

**Animal Shelter Advisory Committee
December 12, 2012
Minutes**

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 6:05 p.m. by Charles Hooten, Chairperson.

Board Member A.S.A.C.	Present	Absent
Dr. Roger Freund	X	
Patricia Gonzalez	X	
Charles Hooten	X	
Betty Hoover	X	
Linda Krasowski	X	
Rep. Ann Morgan-Lilly		X
Robert Melson		X
Janice Nutt		X
Julie Rutledge		X
Eddie Sandoval		X
Regina Wagner	X	

Environmental Services staff present: Dr. Nina Cloud, Larry Brunt, Sandra Pellegrini, Gina Gutierrez, Dr. Bernie Page. Josette Flores (City Attorney's office).

Public present: Marcia Margherio, Loretta Hyde, Tiann Bagwell, Barbara Candelaria, Barbara Valencia, Virginia Hooten, Connie Jimenez, John Conwell, Adam Garcia, Rosie Cubillos.

2. Discussion and action on the approval of ASAC November 14, 2012 minutes

Committee members were asked if there were any questions or revisions. Charles Hooten requested correction to November minutes to be made on item number 4, for the website address and phone number provided by Dr. Medina to be added.

Motion made by Betty Hoover and seconded by Linda Krasowski to accept the November 14, 2012 minutes with corrections.

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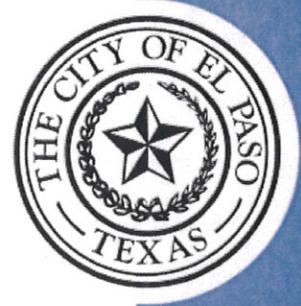
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Ayes: Roger Freund, Patricia Gonzalez, Charles Hooten, Betty Hoover, Linda Krasowski, Regina Wagner.

Nays: None.

3. Discussion and action on ASAC duties and responsibilities

Charles Hooten introduced Josette Flores and asked her to provide information on this subject. Ms. Flores advised that she would speak after Mr. Hooten, who reviewed the duties of ASAC and advised that they include, but are not limited to ensure that the State Health and Safety Code statutes are applied and that proper housing and sanitation requirements are met to ensure that all animals at the Shelter are separated by species, size, and sex when applicable; to ensure that animals are healthy and in an environment that is free of disease; to ensure that shelter inspections are conducted as required by the State; to ensure that records related to the disposition of all animals are kept as required by the State; to ensure that Enforcement Officers are trained as required by State Law. It is also required to ensure that all mandatory positions on ASAC are filled, and to report the performance of Shelter operations to City Council annually. Charles Hooten advised that the next report to City Council is due in March 2013 and requested all ASAC members to provide input. Josette Flores advised that Mr. Hooten had covered all the statutes and that she had nothing to add. John Conwell requested the State and City definition of a Shelter and asked what the Shelter State inspection requirements are. He also advised that no action has been taken by ASAC to recommend Animal Services to work on improving services or create new programs for the benefit of the public and animals. Mr. Conwell requested a report to show what has been done with the \$500,000 fund for spay and neuter programs.

Motion: No action taken.

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

- a. Feral Cat Management Chairperson Regina Wagner requested the name of this sub-committee to be changed to "Free Roaming Cats." Ms. Wagner advised that more people seeking assistance to address free roaming cats are calling the Sun City Cats phone number. Sun City Cats has been nationally recognized, but more advertisement is

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needed. Ms. Wagner advised that communication lines with the City have been working well and information is being shared; calls to assist on areas within zip code 79907 are referred to the City while Sun City Cats volunteers provide help with trapping, education, outreach, etc. on other areas of the City. Businesses and social media are been used as tools to educate the public; cat shelters have been built and distributed across the City. Ms. Wagner recognized six local veterinary clinics that have provided discounted services to the Sun City Cats program: Coronado Animal Clinic, Johnsen Animal Hospital, Montana Animal Clinic, Northeast Animal Clinic, Sun Valley, and Far East Animal Clinic. Ms. Wagner expressed her gratitude to the veterinarians for their help and to ASAC for their endorsement on the creation of public announcement programs and announced that a proposal for a new announcement will be presented soon. The creation of a trust-fund to help Sun City Cats efforts is in progress. A feasibility study for micro chipping is being considered after a discount rate of \$20.00 per microchip was offered to Sun City Cats and it will include local and national registration. The program's Website has been developed by Dr. McCabe.

Charles Hooten recognized that most goals set by this subcommittee in the last meeting have been met. Dr. Nina Cloud expressed her gratitude for the efforts made by Sun City Cats and advised that more volunteer colony managers are needed in order to continue making the TNR program grow. Betty Hoover reiterated that Kurt Fenstermacher and Rep. Ann Morgan Lilly were asked on the last meeting to look into the requirements for Sun City cats to obtain a 501c3.

