



**Animal Shelter Advisory Committee
Minutes
November 12, 2014**

Mayor
Oscar Leeser

City Council

District 1
Ann Morgan Lilly

District 2
Larry Romero

District 3
Emma Acosta

District 4
Carl L. Robinson

District 5
Dr. Michiel R. Noe

District 6
Claudia Ordaz

District 7
Lily Limón

District 8
Cortney C. Niland

City Manager
Tommy Gonzalez

1. A meeting of the Animal Shelter Advisory Committee was held at the Conference Room at the Animal Services Shelter and was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Roger Freund, Chairman.

| Board Member A.S.A.C. | Present | Absent |
|-----------------------|---------|--------|
| Peggy Edman | | X |
| Dr. Roger Freund | X | |
| Patricia Gonzalez | X | |
| Betty Hoover | X | |
| Linda Krasowski | X | |
| Marcia Margherio | X | |
| Robert Melson | X | |
| Rep. Ann Morgan-Lilly | X | |
| Regina Wagner | X | |
| Barbara Candelaria | X | |
| Dr. Guy Johnsen | X | |

Environmental Services staff present: Dr. Marilyn Christensen, Rose Janice, Elda Rodriguez-Hefner, Maribel Karisch

Public present: List of attendees available upon request.

2. Discussion and action on the approval of the ASAC October 8, 2014 minutes.

Committee members were asked if there were any questions or revisions.

Motion made by Rep. Ann Morgan-Lilly and seconded by Robert Melson to accept the October 8, 2014 minutes. Motion passed.

**Ayes: Dr. Roger Freund, Robert Melson, Regina Wagner, Guy Johnson
Linda Krasowski, Barbara Candelaria, Betty Hoover,
Rep. Ann Morgan-Lilly, Marcia Margherio, Patricia Gonzalez**

Nays: None

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3. Discussion and action on Sub-committees' reports:

a. **Free Roaming Cats – Chairperson Regina Wagner.**

Regina Wagner presented an overview video on the process of TNR for National Feral Cat Day. Regina mentioned that 50 cats were kept from entering the shelter due to Animal Services providing the public with Sun City Cat's contact information. She also mentioned that they have seen about 15 individuals willing to participate as colony managers with the last six days. Regina added that Sun City Cats is in dire need of straw. She is asking for anyone that knows where to find straw to please contact Sun City Cats.

Motion: No Action Taken

b. **Public Education, Outreach and Responsible Pet Ownership Chairperson, Patricia Gonzalez.**

Patricia Gonzalez mentioned that the committee is working on implementing a curriculum in the public education sector. Barbara Candelaria added that she had contacted Region 19 and was referred to a Behavior Specialist. They will be working to combine the curriculum of anti-bullying and positive behavior. Barbara will be working on a curriculum to present to the Elementary Physical Education teachers in May or June. She will also be trying to incorporate the curriculum with the Del Norte Children's Foundation which will serve as a great source for public service announcements.

Motion: No Action Taken

c. **Subcommittee to reduce the euthanasia rate in El Paso, Co-Chairman, Regina Wagner and Catherine Fagan.**

Catherine Fagan mentioned that the committee has begun researching on what other cities have accomplished in reducing euthanasia. The committee has been identifying opportunities and challenges in reaching their goal. The subcommittee has been reduced to 5 members. They will be taking a different approach to reducing the euthanasia rate and outlining their plan due to the discovery of inaccurate data.

Ellen A. Smyth, Director

Environmental Services Department

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Motion: No action taken.

4. Open Item Tracking Sheet

- a. Dr. Freund inquired about the Lower Valley Spay & Neuter Clinic's progress was still on track. Elda Rodriguez-Hefner added that the target date is March 2015 and the project is on schedule. Dr. Christensen added that there were some revisions and renegotiations to stay within budget of the original plans.
- b. Regina Wagner mentioned that Animal Services was to forward a copy of the shelter and rescue groups inspections per a discussion made in an ASAC meeting in August. Regina also mentioned the shelters and rescue groups that were in compliance and those that were still pending. She also mentioned that Precious Paws had ceased partnership with Animal Services. Regina motioned to have Doggie Do Overs to get inspected and to have Animal Services get in touch with Pause for Paws and request that they contact her. Dr. Waldrup went over Chapter 823.

Motion: Motion was made by Dr. Freund to get a copy of the inspections from Dr. Waldrup.

Ayes: Dr. Freund, Patricia Gonzalez, Betty Hoover, Linda Krasowski, Marcia Margherio, Robert Melson, Rep. Ann Morgan-Lilly, Regina Wagner, Barbara Candelaria, Dr. Guy Johnsen

Nays: None

Motion: Motion was made by Regina Wagner; ASAC recommends that Animal Services requires that Doggie Do Overs get 823 inspection in 60 days in order to maintain their Rescue Partner status.

