with fundraising, she has also taken on the role of managing social media and marketing for the shelter. The new Marketing Coordinator position will be a full-time grant-funded position. The person in this role will assume responsibility for all marketing and social media so that the Foundation Coordinator can focus on fundraising and relationship-building. In addition, the Marketing Coordinator will assist with animal photography, website content management, and fundraising events.

Attachments: [DAFMC26 Budget - Attachment I](#)
 [DAFMC26 Grant Award Letter - Attachment II](#)
 [GPN 027-25 DAF Marketing Coordinator](#)

RESULT:	APPROVED AND SENT TO FINANCE
MOVER:	Dawn DeSart
SECONDER:	Paula Garcia

7. **ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE**

Laura shared that shelter population is still high, with no slow-down in cat intakes. Kittens are continuing to arrive, and Feral Fixers has ceased trapping for the winter. Laura stated there is currently an open position for a full-time second shelter veterinarian. Once filled this position will focus primarily on cat spay/neuter.

Shelter population is currently 265 animals, 216 of which are cats. A cat fee-waived cat adoption event is planned for Saturday, November 22nd in the hopes of moving more cats into homes.

A Home for the Holidays adoption will begin the week of November 24th and will include waived adoption fees on select animals.

There are several new hires in the process of being on-boarded. A new Animal Control Officer started on the 17th. They have experience working with wildlife which will be useful as Animal Services assists with sick and injured wildlife in unincorporated parts of DuPage County. Chair Krajewski reminded the committee that incorporated parts of the county are responsible for handling sick & injured wildlife calls in their own jurisdictions.

Laura shared that officers recently assisted with rescuing a sick coyote in unincorporated West Chicago. The coyote is currently being cared for by DuPage Conservation Center and per the last update, it is doing well. Staff are hopeful he will recover well enough to be released back into the wild.

Two new Client Services team members are set to have their first day the first week of December, and a new Animal Caretaker will be starting next week.

8. OLD BUSINESS

Chair Krajewski announced that the DAF gala will take place on May 15, 2026 at the Chicago Marriott Oak Brook.

A family that adopted a dog from the shelter will be hosting a fundraiser to benefit DAF on September 19, 2026 at Hotel Arista. The fundraising goal for this event is \$200,000.

The DAF board has set an annual fundraising goal of \$700,000 beginning in 2027, to help fund capital loan repayment, the grant-funded Marketing Coordinator position, annual unrestricted grant to Animal Services, and ongoing specialty/emergency medical needs.

9. NEW BUSINESS

Member DeSart suggested that Animal Services partner with food insecurity organizations to drive pet food donations for families with pets that are in need of assistance.

Chair Krajewski shared there is a joint event planned for December 6th hosted by the cities of Downers Grove, Westmont and Hinsdale to benefit Hinsdale Family Shelter, Downers Grove FISH, and People's Resource Center. Inspired by the sheer number of animals being surrendered to shelters due to financial hardship, the event will drive donations of pet and people food to these organizations that serve community members in need. A top ten list of most needed food donations will be available soon. The most needed pet food is currently canned cat food.

Laura shared the food donations received at the shelter that cannot be used at the shelter are always shared with community members in need, rescue partners, and local food pantries.

Member Eckhoff proposed an annual award given in recognition of a community member that has demonstrated exceptional care and given to animals. Joan shared that this year's Daily Herald "Someone to be Thankful For" will feature an Animal Services volunteer. It was suggested that recognition start with email and social media mentions, culminating in a grand award presented at the DAF gala.

10. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.