

HENDRICKS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

DISTRICT 1 – BOB GENTRY
DISTRICT 2 – DENNIS W. DAWES
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December 1, 2025

RE: Hendricks County Animal Shelter and Hendricks County Animal Control

Concerned Citizens:

The Commissioners are providing this posting as means of addressing concerns about the Animal Shelter and/or Animal Control. We are aware of concerns being voiced on “chatter” Facebook, through emails, phone calls, and texts and we hope to provide some clarification and answers to these concerns and chart possible directions forward for the future.

The “chatter” seemed to begin with posts about a possible mandatory thirty (30) day euthanasia policy scheduled to go into effect in 2026. This is not true and has never been discussed. There is a need and desire to reduce the number of animals in the Shelter to the capacity the Shelter was designed so that much needed repairs and renovations can be made. The goal is to reduce the population first and foremost through adoptions, with transfers and fostering also being considered a possibility. Never was euthanasia part of the discussion for reducing the population so repairs and renovations could be made.

There have also been concerns expressed about staffing levels in both the Shelter and Animal Control. Both will and are receiving attention and will be addressed in the near future. Animal Control is transitioning to being part of the Sheriff’s Department and this should be accomplished by the first of the year. The Animal Shelter Supervisor position has now been publicly posted and we are in a search for candidate that can lead us forward into the future. We are not able to discuss the nature of personnel decisions due to confidentiality issues but there was a belief that new leadership was necessary. This is not intended to discount the dedication, work, and caring of employees affected by changes.

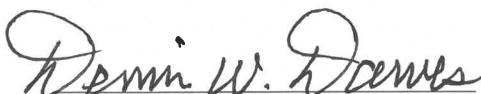
During the summer, we initiated a review of the Shelter’s building and operations by an outside and out-of-state firm that billed itself as “Animal Facility Specialists Building design & Engineering”. We received the report with recommendations in late October of this year. This morning we engaged the services of a local outside Project Management consultant to assist in directing needed renovations and repairs at the Shelter and to oversee those renovations and repairs. Our belief is this will facilitate quick action on the identified needed items.

We will be diligent in continuing to monitor both Animal Shelter and Animal Control functions moving forward and we appreciate your patience and support in this regard.

We thank you for your compassion and caring and will do our best moving forward, while also acknowledging that we likely will not be able to meet the goals or desires of all concerned constituents.

Also, please see the attached governing ordinances for guidance.

Respectfully,


Dennis W. Dawes, President


Bob Gentry, Vice President


Brad Whicker, Member