



**City of LaBelle Board of Commissioners
Agenda Request**

To: Honorable Mayor and City Commission
Prepared By: Linda Phillips
Date of Meeting: 02/12/2026
Date Submitted: 01/27/2026
Title of Agenda Item: Animal Control
Agenda Location: Provided to City Clerk

Report in brief: Discussion and Possible Action Regarding LaBelle Animal Control Facility Conditions, Euthanasia Practices, and Statutory Compliance

Background / Summary:

This agenda item is requested to allow the City Commission to review and discuss ongoing concerns related to LaBelle Animal Control operations, facility conditions, euthanasia practices, and compliance with applicable Florida statutes.

Concerns have been raised repeatedly over the past year regarding the lack of basic environmental controls for animals housed at the facility, including fans and heat mitigation measures. Offers of volunteer assistance and donated materials have reportedly been declined due to stated maintenance, safety, or insurance limitations, with no alternative corrective actions implemented to date.

Additional concerns involve euthanasia rates and practices, including reports of a non-certified Animal Control Officer allegedly directing the euthanasia of all cats housed in the cat room in a single day. These reports raise questions regarding authority, training, oversight, and compliance with humane and legal standards.

There are also concerns regarding whether LaBelle Animal Control is complying with statutory requirements for advertising and notification of lost and stray animals prior to disposition, including the requirements outlined in **Florida Statute 823.15**.

Due to the seriousness of these issues and the duration of unresolved concerns, formal Commission discussion and direction is requested.