

Friends, neighbors & concerned citizens of Pinellas County:

We want to share a post by Anna Cooke, editor of the NEW BARKER MAGAZINE.

We reached out to Anna for her permission to share.

Anna explains and summarizes the moral decay at the SPCA Tampa Bay and the challenge "some pig" brings to the table:

Some Pig

Last year, a family surrendered their pig to the SPCA Tampa Bay in Largo, FL. No longer able to care for the pig, they thought they were leaving him in the good, caring hands of an animal shelter. Little did they know about the history behind the house of horrors, and the significant role the pig, now named Waddles, would play in making the public aware of the shelter's atrocities.

This past Saturday, as the SPCA Tampa Bay held its annual Pet Walk, animal advocates protested outside the shelter's property. The fundraising event had to be moved from Central Park in Largo to their own property after hearing about the organized protest. Howard Qualls, the Human Resources officer for the SPCA Tampa Bay, tried to run off the protestors, early in the morning, even calling police. But the organizers of the protest had done their work prior to Pet Walk, and the protestors were allowed to stay.

A little backstory:

In 2023, the SPCA Tampa Bay formally announced their partnership with the puppy mill industry. They had actually already formed the partnership and were importing dogs a year before making their announcement. The shelter leadership had stopped most of their community outreach programs, including participating in Pinellas County's low cost spay/neuter voucher program. All this while their live release rates hovered around 50% – meaning they were euthanizing 50% of the animals they were taking in. Of course, their manipulated numbers tell a different story, but lies are par for the course for the shelter's leadership.

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office window, and chose to do nothing.

Kelly Dill of Pork Butt Pastures Inc. Nonprofit Pig Rescue & Boarding went to the shelter, and pulled Waddles into her rescue's care. What followed was an investigation by Pinellas County Animal Services and subsequent charges of animal cruelty on the SPCA Tampa Bay. The shelter paid the fine, admitting guilt, rather than enduring a jury trial. But, this would not go away.

Animal advocates questioned how the SPCA Tampa Bay board of directors could continue to allow their shelter's leadership to remain in place after pleading guilty to animal cruelty. An animal shelter, whose name includes the words Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, was charged with and pled guilty to cruelty to an animal.

There are videos and photos of how animals are kept at this shelter. I have seen them, and have heard from former volunteers and employees. These cruelty charges were a longtime coming.

By the way, Martha Boden was previously fired from her position of leadership with the Humane Society of Indianapolis (now IndyHumane) in 2008. "She left a legacy of low morale, crippled finances and frustration in the humane community," from IndysVoices4Animals.org

 Important Date: Wednesday, April 1 at 1:30p, 14250 49th Street N., Clearwater, Courtroom 1. **!!**

The SPCA Tampa Bay wants to change the narrative on Waddles the Pig's story, and have the animal cruelty charges dropped. Actually, the court has already vacated the guilty plea. But, Wednesday's court hearing is a status check to determine the court's next move. It is important for concerned citizens and animal advocates to show up. Your presence will show the court you want the cruelty charges to remain.

Please follow Pork Butt, Kelly Dill, and Connie Pavelich for all of the details on how it's come to this. They have worked tirelessly to keep the public informed. They organized Saturday's protest.

This morning, Connie said something to me, that was very profound. Saturday's protesters were not there only for Waddles. Every single person – former volunteers

Remember this, board members, supporters and businesses of the SPCA Tampa Bay: As long as Martha Boden is at the helm of the SPCA Tampa Bay, the guilty plea will always be attached to the organization, whether the cruelty charges are dropped or not.

"Fern was up at daylight, trying to rid the world of injustice. As a result, she now has a pig. A small one to be sure, but nevertheless a pig. It just shows what can happen if a person gets out of bed promptly." –Charlotte's Web by E.B.White

See post

Once again, feel free to reach out to them directly as well:

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