

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. Please join us in asking the tough questions.

Again, thanks to Anna Cooke, Editor of THE NEW BARKER dog magazine who explained and summarized the moral decay at the SPCA Tampa Bay in our "Special Edition" email. That article was reprinted with the permission of THE NEW BARKER.

LAST WEEK we shared Part 2 "The money, the connections, and the priorities"

Today we are asking the community to:

1. Look at the programs that CEO **Martha Boden** eliminated when she first arrived at the SPCA Tampa Bay.



2. Examine the role of **Chief of Police Mike Loux** and the involvement of **State Attorney Bruce Bartlett** in burying the pending arrest of **Martha Boden**.



Mike Loux



Bruce Bartlett

"There are two kinds of problem solvers: Those who actually want to solve the problem, and those who simply want to make money on the existence of the problem—without actually solving the problem. Unfortunately, some charities fall into the latter camp, where they essentially become fundraising operations." – HumaneWatch 09/2020

The SPCA Tampa Bay falls into the camp: "Fundraising Operation"

Martha Boden began her role as the President & CEO of SPCA Tampa Bay in 2011. She had been released as the Executive Director of the Humane Society of Indianapolis in 2008 after 6 long years of dividing the community. Immediately upon her arrival in Pinellas County she began to gut the SPCA of its in-house and community programs. Many of these programs were the heart of the organization that had an impact on reducing pet owner surrenders.

Programs and departments immediately discontinued were:

- Spay/neuter program providing low cost or free service for low income
- TNVR (Trap Neuter Vaccinate, Release) for stray cats
- Off-site adoption and education at PetsMart

- Senior adoption program
- Family dog training instruction (both public and private) to remediate behavioral issues that lead to surrender
- Cat talk behavior education
- Volunteer program for cat and dog volunteers
- Behavior hotline that helped prevent abandonment and relinquishment
- Housing and care program for pets belonging to CASA participants (Court Appointed Special Advocates) so they didn't have to relinquish their pet or leave them in a volatile situation
- 24-hour animal emergency ambulance
- Emergency veterinary funding for low-income families
- Disaster response team
- Humane dept with investigation officers
- Funding for low-income emergency care
- In school humane education programs
- Animal summer camp

From a 20-year employee:

"The first order of business was the firing of staff, dismissing dedicated, long-time volunteers, the dismantling of the programs mentioned above. Soon thereafter, was the termination of the SPCA ambulance."

"Lost and found, no charge for relinquishment, animal food bank at local human services locations, animal educational seminars. Just to let you know this list continues. SPCA was once the most progressive shelter to be found and I grieve its demise."

"There was a 24-hour service for injured strays. After hours these animals were taken to an emergency clinic, treated, and stabilized. The following day they were transported to the shelter."

"The (current CEO and veterinarian) calculated the number euthanized and concluded the cost was not worth having this service continue

even though funding for this service (had) always been a huge favorite of donors. Even after the program was dismantled, donors thought they were supporting emergency services for our community animals."

"I have nightmares and fight depression to this day due to her (current CEO) dismantling of what was once a place of hope and care."

"She undid everything that made employees proud to say we were a part of it (the SPCA)."

-Donna Bainter, Director of Behavior and Training and 20-year employee of SPCATB.

"New leadership doesn't value animals' lives unless it equates to profit"

