



MARION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Board Session Agenda Review Form

Meeting date: October 14, 2026

Department: Community and Economic Development

Title: Marion County Dog Services: Supporting Dogs, Strengthening Communities

Management Update/Work Session Date: Work Session August 11, 2026 Audio/Visual aids ☒

Time Required: 15 minutes Contact: Brian Smith Phone: 503-588-5234

Requested Action: Receive a presentation regarding the services provided by Marion County Dog Services and opportunities to volunteer.

Issue, Description & Background: Marion County Dog Services has developed a presentation highlighting the services provided by the shelter, its impact on the community, and opportunities for community members to become involved through volunteer service.
At the August 11, 2026 Work Session, the Board reviewed the draft presentation, supported bringing it forward to a future Board Session, and directed staff to bring an adoptable dog as part of the presentation.

Financial Impacts: There are no financial impacts associated with receiving this presentation. Any staff time related to preparing for and participating in the presentation is included within the existing Dog Services budget.

Impacts to Department & External Agencies: Increased public awareness of Dog Services programs and opportunities for members of the public to become involved with the Dog Shelter's volunteer program.

List of attachments: Powerpoint presentation

Presenter: Lauren Thielke

Department Head Signature: Kelli Wase

This page intentionally left blank

Marion County Dog Services (MCDS)

SUPPORTING DOGS, STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES

Mission

- ▶ To serve and protect dogs and communities throughout Marion County. The team at MCDS serves the community by:
 - ▶ Helping keep neighborhoods safe by responding to dogs running at large and dangerous dog incidents
 - ▶ Ensuring lost and stray dogs receive care while they await reunification with their families or adoption
 - ▶ Equipping residents with dog care knowledge that improves animal welfare and strengthens the community.



Dog Control

- ▶ Reducing dogs running at large to improve neighborhood safety and protect pets, people, and property.
- ▶ Preventing dog bites through responsible ownership, education, and community outreach.
- ▶ Protecting livestock by promoting responsible dog management and reducing conflicts between pets and agricultural communities.
- ▶ Addressing licensing compliance to reunite lost pets with their families, support public safety, and strengthen community animal services.



Dog Shelter

- ▶ Intakes all lost & stray dogs of Marion County
 - ▶ Over 50% of incoming dogs are returned to owners
 - ▶ Enhancing community welfare by providing timely medical care and support for vulnerable animals
 - ▶ Helping animals find safe, loving homes while creating lasting connections within the community
 - ▶ Building collaborative relationships with rescue partners to create pathways for dogs to find safe, loving homes while maintaining resources for incoming stray animals
 - ▶ Maintains a food pantry to help families keep their pets during times of financial hardship



Volunteer Program

- ▶ Many roles to choose from!
 - ▶ Dog Walker
 - ▶ Provides exercise, enrichment, and socialization that improves the health and well-being of shelter dogs
 - ▶ Shelter Assistant
 - ▶ Supports daily operations that ensure animals receive compassionate care in a safe, welcoming environment
 - ▶ Foster
 - ▶ Creates temporary homes that provide comfort, stability, and lifesaving opportunities for animals in transition
 - ▶ Clinical Assistant
 - ▶ Supports veterinary care to improve animal health and prepare dogs for successful placement in adoptive homes
 - ▶ Event Assistant
 - ▶ Engages the community through events that promote animal welfare, humane education, and the human-animal bond



More Than a Shelter: Be Part of the Mission

- ▶ Join our volunteer team!
 - ▶ Online application at mcdogs.net
 - ▶ Tour & orientation
 - ▶ Program-specific training
 - ▶ Help us create healthier, happier outcomes for dogs while making the community a more compassionate place!



Questions?

Lauren Thielke

LThielke@co.marion.or.us