



MINUTES

BRENHAM ANIMAL SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD

January 13, 2026

A regular meeting of the City of Brenham's Animal Services Advisory Board was held on Tuesday, January 13, 2026, beginning at 11:01 a.m. at the Brenham Animal Services Center Conference Room, 1804 Longwood Drive, Brenham, Texas.

Board Members Present:

Megan Gray, Jeana Bellinger, Suzanne Callaway, Kristina Newton, Dr. Christine Rockey, Sharon Guelker

Board Members Absent:

Carol Doersom

City of Brenham Staff Present:

Morgan Patton

Citizens/Others Present:

None

1. Call Meeting to Order

2. Citizen and Visitor Comments

None were heard

3. Introduction of New Board Member

Kristina Newton and Suzanne Callaway introduced themselves to the other board members. Kristina adopted dogs from the shelter years ago when it was at the previous location. Suzanne is a current volunteer at the shelter and has been for several years. The rest of the board introduced themselves to the new board members. Manager Megan Gray explained that this board was reinstated when she was hired as manager in 2023.

4. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon the Election of a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson for 2026

A motion was made by Jeana Bellinger and seconded by Sharon Guelker to elect Megan Gray as Chairperson and Sharon Guelker as Vice Chairperson for the 2026 Brenham Animal Services Advisory Board.

5. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon the Minutes from the October 14th, 2025, Regular Meeting

A motion was made by Jeana Bellinger and seconded by Dr. Rockey to approve the Minutes from the Brenham Animal Services Advisory Board Special Meeting that occurred on October 14, 2025.

6. Discussion and Presentation on the Purpose and Scope of Brenham Animal Services and Shelter Statistics for 2025.

The shelter statistics as of December 31, 2025, were presented by Manager Gray. Jeana Bellinger asked for an update on used SNAP (Spay and Neuter Voucher Program) vouchers. Megan Gray stated that 8 vouchers had been distributed that had not yet been used. She also stated that sometimes it takes time for Animal Friends of Washington County to send over the invoices for used vouchers.

Dr. Rockey asked if citizens trap cats for the TNR (Trap, Neuter, Release for feral cats) program or if shelter staff does the trapping. Manager Gray stated that it is entirely citizen-led and that 9 cats are signed up for the upcoming TNR sterilization on January 14, 2026.

Manager Gray presented and compared the 2024 and 2025 yearly statistics. The save rate has increased from 92.6% to 95.5% even with the lower number of intakes which decreased from 947 to 791. Dr. Rockey asked why the intake number is lower. Manager Gray said the shelter has been successful at deferrals, along with frequent “no-shows” to appointments. She also stated that the shelter staff send an email with links to re-homing resources each time an appointment is made. These things, along with the SNAP program, have helped lower the number of intakes to the shelter which has helped alleviate overcrowding. Dr. Rockey asked if the shelter keeps track of who does not come to their appointment and why. Manager Gray stated that there are no records kept or follow-ups on “no-show” appointments.

Dr. Rockey asked what the wait times were for surrender appointments. Manager Gray said it is currently a slow time of year, so cats in the city are being scheduled about 2 days out and dogs about 4-7 days. County wait times are approximately double that to ensure there is room to serve the City of Brenham residents first.

Manager Gray continued to share statistics. Adoptions/Reclaims/Transfers went from 898 in 2024 to 596 adoptions and reclaims with 115 transfers to other shelters in 2025, but this reflects there being fewer intakes for the year.

Manager Gray shared her hopes that Washington County residents will elect County Commissioners and a judge who will support the shelter and, in turn, help their county residents. Jeana Bellinger shared that she gave a presentation to the county authorities and

asked them to match the city contribution of \$10,000 for the SNAP program, but she received no response from them. The mayor of Burton also shared her support of the program to the commissioner, but there has been no response from the county. Brenham Animal Services has chosen to provide the SNAP program to county residents in need and use city funds to do so. Suzanne Callaway said it seems the county is not in tune with what their constituents need. Dr. Rockey said most litters and stray pregnant dogs brought to her vet clinic are county animals. Jeana Bellinger stated she is doing what she can at the administrative level to get support from the county.

Dr. Rockey said people will bring dogs to Brenham Veterinary Hospital and say the shelter told them they intake the animal. She also said the shelter should be empathetic of people's situations. Megan Gray responded by saying that the shelter staff does not tell people that "we cannot take the animal." Instead, some callers do not want to comply with or adhere to the shelter intake timeline. Morgan Patton stated that on occasions when a citizen has nowhere to take the animal and is unable to keep the animal until an appointment is available, the shelter will still intake the animal that day. These exceptions are on a case-by-case basis.

Kristine Newton asked if there are emergency foster volunteers. Manager Gray stated that the foster program has not been very successful so far. There have been two foster orientations with very low attendance and no further interest afterward.

Manager Gray shared that field calls were higher in 2025 with 733, which is up from 666 in 2024. This reflects the new and more efficient tracking and recording of calls and more response from ACOs in the field. ACOs also microchip dogs in the field with owner permission, which has helped with animals being returned to their owner before having to go to the shelter. County Sheriff's Deputies now use the same template for bite reports as the Brenham ACOs. This has helped in communication regarding county bites and ensures the ACO has all the needed info as soon as it is given to them.

Stray at large intakes went from 197 in 2024 to 175 in 2025. Owned dogs at large went from 61 to 87. This reflects that more animals are microchipped and able to be returned to their owners.

The 2024-2025 Adopted Budget was \$775,823. The 2025-2026 Adopted Budget is \$676,119. The Personnel budget went up slightly from \$467,139 to \$493,055. This includes the wages for Dr. Mohr; the veterinarian hired in 2025. With his employment, the veterinarian services expenditures were able to decrease from \$140,000 to \$15,000. The shelter supply budget increased from \$52,000 to \$63,960. This includes the surgical supplies needed for Dr. Mohr to spay and neuter animals in-house.

Volunteer hours were the same both years at 1322 hours. The number of volunteers increased from 32 in 2024 to 37 in 2025. 135 microchips were distributed in 2025. This includes microchips for SNAP program animals.

The goals for the department in 2026 are the completion of the Animal Services Manual, re-writing and implementing the City Ordinances related to animal services and purchasing an adoption event van which is estimated at \$209,500. This is more than the previously estimated price of \$80,000. This is due to the changes needed to the van to provide staff with the needed set-up and equipment for portable adoption events. The department will be looking for sponsors and contributions for this van during the year 2026. Dr. Rockey recommended going to the corporate level of big companies for these types of requests.

7. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon Meeting Dates for 2026

Megan Gray proposed the following meeting dates for 2026:

April 7

June 9

September 8

December 8

Jeana Bellinger informed the new board members of the Advisory Board policy in which training is required. She will email the information for the training to the members. The completion certificates should be given to Manager Gray.

Sharon Guelker inquired about the data center that will be coming to Brenham down the street from the shelter and if the noise coming from it will be too loud for the animals. Jeana Bellinger said it should not be a problem as it meets the code and noise ordinances for the city.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:43 a.m.

Megan Gray

Megan Gray

Chairman

ATTEST:

Morgan Patton

Morgan Patton

Staff Liaison