- Terasa VanCoppennolle, former SPCATB volunteer

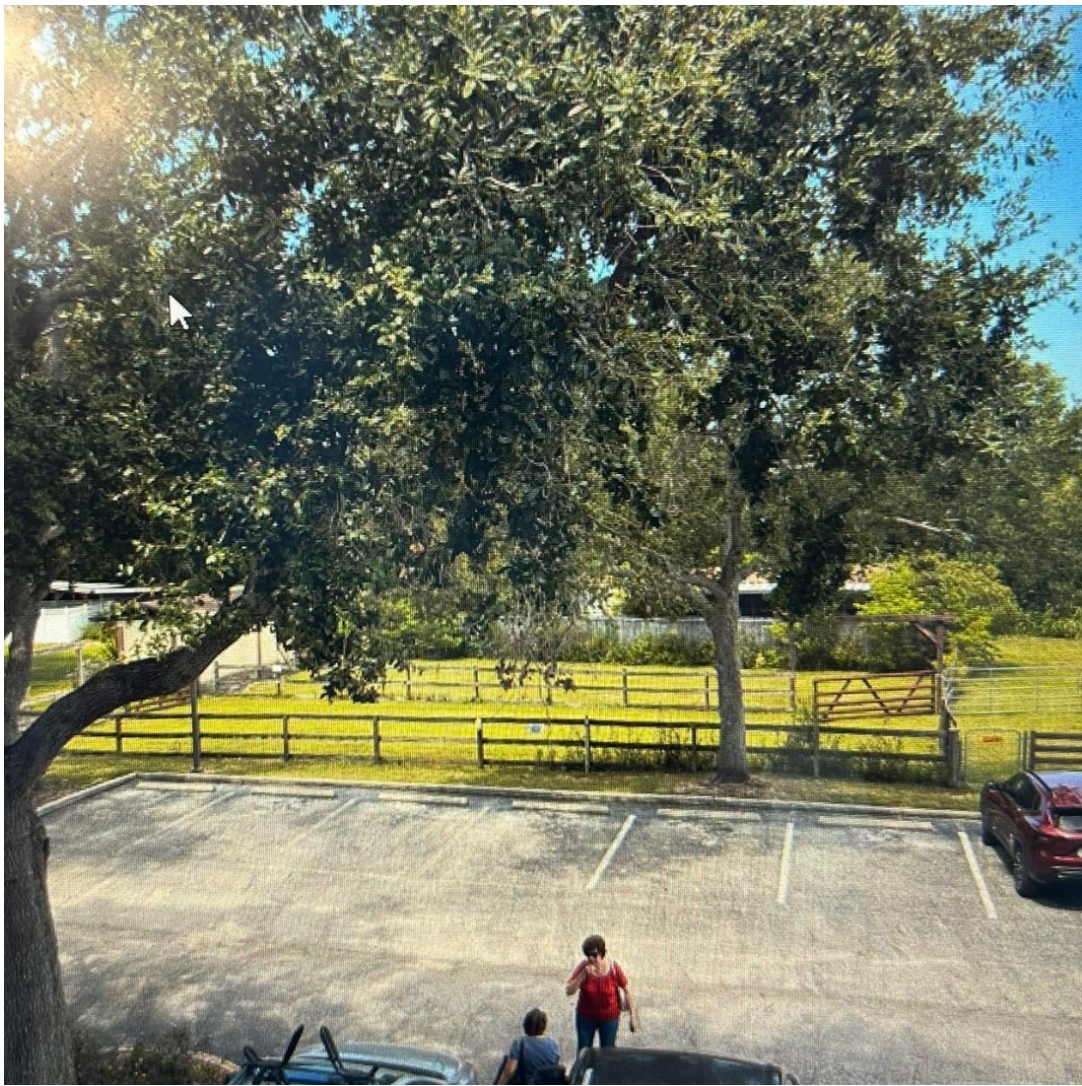
If you have questions about the elimination of these valuable programs, reach out to CEO **Martha Boden**. mboden@spcatampabay.org

Largo Police Chief Mike Loux, and State Attorney Bruce Bartlett.

Pending arrest of Boden for animal cruelty aborted.

What roles did they play in the abrupt halt to the potential arrest of CEO Martha Boden in the case of animal cruelty to Waddles the pig?

Waddles roasted in the sun for 10 days without shade or medical care at the SPCA Tampa Bay in July of 2025. He was pastured within site of CEO Boden's office.



Waddles sustained 3rd degree burns.



An investigating officer reportedly had probable cause for an arrest, supporting witnesses, and a guilty plea to animal cruelty already on record.

En route to carry out an arrest the officer was removed from the case.

There is no clear answer as to who made this decision.

Mike Loux, Chief of Police, appears to have directed responsibility elsewhere.

Bruce Bartlett, State Attorney, appears to have done the same.

John Curp, Largo City Manager, points to the State Attorney.



The State Attorney's Office has indicated the Largo Police Department. The circular finger pointing is concerning.

An internal affairs investigation opened

An internal affairs investigation has reportedly been opened involving the Largo Police Department, including **Chief Mike Loux**.

Internal affairs investigations are not initiated without cause.

This raises questions regarding oversight and decision-making.

At the center of all of this is a single question:

Why was an officer with probable cause, witnesses, and an established guilty plea prevented from completing an arrest?

These questions remain unanswered.

- Who made the decision to remove the investigating officer from the case?
- What is the current status and scope of the internal affairs investigation?
- What steps, if any, are being taken to address these concerns?

This matter has raised serious concerns and warrants clear, and specific answers.

Questions and concerns can be directed to the officials listed below:

Largo Police Chief Mike Loux: MLoux@largo.com

Largo City Manager John Curp, CityManager@largo.com

Largo Mayor Woody Brown: wobrown@largo.com

Bruce Bartlett: BruceBartlett@flsa6.gov
sa6.brucebartlett@co.pinellas.fl.com eserv@flsa6.gov

Bruce Bartlett's assistant: ChristieEllis@flsa6.gov

In part 4 we will examine the directors of the SPCA Tampa Bay (past and present) who have willingly turned their heads from the chaos and corruption at the SPCA Tampa Bay.

Also, be alert to a special edition article coming soon.

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