

**GRATIOT COUNTY**

# Animal control services agreement approved

**By Sean Bradley**

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Gratiot County has approved a six-month agreement to help Montcalm County with animal control services.

The Gratiot County Board of Commissioners approved the agreement that lasts from Nov. 21 to May, 21, 2018 and will have Gratiot County’s animal control conduct removal of dangerous animals or animals that require quarantine removal; delivery of

animals requiring quarantine to the Humane Society of Mid Michigan in Stanton; and investigations in accordance with the Dog Law of 1919. These will be done on an on-call basis.

The county approved the agreement at its Nov. 21 meeting by a 4-0 vote; commissioner Tim Lambrecht was absent.

It was created because Montcalm County’s \$2.4 million deficit caused cuts to personnel and services.

Montcalm County eliminated its animal shelter as part of re-

cent budget cuts and is leasing the former animal shelter building to the Humane Society of Mid Michigan, which is led by Angela Hollinshead who was recently laid off as Montcalm County’s Animal Control director, according to the The Daily News in Montcalm County.

“We’re just there for dangerous animals and to investigate bite reports,” said Tom Clark, Gratiot County’s Animal Control Director. “We’re not there for the average run at large or a stray call.

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Pictured is the Gratiot County Courthouse in Ithaca. The county has approved a six-month agreement to help Montcalm County with animal control services.

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# Services

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They've got police services to handle that type of stuff."

There are approximately 9,000 dogs registered in Montcalm County and approximately 5,500 dogs registered in Gratiot County.

Gratiot County will not transport animals back to its shelter; they will be transported by Gratiot's animal control officer to the Humane Society of Mid Michigan in Stanton.

It will also not perform "killing" of animals as specified in MCL 287.278 — 287.280, or euthanizing of animals; not respond to calls to pick up stray or feral animals; to calls requesting assistance with corralling of animals; and calls regarding animals that have been struck by a vehicle or that may be in or near a

roadway.

Gratiot County will prioritize calls for its own citizens over Montcalm County.

The agreement may be terminated by either county at any time by providing written notice to the other county 30 days in advance to the county administrator.

Montcalm County will compensate Gratiot County at a rate of \$40 per hour for staff time providing the agreed-upon services.

Mileage will also be reimbursed at a rate of \$.535 per mile.

Any services not listed in the agreement shall be compensated at rates listed in the Gratiot County Animal Shelter fee schedule.

The next board of commissioners meeting is at 4:30 p.m. on Dec. 5 in the commissioner's room at the Gratiot County Courthouse at 214 E. Center St. in Ithaca.