



DU PAGE COUNTY

Animal Services Committee

Summary

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

Tuesday, April 21, 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

Member DeSart arrived at 7:35 AM.

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

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were offered.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS - CHAIR KRAJEWSKI

Chair Krajewski reminded committee members that the DuPage Animal Friends Gala is coming up on May 15, 2026, at the Marriott Oakbrook.

Chair Krajewski informed the committee that he and others are headed to Springfield for Animal Welfare Lobby Day with DCAS staff and members of the Chicagoland Humane Coalition to meet with DuPage County legislators. Two bills are currently being considered: an animal forfeiture bill and a bill that will close the Dog Dealer loophole in the puppy mill ban.

5. MINUTES APPROVAL

5.A. [26-1233](#)

Animal Services Committee - Regular Meeting - Tuesday, February 17, 2026

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

RESULT:	APPROVED
MOVER:	Paula Garcia
SECONDER:	Melissa Martinez

6. PROCUREMENT REQUISITIONS

6.A. [26-1234](#)

Decrease and close PO 7229-0001 SERV, issued to Covetrus North America LLC, in the amount of \$36,471.99. Contract has expired.

Attachments: [7229 - COVETRUS CO](#)

RESULT:	APPROVED
MOVER:	Paula Garcia
SECONDER:	Melissa Martinez

7. ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE

Laura shared that DCAS is celebrating Volunteer Appreciation Week this week. DCAS's lifesaving work would not be possible without the hundreds of volunteers and fosters that support Animal Services in countless ways. A Volunteer Appreciation luncheon will be held at the shelter in June. Committee members can expect to receive an invitation in the coming weeks.

Animal Services is participating in Animal Welfare Lobby Day as part of the Chicagoland Humane Coalition's Advocacy Task Force. The Task Force addresses issues that are bubbling up in animal welfare. One piece of legislation being supported will make it possible for Certified Veterinary Technicians to administer rabies vaccinations with the oversight of a licensed veterinarian. Doing so will alleviate some of the delays and backlog created by the current requirement that rabies vaccinations only be administered by veterinarian, in light of the current veterinary shortage, while expanding access to care and ensuring rabies compliance. This bill mirrors legislation enacted in other states, has the support of the Illinois State Veterinary Medical Association (ISVMA) and Illinois Animal Control Association (IACA), and has passed the House and will be moving on to the Senate.

Laura reiterated that legislation championed by Humane World for Animals (formerly HSUS) to close the puppy mill loophole will address entities that dropped their retail pet store license but continue to sell and profit from commercially bred dogs and cats sold under a Dealer license.

The animal forfeiture bill is being led by the DuPage County State's Attorney and will increase the length of time allowed for the State's Attorney to file for forfeiture in animal owner's duties or animal cruelty cases. Currently the timeframe to file is 14 days - including weekends and holidays. Additionally, once the paperwork is filed, there is currently no statutory requirement to hold the hearing in a timely manner. This has resulted in animals being held at Animal Services for weeks or months at a time without the ability to move forward with finding an outcome for the animal. This has led to the deterioration in mental health of court case animals and is a drain on resources that could be directed toward helping other animals. DCAS is rarely reimbursed for the care provided for court case animals held at the shelter.

Eight other animal welfare organizations will also be participating in Humane Lobby Day, with Animal Protection League bringing shelter animals to the capital for photo ops.

Laura shared that the new Marketing Coordinator is currently being on-boarded. The new Operations Manager will be starting on Monday, April 27th. The second full-time Veterinarian position still remains posted and unfilled.

Chair Krajewski mentioned Midwest University recently opened a veterinary school and is working with Animal Services to, in a few years, provide senior veterinary students to gain hands-on shelter medicine experience at DCAS.

Laura shared the animal population is slowly creeping up with kitten season just beginning.

Giving DuPage Days (GDD) is coming up on May 1st. DuPage Animal Friends is again participating and has a GDD social media toolkit available. More information can be found on the DAF website and on DAF socials. Folks are encouraged to create a DAF fundraising page for GDD to help DAF reach their goal of raising \$15,000.

8. OLD BUSINESS

No old business was discussed.

9. NEW BUSINESS

Member Eckhoff inquired after a recent complaint. Laura explained what occurred and is drafting a response which will be shared with committee members.

Member Eckhoff suggested that Animal Services come up with a way to honor the memory of DAF Founding Board Member, Deanna Wilkins. Chair Krajewski and Laura stated that a few ideas are being discussed.

10. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.