



Mayor
Oscar Leeser

City Council

District 1
Peter Svarzbein

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

Animal Shelter Advisory Committee

Minutes
February 10, 2016

1. A meeting of the Animal Shelter Advisory Committee was held at the Animal Services Conference Room and was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Bob Melson-Chairperson.

Board Member A.S.A.C.	Present	Absent
Peggy Edman	X	
Dr. Guy Johnsen	X	
Cecilia Carpio	X	
Betty Hoover	X	
Catherine Fagan	X	
Marcia Margherio	X	
Robert Melson	X	
Rep. Dr. Michiel Noe		X
Regina Wagner	X	
Barbara Candelaria	X	
Bobby Brannon		X

Environmental Services staff present: Dr. Marilyn Christensen, Maribel Karisch; City Manager’s Office: Kurt Fenstermacher

Public present: List of attendees available upon request.

2. Discussion and action on the approval of ASAC December 9, 2015 minutes.

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

Motion made by Dr. Guy Johnsen and seconded by Betty Hoover to accept the December 9, 2015 minutes.

Ayes: Peggy Edman, Dr. Guy Johnsen, Betty Hoover, Catherine Fagan, Robert Melson, Barbara Candelaria, Cecilia Carpio, Marcia Margherio, Regina Wagner

Nays: None



3. Call to Public

a. Public member Linda Krasowski asked several questions: Who is going to run the Socorro Clinic and when will the spay/neutering going to start? Kurt Fenstermacher explained that the Socorro clinic will operate until the 4th vet is hired. A third vet was hired and will start mid April and interviews will be conducted next Tuesday and Wednesday for the 4th vet. Why aren't the statistics not being published along with the minutes? Robert Melson mentioned that the statistics should be published along with the minutes.

What is Target Zero doing for Animal Services? Kurt Fenstermacher explained that Animal Services has been named a "Fellow" which means that Target Zero stays in contact and makes connections with other organizations. There isn't a scheduled follow up visit from Target Zero at this time.

An oversite committee of citizens and animal rescue groups and a person who is knowledgeable in sanitation and disinfection guidelines should be formed to monitor the progress of the new program at Animal Services towards No Kill. Kurt mentioned that ASAC can make a recommendation to City Council.

What reports will ASAC be requesting from Animal Services on a monthly basis to measure the progress of the programs towards No Kill. Robert Melson explained that the committee hasn't had a chance to discuss or form a plan.

b. Public member Patricia Johnson inquired about how many animals were brought back from Tularosa; whether there were any charges and the status of the case. Kurt Fenstermacher explained that there is an agenda item for this discussion and will be discussed at that time.

4. Reports of Special Committees (Select and Ad Hoc)

a. Free Roaming Cats

Regina Wagmer expressed that the Free Roaming Community Cats Committee was overjoyed when the Animal Services Task Force mentioned in their report to City Council that the Trap Neuter Return program would be implemented immediately to reduce euthanasia at Animal Services. Regina also mentioned that TNR needs to be recognized legally in the El Paso city code. She suggested to make some changes under the "ear tipped cat" section. The changes would include: adding "spaying" to the definition of TNR to refer to male and female cats; stating that the ear tipped cats are not owned to the definition; and changing the abandonment language. While TNR is criticized, no one has recommended an alternative solution, Regina expressed. TNR



benefits the entire community including wildlife animals. The long term goal of TNR is to humanely reduce the free roaming cat population. Even though TNR naturally reduces the free roaming population, there are community members that don't want the cats in certain areas. Regina explained that it's illegal to trap at one site and release at another under the Texas animal cruelty law. Releasing cats in a different location can be a death sentence to some cats and it won't work in the long run due to the vacuum effect.

Sun City Cats thanked Dr. Christensen and Animal Services staff for the 26 surgeries in January. Their next Mass TNR trapping is scheduled for February 20th in which 50 traps will be set by volunteers for National Spay and Neuter Day.

