



Consolidation Update 2025



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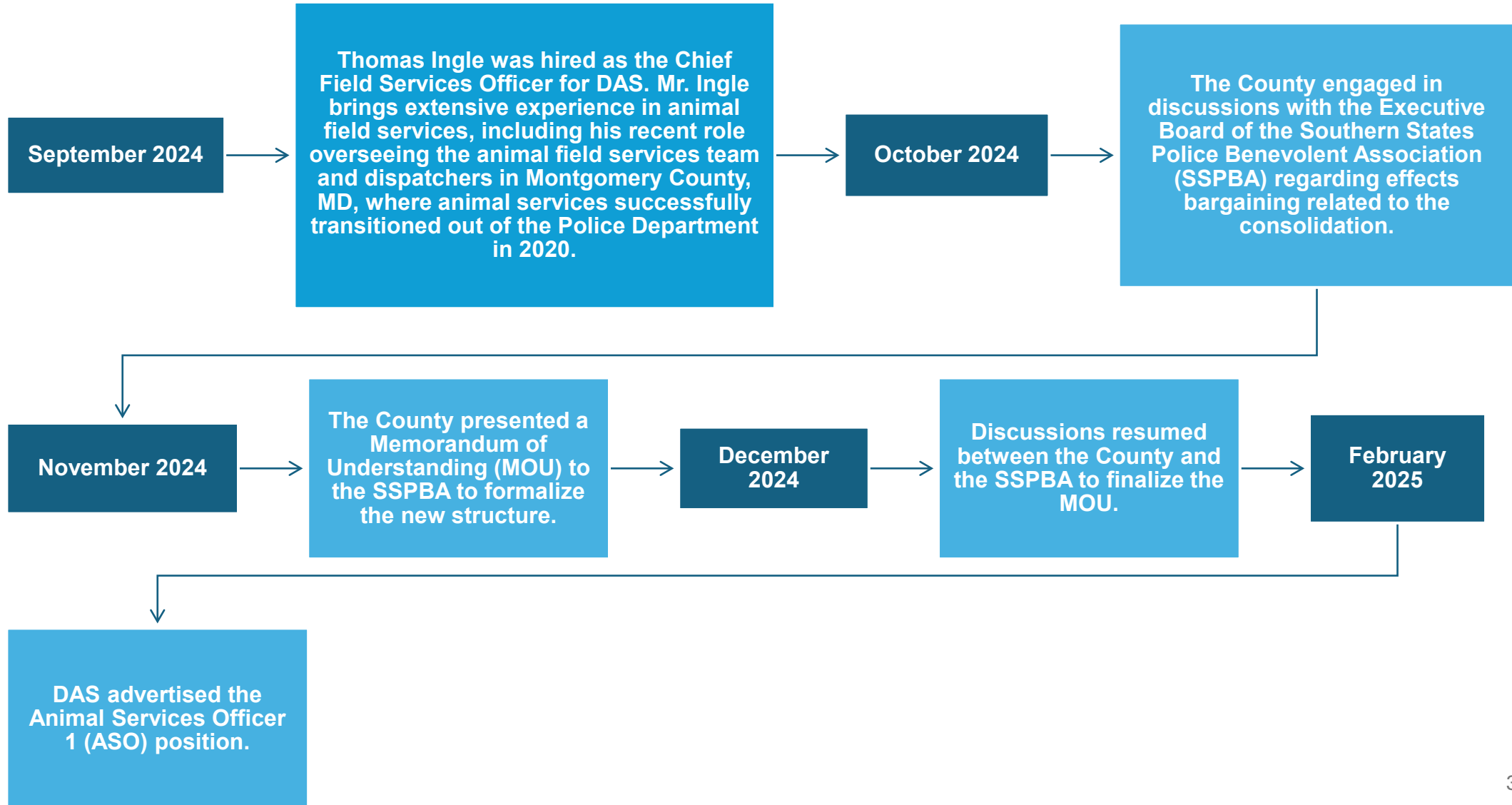