Motion: No action taken.

- b. Public Education and Outreach Chairperson Patricia Gonzalez advised that Marcia Margherio would provide a report. Ms. Margherio advised that the name of the program should be "Trap, Neuter, and Return" and that negative connotations should be avoided. Ms. Margherio advised that public announcements were ambiguous and the public was not made aware of why spay and neuter is a better option than euthanize. Ms. Margherio advised that Animal Services did not take advantage of the TV spot to show the work done to improve and all seemed like a waste of time; she referred to 1999 compromise made by City Council to make El Paso a No-Kill City by 2013 and recommended ASAC to review the 2006 report and take the necessary

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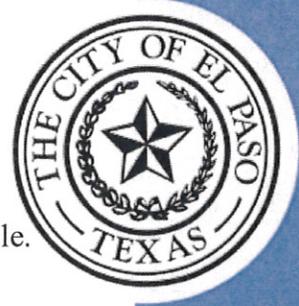
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steps to ensure that El Paso becomes a no-kill City as soon as possible. Ms. Margherio advised that in addition to announcements, options need to be given to the public to encourage compliance. Mr. Hooten asked Margherio if she wished to continue to be appointed as lead for the creation of public service announcements, Ms. Margherio accepted. John Conwell requested ASAC to ensure that Animal Services carry out their education and enforcement duties. Virginia Hooten pointed out the positive changes made by Animal Services.

Motion: No action taken.

- c. Pet Foster Program Chairperson Connie Jimenez requested Larry Brunt to be nominated as chairperson for this subcommittee. Mr. Brunt responded he would need to corroborate this appointment due to his status as City Employee. Ms. Jimenez also requested stats reports to be provided by Mr. Brunt. Connie Jimenez and Loretta Hyde requested to transfer to the Public Education Committee; Charles Hooten approved on both. Larry Brunt advised that five fosters and a colony manager to foster TNR cats had been recruited and advised that Animal Services is working on expanding their foster program to benefit all animals. Members of the public advised that a large foster program is needed to become a no-kill City.

Motion: No action taken.

- d. Inter-governmental Relations – Bob Melson

No report from this subcommittee was provided at this meeting.

Motion: No action taken.

- e. Responsible Pet Ownership Chairperson Charles Hooten advised that Loretta Hyde is planning new public event to offer free parvo and distemper vaccinations in the County area and is currently working with the Sheriff's office. Dr. Medina will attend to provide rabies vaccinations and information on spay and neuter. Ms. Hyde advised that tentative dates for this event are on the latter part of January 2013. Ms. Hyde advised that volunteers are needed in order to assist with different tasks and Dr. Freund requested proof of Parvo/Distemper vaccinations to be provided to the public. Members of the public asked

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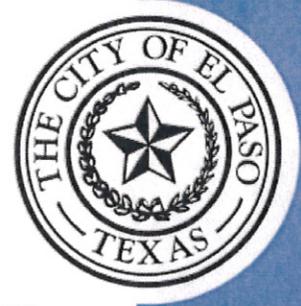
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if the Humane Society or Animal Services were planning to provide free or low cost vaccination fairs to the public in the future. John Conwell questioned if anything was done by Animal Services last year during the National Rabies Vaccination Day and advised that when providing preventive care, such as vaccinations, it should not be a requirement to have a licensed veterinarian present.

Motion: No action taken.

5. Discussion on Animal Services statistics (10 min)

Committee members reviewed this month's reports; Charles Hooten requested the report to show numbers by month and calendar year only. Members of the Public requested for the City to continue with the Van effort to increase number of animals spayed or neutered. Mr. Hooten advised van is still in use, but is still looking at alternative ways to increase the number of animals that are spayed or neutered in El Paso area. Mr. Hooten requested report on \$500,000 fund to be added to next meeting's agenda. Dr. Roger Freund and Larry Brunt advised that apparent increase on number of euthanasias is due to an increase on the number of impoundments. Stats on the number of animals impounded from the County, Fort Bliss and the City were requested by the public.

Motion: No action taken.

6. Call to Public

Barbara Candelaria shared the story of a family victim of a house fire, who were given citations by Animal Services Officers, and advised that many people do not spay or neuter their pets due to the high cost and lack of programs to assist the public. Loretta Hyde requested foster groups contact information to be shared with authorities in order to enable foster groups to provide help to people in need. Charles Hooten advised that the implementation of the City's foster program will help decrease this problem.

Barbara Valencia asked Charles Hooten to clarify what the purpose of the ASAC is. Patricia Gonzalez advised that the purpose is to ensure the wellbeing of animals and provide advice to City Council. Ms. Gonzalez pointed out the importance of getting the public to trust Animal Services and be familiar with their role in the community rather than being afraid.

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