



Levy County Board of County Commissioners
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Levy County Quarterly Department Report

Department Information

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|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| Name of Department | Animal Services |
| Name of Department Head | Brandy Cannon |
| Department Mission | |

Department Staffing

| | Fourth Quarter 2024 | First Quarter 2025 | Second Quarter 2025 | Third Quarter 2025 | Fourth Quarter 2025 |
|--|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Number of Budgeted Full- Time Employees | | | | | 7 |
| Number of Actual Full- Time Employees | | | | | 5 |
| Number of Budgeted Part- Time Employees | | | | | 2 |
| Number of Actual Part- Time Employees | | | | | 1 |
| Comment | | | | | |

Department Deliverables



Commissioners

Charlie Kennedy, District 1
 Rock Meeks, District 2
 Desiree Mills, Chair, District 3
 Tim Hodge, Vice Chair, District 4
 Johnny Hiers, District 5



| Deliverable <i>(To be determined by the Department Head)</i> | Fourth Quarter 2024 | First Quarter 2025 | Second Quarter 2025 | Third Quarter 2025 | Fourth Quarter 2025 |
|--|----------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
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| Comment | | | | | |



Department Highlights

Levy County Animal Services

Quarterly Report

Reporting Period: July – September 2025

Overview

Levy County Animal Services has had another highly successful quarter, marked by community engagement, new partnerships, staff development, and continued success in our adoption and foster programs. Our team remains dedicated to improving the lives of animals in our care and strengthening connections within our community.

Adoption Events and Outcomes

We began the quarter with a strong start through the **Bissell Pet Foundation’s “Empty the Shelters” Event**, held July 5–19. This initiative provided sponsored adoption fees for both dogs and cats, making adoption more accessible to all members of our community. Events like these not only increase adoptions but also allow new pet owners to focus their resources on providing the best possible care for their new family members.

Additionally, our **Pet Pantry Program** continues to support community members facing temporary financial hardship. Through generous donations, we’ve been able to provide pet food and supplies to help keep families and their pets together while owners work to get back on their feet.

Community Outreach and Media Partnerships

This quarter, we proudly established a partnership with **TV20 News**, giving us the opportunity to showcase our adoptable dogs on television. This platform allows potential adopters to see each animal’s unique personality beyond what we can portray on social media, further expanding our reach and helping more dogs find forever homes.



We are deeply appreciative of this partnership and look forward to continuing this collaboration to highlight the wonderful animals in our care.

Veterinary Collaborations and Medical Advancements

Our ongoing partnership with the **University of Florida’s Veterinary Community Outreach Program (VCOP)** continues to provide essential veterinary services to our adoptable dogs. This collaboration has allowed us to offer treatments and surgeries previously out of reach — from heartworm treatments and mass removals to even open-heart surgery for a puppy in need.

Thanks to the support of VCOP and various grants, we proudly achieved **no-kill status** from January through June — a milestone we aim to maintain and build upon through continued partnerships and compassionate care.

New Partnerships: Pets for Patriots

We are also excited to announce a new collaboration with **Pets for Patriots**, a nationally recognized nonprofit that matches shelter dogs with U.S. veterans. This program not only gives shelter pets loving homes but also supports veterans’ mental health and provides ongoing resources to ensure lifelong care for their adopted companions.

Foster and Community Support Programs

Our **Foster Program** saw remarkable growth this quarter, with more community members opening their homes to foster dogs in need. This includes both short-term fosters and foster-to-adopt arrangements, which have helped us place more dogs in home environments, reduce shelter crowding, and enhance animal well-being.

Our **Amazon Wish List** continues to be a successful way for the community to support our shelter animals. Donations have included crates, beds, enrichment toys, and fans — all of which improve the comfort and quality of life for our animals.

Facility Updates



We are thrilled to report the **completion of renovations** to our old office building, allowing us to return to normal operations in a refreshed and functional space. This improvement enhances both staff productivity and the overall experience for community members visiting our facility.

Staff Development and Continuing Education

Professional development remained a key focus this quarter. The **Dogs Playing for Life** organization returned for a refresher course to ensure our team continues to provide structured and enriching playtime for dogs in a safe, positive environment.

We also celebrated another successful **ScAR's Program** graduation at the Cross City Correctional Institution. Inmates worked intensively with long-term shelter residents over a 12-week course, teaching them valuable obedience and socialization skills. Transitioning back to the shelter can be challenging for these dogs, but thanks to new foster opportunities and playgroups, many continue to thrive.

We also extend our gratitude to **Watson C&D** for donating mulch for our play yards, keeping the spaces safe, clean, and welcoming for dogs and potential adopters.

Community Events and Networking

In September, we partnered with the **City of Inglis** for an adoption event that resulted in two successful adoptions. We value our relationship with Inglis Animal Services and look forward to continue collaboration to ensure every Levy County dog and cat has the opportunity for a forever home.

Looking ahead, we are preparing for another **Empty the Shelters** event to kick off the next quarter, and we anticipate even more adoption success stories to share in our next report.

Conclusion

This quarter has been filled with growth, compassion, and collaboration. Levy County Animal Services is proud of the strides we've made and grateful for the unwavering support from our community, partners, and volunteers. We remain committed to our mission of giving every animal the opportunity not only to succeed but to thrive.