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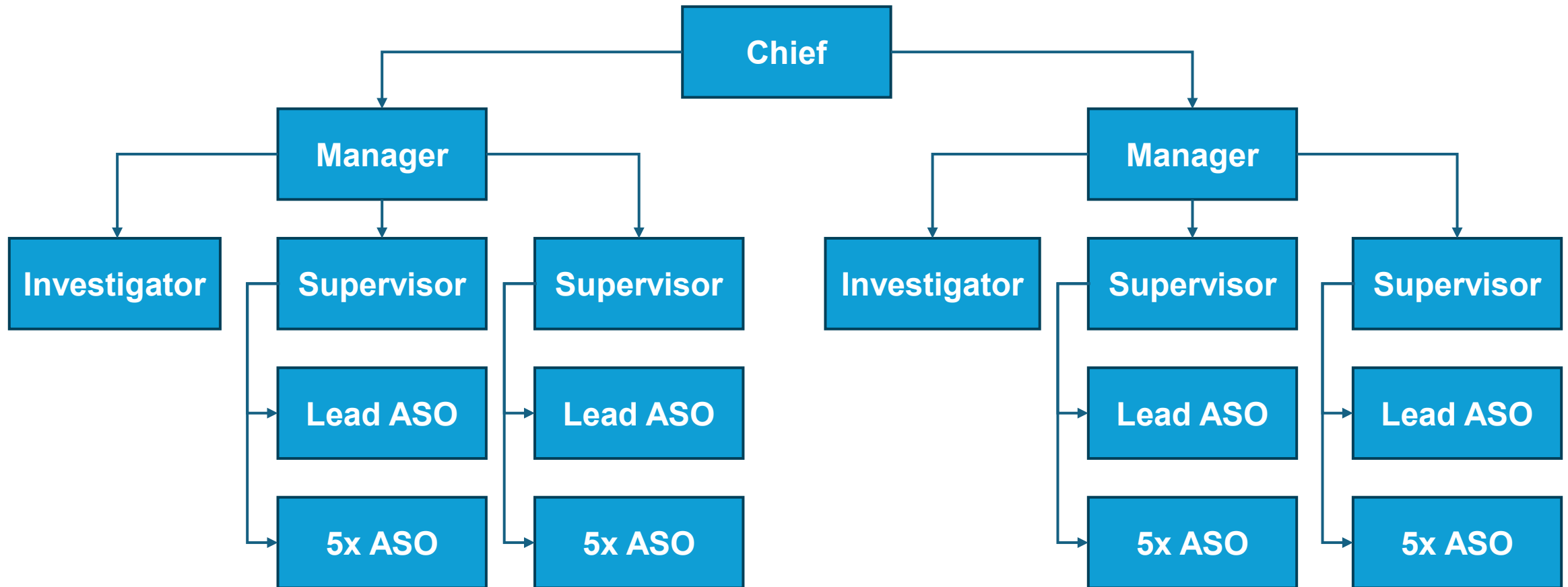
Agenda

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. Transition Progress**
- 3. Organizational Structure**
- 4. Calls for Service**
- 5. Wildlife Calls for Service**
- 6. Next Steps**

Transition Progress



DAS Field Services Organization Chart



Animal Services Officers / Investigators

- **Animal Services Officers (ASOs)** will perform the same primary functions as Animal Protection Police Officers (APPOs). ASOs will be integrated into DAS enhancing their ability to connect residents with shelter programs and resources.
- **Animal Services Investigators** will be responsible for leading complex investigations and serve as liaisons to FCPD and the Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney. FCPD will continue to support DAS with complex investigations, just as they do for the Animal Protection Police unit today.
 - Both positions will be empowered to enforce proper animal care, treatment, and control in Fairfax County.
- **Trainings & Certifications:** The field staff will be required to be proficient in many different areas to include criminal justice, firearms, animal husbandry, wildlife, and community outreach.

Calls for Service



Placing a call for assistance with an animal related issue will happen the exact same way, by calling the non-emergency number at the Department of Public Safety Communication (DPSC)



ASOs will be dispatched in the same way as current APPOs and be equipped with a portable radio and a mobile dispatch terminal.



ASOs are empowered to enforce and respond to the same animal related calls for service as the APPOs.



DAS is working with public safety agencies, such as FCPD and DPSC, to develop formalized interagency agreements. These agreements will ensure access to technology, equipment, training, and resources that are necessary to maintain consistent operations within Public Safety.

Wildlife Calls for Service

The County's response to wildlife calls remains unchanged:

- ASOs will respond to injured, orphaned, unnaturally confined, or sick wildlife, assessing and transferring them to veterinarians or licensed rehabilitators for recovery and release.
- If rehabilitation is not possible, the animal will be humanely euthanized using a firearm or chemical injection. ASOs will utilize firearms to humanely dispatch injured deer. The use of firearms by ASOs will be limited in scope.

A commitment to best practices:

- The Department of Animal Services (DAS) has established a Wildlife Advisory Committee. This committee is comprised of industry experts, including local licensed wildlife rehabilitators, and will work to ensure that the wildlife program aligns with community needs and adheres to best practices in the field.
- DAS will ensure consistency in wildlife care by providing field services staff with regular training in best practices and implementing a standardized approach to determine the most appropriate outcomes.

Next Steps in Transition

1. **Minor revisions to the county animal control code** (Chapter 41)
2. **Retirement code updates**
3. **DAS will develop interagency agreements** with other departments such as FCPD, DPSC, and the Health Department.
4. **DAS will work with NCS and DFS** on an interdepartmental working group to address the needs of families with pets holistically.
5. **APPOs will elect** whether they want to transition into the civilian ASO role OR into a traditional law enforcement role with FCPD.
6. **DAS will hire ASOs** based off the transition decisions of the APPOs.
7. **As ASOs are hired and trained**, APPOs who wish to transition into other FCPD roles will be released.
8. **DAS and FCPD will develop a communication and outreach plan.**
9. **The two departments will work side-by-side** until DAS is sufficiently staffed.

QUESTIONS