Regina Wagner also read a letter from Alley Cat Allies expressing their support for the City of El Paso to adopt a TNR ordinance.

b. Public Education, Outreach, and Responsible Ownership

Barbara Candelaria mentioned that Kurt Fenstermacher and Betty Hoover will be on 92.3 once a month promoting programs that are currently on going at Animal Services and the Humane Society. They will also be recording on Thursdays for a one-hour program on Sundays. Barbara is also recommending to place a flyer in the DPS offices to inform new residents about registering their pets. Catherine Fagan also suggested talking to the real estate board about placing the flyer or brochure in a welcome packet.

Barbara asked the committee members to help in distributing the flyers. Kurt Fenstermacher suggested to contact the County Tax Assessor's Office for more assistance in placing the pet registration flyers. He also mentioned that he has about 3000 brochures to be distributed by the Veterinary Clinics on micro chipping, vaccinating and registering pets. Robert Melson suggested that committee members write to the El Paso times on what the committee is trying to do or any other concerns that each member might have. Barbara Candelaria was very excited to announce that there are positive changes at Animal Services; she noticed a longer line to adopt than to drop of animals and so many volunteers.

5. Unfinished Business and General Order

a. Animal Services Monthly Operations Report

- In the January mass trapping event, 26 surgeries were performed.
- On February 20th, Regina Wagner and her crew are scheduled for another mass trapping



- During the Socorro Low Cost Clinic, 125 pets were micro chipped, vaccinated and registered
- Another Low Cost Clinic was held early on February 10th and 101 pets were micro chipped, vaccinated and registered.
- A 3rd vet was hired and is expected to start mid April
- Interviews are scheduled for February 16th and 17th for the 4th Vet.
- An adoption event will take place at Animal Services on February 12th-14th. Doggy Friendly Cupcakes will be offered and adoptions will be \$45.00. The event will run Friday, Saturday and Sunday which will also include Animal Services' Fee Feline Fridays.

b. Animal Services Statistics Report

Kurt Fenstermacher explained that there has been positive reporting. At the end of January, Animal Services had a 30% euthanasia rate and a 53% live release rate. The 53% live release includes return to owner and adoptions. There were 239 return to owner by clerical staff's hard work on calling owners to pick up their pets. There were also 387 adoptions.

c. Discussion and action on Shelter Inspections process under direction of ASAC

In order to stay current with the shelter inspections, Regina Wagner

created a spreadsheet with the Rescue Groups and Shelters which she will be sending to the members for additions or changes. She also mentioned that only Animal Services and the Humane Society are compliant. Kurt Fenstermacher demonstrated a sample of a spreadsheet to keep track of Shelter and Rescue Group inspections and compliance status.

Motion: Dr. Guy Johnsen motioned to push on where we partner With Animal Services in developing this list of Rescue Groups and Shelters and create this as not only as an application process but also as a partner acceptance and also Z3 compliance and posted on the website. Motion was seconded by Cecilia Carpio.

Ayes: Regina Wagner, Betty Hoover, Barbara Candelaria, Robert Melson, Cecilia Carpio, Dr. Guy Johnsen, Catherine Fagan, Marcia Margherio, Peggy Edman

Nays: None



Discussion was made on whether to send a letter first or make a call to the shelter that are required to be inspected.

Motion: Regina Wagner motioned to make telephonic communication will be made with each shelter to be followed by written correspondence from the chair to address their legal obligation as being recognized as a shelter facility in this area. Motion was seconded by Dr. Guy Johnsen.

Ayes: Regina Wagner, Betty Hoover, Barbara Candelaria, Robert Melson, Cecilia Carpio, Dr. Guy Johnsen, Catherine Fagan, Marcia Margherio, Peggy Edman

Nays: None

6. New Business

a. Discussion and action on the “incident” at Tularosa involving less than acceptable conditions at a registered “shelter” partner

Robert Melson inquired about the resolution of the incident in Tularosa. Kurt Fenstermacher explained that on December 4, 2015, Animal Services made a site inspection after receiving some alerts in Facebook.

About 47 animals total were transferred from El Paso Animal Services to Animal Rescue Canine and Feline of Tularosa. Several Animals were taken by Alamogordo Rescue Groups others were treated for malnutrition and dehydration and 25 died.

b. Discussion and action on the announced changes to EPAS adoption policies/practices

Kurt Fenstermacher explained that Animal Services took over adoptions on January 2, 2016 with an adoption fee of \$65.00.

c. Discussion and action of the 501(c)3 update

Robert Melson explained that city government can't do the 501(c)3. Item was tabled for next month's meeting

d. Discussion and action on endorsement of the Shelter Reform Task Force Report and Plan

Robert Melson explained that he would like to have the committee formally endorse the Shelter Reform Task Force's plan.



