

Friends, neighbors & concerned citizens of Pinellas County:

We want to thank you for reading our emails. We have received positive feedback and support. You are an important part of raising the awareness of the corruption at where Pinellas County animal welfare and law enforcement intersect.

A few days ago, we shared Part 1 outlining the disturbing circumstances surrounding Waddles and the growing concerns about leadership at the SPCA Tampa Bay.

Today we are asking the community to look at something equally important: the money, the connections, and the priorities.

1. Executive & Administrative Salaries

President and CEO **Martha Boden's** (see image) salary and compensation is \$190,662.00.



Administrative salaries and compensations are \$1,085,069.00.

While staff compensation has risen significantly, the community is probably not aware of the numerous programs that Boden reduced or eliminated.

These programs once supported animals and families throughout Pinellas County. We will break down those programs and their impact in Part 3 of this series.

When leadership compensation rises while services decline, donors and residents deserve transparency.

When payouts for questionable expenditures scream for attention, donors and residents deserve transparency.

2. \$42,000 Consulting Fee and a Possible Conflict of Interest

SPCA Tampa Bay paid \$42,000 in consulting fees to then candidate (and now) St Petersburg City Councilor **Gina Driscoll** (see image) for “Introductions and information sharing”.



Ms. Driscoll also received \$40,539 in 2023 and \$11,688 in 2022 for “Department staff for introductions”.

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partnerships.

Simple question:

Why would a nonprofit animal shelter pay a \$42,000 consulting fee to a public official connected to the Chamber of Commerce?

Even the appearance of a conflict of interest should concern donors and the public.

3. Political Support and Puppy Store Policies

Another troubling connection involves Pinellas County Commissioner **Kathleen Peters** (see image), known for supporting policies favorable to puppy stores and commercial breeding supply chains.



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Commissioner Kathleen Peters



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Personal

These policies run counter to the mission that genuine animal welfare organizations represent.

Yet campaign records show **Martha Boden** making a political campaign contribution to Kathleen Peters linking shelter leadership with policies that many animal advocates and donors strongly oppose.

In 2023, why did the SPCATB purchase round trip tickets for CEO **Martha Boden** and staff members to make 5 round-trip excursions to Missouri to visit puppy mill breeding operations with the intention of importing dogs to sell from the SPCATB?

And why did **Boden** and staff veterinarian **Cynthia Mitchell** (see image) travel to and from Lafayette, Indiana in June of 2024 to present at the Canine Welfare Science Forum in support of the commercial breeding industry?



Travel expenses of \$16,979 in 2024.

What about even greater travel expenses in 2023 of \$18,021.

And even greater travel expenses in 2022 of \$19,402.

Where is the SPCATB administrative staff traveling to on the donors' dime? How is all this traveling helping the animals that find their way to the SPCATB?

Remember, the SPCATB was unable to provide a tarp and burn ointment for Waddles.

This traveling activity is what donor dollars are funding.

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Expenditure	2022	2023	2024
Fundraising expenses	\$1,317,130	\$1,416,695	\$1,542,775
Travel Expenses	\$19,402	\$18,021	\$16,979
Conferences/conventions meetings	\$55,342	\$45,313	\$44,189

4. \$99,000 Consulting Payment to an Indiana Firm

Finally, there is the \$99,000 consulting payment to **Loring Sternberg and Associates** (see image), an Indianapolis capital campaign consultant.



This detail becomes even more notable when the public learns that **Martha Boden** was the Executive Director of the Humane Society of Indianapolis before coming to lead SPCA Tampa Bay.

Nearly \$99,000 of donor-money leaving a Florida nonprofit animal shelter and flowing to Indianapolis consultants naturally raises questions.

Coincidence? Perhaps.

Why was \$141,000+ paid to outside consulting contractors when SPCA Tampa Bay already has an entire philanthropy and fundraising department dedicated to donor

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When donors give money believing it will directly help animals in Pinellas County, transparency about where that money goes matters.

The Bottom Line

Animals cannot speak for themselves.

That means the community must ask the difficult questions.

Where is the money going?

Who is benefiting?

And most importantly — are the animals actually a priority?

Pinellas County deserves transparency.

Donors deserve accountability.

And animals deserve leadership that puts them first.

Part 3 will share the upheaval and programs that were eliminated when **Martha Boden** first arrived on the job at the SPCATB in 2011.

We will also address additional questions about the Largo Police Department, including the role of **Chief of Police Mike Loux**, as well as the involvement of **State Attorney Bruce Bartlett**. What role did they play in all of this?

Sources: Forms 990: 2021 2022 2023 2024

[See article](#)

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

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