

**MARION COUNTY DOG CLASSIFICATION BOARD
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
February 19, 2026**

A regular meeting of the Dog Classification Board was held on February 19th at 3:00 p.m. The meeting was held at the McPherson Governmental Campus Auditorium at 601 SE 25 Ave., Ocala, Florida.

Board members present: Chairman Linda Norman, Kerry Crawford, and alternate Barbara Tucker. Vice Chairman Debbie Carney, Eddie Leedy, and Mike Deen were excused absent. Animal Services Director Kyra Lynch, Board Attorney Linda Blackburn, and Board Secretary Victoria Ryder were present.

Kerry Crawford made a motion to accept the minutes from the October 1, 2025, meeting. Second by Barbara Tucker. Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

1. A25-158948

Stephen Rice



Stephen Rice requested a hearing regarding the classification of his dog, "Pumpkin."

Humane Investigator Joshua Music presented proof of service, photos, and gave testimony. David Tetreault and Stephen Rice were present and provided testimony.

Kerry Crawford made a motion that after hearing substantial, competent evidence, the dog "Pumpkin", a female, brown, mixed-breed type canine, has aggressively bitten, attacked or endangered or has inflicted severe injury to a human being on public or private property, that the Board finds that Animal Services has sufficient cause to classify "Pumpkin" as dangerous per Marion County Code Chapter 4, section 4-22; 4-25; and Florida State Statute 767.12. The motion failed due to having no second.

Linda Norman then made a motion that there was not substantial, competent evidence supporting the animal control authority's determination that the dog "Pumpkin," a female, brown, mixed-breed type canine, has aggressively bitten, attacked, or endangered, or has inflicted severe injury to a human being on public or private property, that the Board finds that Animal Services does not have sufficient cause to classify "Pumpkin" as dangerous per Marion County Code Chapter 4, section 4-22; 4-25; and Florida State Statute 767.12. Second by Barbara Tucker. After discussion, the motion passed 2-1, with Kerry Crawford in dissent.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:17 p.m.

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| Chairman | |
|  | 4/14/26 |
| Witness | Date Adopted |