**Motion: Cecilia Carpio motioned to endorse the plan and
Seconded by Catherine Fagan**

**Ayes: Robert Melson, Dr. Guy Johnsen, Regina
Wagner, Barbara Candelaria, Betty Hoover,
Marcia Margherio, Peggy Edman, Cecilia
Carpio, Catherine Fagan**

Nays: None

**e. Discussion on and action on members' ideas for the upcoming year's
Strategic Planning**

Robert Melson mentioned that he wanted for the committee to solicit 2 or 3 ideas to consider as a forward goals and get a feel to what the committee should be or might be doing. Dr. Guy Johnsen mentioned that having a strategic planning process is best. Kurt Fenstermacher added having staff sent out an email on what day(s)/time will best work for all committee members to have the Strategic Planning meeting.

f. Discussion and action on the approval process for rescue partners

Robert Melson inquired on how this incident impacted the criteria in the approval process. Kurt explained the new Rescue Partners application process for those partners that are otherwise denied. These partners will now go through Steve Martinez who is the Rescue Partners Coordinator and verify validity of the partners. Kurt suggested to have the rescue partner's application process cleaned up.

**Motion: Betty Hoover made the motion to table items f and g for
further discussion on a future meeting. Catherine Fagan
seconded motion.**

**Ayes: Robert Melson, Dr. Guy Johnsen, Regina Wagner,
Barbara Candelaria, Betty Hoover, Marcia Margherio
Peggy Edman, Cecilia Crpio, Catherine Fagan**

**g. Discussion and action on the huge concern of the out of county, state
groups that are being approved when our local "approving" group
has no means or authority to visit or monitor those groups.**

Kurt Fenstermacher suggested having site inspections. Robert Melson added to have consistency when making site inspections.

7. Adjournment

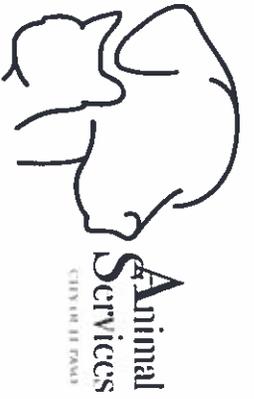


Motion made by Betty Hoover and seconded by Dr. Guy Johnsen, to adjourn the February 10th meeting at 7:48 pm.

Prepared by: Maribel Karisch

Approved by A.S.A.C. Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Smyth", is written over a horizontal line.



January 2016 – March 2016 Impoundments/Outcomes/Live Release Rates

2016

IMPOUNDMENTS

	DOGS			CATS			OTHER			OWNER SURRENDER			In Process		
	DOGS	CATS	OTHER	DOGS	CATS	OTHER	DOGS	CATS	OTHER	DOGS	CATS	OTHER	DOGS	CATS	OTHER
January	1,159	655	31	119	12	1	4								
February	1,133	565	151	193	12	4	8								
March	1,349	663	63	203	21	2	294								
April															
May															
June															
July															
August															
September															
October															
November															
December															

OUTCOMES

	ADOPTION			TRANSFER			TNR			EUTHANASIA			OWNER REQUEST			RETURN TO OWNER			DOA		
	DOGS	CATS	OTHER	DOGS	CATS	OTHER	DOGS	CATS	OTHER	DOGS	CATS	OTHER	DOGS	CATS	OTHER	DOGS	CATS	OTHER	DOGS	CATS	OTHER
January	327	121	8	159	39	1	188	309	274	6	86	5	226	18	1	50	10	13			
February	360	65	7	80	33	76	207	322	214	7	125	5	190	17	0	48	24	61			
March	271	52	2	80	84	5	224	385	184	8	116	8	230	15	0	52	18	47			
April																					
May																					
June																					
July																					
August																					
September																					
October																					
November																					
December																					

LIVE RELEASE RATE

	DOG	CAT
January	61%	56%
February	56%	57%
March	49%	57%