Ayes: Dr. Freund, Patricia Gonzalez, Betty Hoover, Linda Krasowski, Marcia Margherio, Robert Melson, Rep. Ann Morgan-Lilly, Regina Wagner, Barbara Candelaria, Dr. Guy Johnsen

Nays: None

Motion: Motion was made by Regina Wagner: ASAC requests that Animal Services provide us an inspection from Pause for Paws and if they don't have a current one, they need to give them a 60 day notice as well that they need to have the inspection done in order to continue pulling dogs as a service shelter department.

Ayes: Dr. Roger Freund, Patricia Gonzalez, Betty Hoover, Linda Krasowski, Marcia Margherio, Robert Melson, Rep. Ann Morgan-Lilly, Regina Wagner, Barbara Candelaria, Dr. Guy Johnsen.

Nays: None

- c. Dr. Christensen mentioned that Animal Services will not be implementing the Barn Cat Program since Sun City Cats already has one in place. The Spay and Neuter Voucher Program is a yearly renewable program which will be starting up within the next week. Larry Brunt is associated with this program. There is also the TNR program that is zip code based Dr. Christensen added.
- d. Dr. Christensen mentioned the 500,000 Pet Smart grant for the Return to Field Program. This program consists of having 80% of community cats documented as being neutered/spayed, vaccinated and micro chipped. This program is based on quality control and Animal Services has to meet the criteria in order to receive the funding, Betty Hoover added.
- e. Dr. Christensen added that the TNR slide show that was presented at the Rescue Partners Meeting was sent to ASAC members prior to the meeting.
- f. The survey on Pet Relinquishment was revised by Dr. Christensen and Animal Services staff is currently using.
- g. A Subcommittee was developed in order to create a plan of action and present to City Council in lieu of writing the letter.
- h. The adoption van is now in the bidding stages.
- i. The minutes from the Title VII Ordinance Review were not available since it was an administrative meeting however the updates and changes will be presented at a later time Dr. Christensen added.

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Motion: No action taken

5. Discussion on infectious disease protocols and actions taken pertaining to current Parvo/Distemper outbreak at Animal Services including statistics of sick animals.

Dr. Christensen gave the committee members a Canine Parvovirus standard operating protocol and Parvo Protocol procedures. She explained the protocol procedures that are taken in cases where animals at the shelter are showing symptoms of parvo/distemper. Marcia Margherio added that the outbreaks become a community problem and then a shelter problem.

Dr. Freund asked what can ASAC do to prevent the outbreaks and some of the responses were: increase the vaccination clinics, education programs on Parvo/Dstemper and have low cost vaccinations on Sundays.

6. Status on Animal Cruelty Case from October 2014

Elda Rodriguez-Hefner gave an update on the ongoing investigation of the cruelty case that took place in October. She explained that the call went out as a priority 2 call and was answered until the next day. The call was taken by 311 she added. She went on to explain that after the investigation and Vet assessment the case was not confirmed a cruelty case by Field Operations. She also mentioned that the dog was never impounded and remained under the care of the owner and even though there were 2 witnesses that refused to provide a statement. Elda added that she could not disclose further information and the case was being handled as a Police Department investigation.

7. Moving Call to the Public to the beginning of the meeting

Dr. Guy Johnsen proposed to have the Call to Public moved to the beginning of the meeting. He expressed that this is being nice to the public.

Motion: Motion was made by Dr. Guy Johnsen to move the Call to Public moved to the beginning of the meeting allowing the public member to address one particular item and not necessarily wanting to listen to the entire agenda and be able to get up and leave. Motion passed

Ayes: Dr. Roger Freud, Patricia Gonzalez, Betty Hoover, Linda Krasowski,

Marcia Margherio, Robert Melson, Rep. Ann Morgan-Lilly, Regina Wagner, Barbara Candelaria, Dr. Guy Johnsen

Nays: None

8. Discussion on Animal Statistics

Dr. Freund asked if there were any questions and comments. Dr. Freund mentioned that he was concerned about the percentage of the adoptable animals from the 90% euthanasia rate. Dr. Freund advised to wait for the statistics until February 2015 and have IT and ACCELA work on the problem.

9. Call to public

a. Member of the public commented that she had taken 4 VIP dogs and had been at the shelter for a long time. All 4 dogs died within 3 days and tested positive for parvo.

10. Motion to adjourn meeting at 8:02 P. M. by Robert Melson and seconded by Marcia Margherio.

Prepared by: Maribel Karisch

Approved A.S.A.C. Chairman _____