



Animal Shelter Advisory Committee

Minutes

September 11, 2013

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 6:00 p.m. by Dr. Roger Freund, Chairperson.

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

Environmental Services staff present: Ellen A. Smyth, Kurt Fenstermacher, Luis Rios, Larry Brunt, Rose Janice, Elda Rodriguez-Hefner, Bernie Page, Sandra Pellegrini.

Public Present: List of attendees available upon request.

2. Discussion and action on the approval ASAC August 14, 2013 minutes.

Committee members were asked if there were any questions or revisions, Regina Wagner requested correction on item 3a to read to be endorsed throughout October, to add item number 6 to the February agenda every year, and to remove the name of the doctor from item 7.

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

Eddie Holguin Jr.

District 7

Lily Limón

District 8

Cortney C. Niland

City Manager

Joyce A. Wilson

Motion made by Robert Melson and seconded by Janice Nutt by to accept the August 14, 2013 minutes with corrections.

Ayes: Roger Freund, Patricia Gonzalez, Betty Hoover, Linda Krasowski, Ann Morgan-Lilly, Robert Melson, Janice Nutt, Eddie Sandoval, Regina Wagner.

Nays: None.

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

a. Free Roaming Cats chairperson Regina Wagner spoke about the current status of community relations, efforts to establish a city wide network to handle TNR and requested the group's information to be provided to the public. Ms. Wagner advised Sun City Cats is finalizing their televised PSA, and their logo is being designed. Communication lines with the city continue to work well. Sun City Cats continues to lobby for free roaming cats with the local government. Official National Feral Cat Day is October 16, 2013, Sun City Cats is compiling a plan that will show to the nation what their group and the city are trying to accomplish in El Paso. Sun City Cats is collecting cat food and supplies to be distributed among colony managers, educating neighbors; providing assistance to people with TNR and with the maintenance of backyard colonies, etc. Kurt Fenstermacher advised that the next target area for the City's grant sponsored TNR program is 79915.

Motion: No action taken.

b. Public Education, Outreach, and Responsible Pet Ownership chairperson Patricia Gonzalez advised she is currently working on a neighborhood program to introduce to the public TNR program procedures and how to control the population of free-roaming cats. Ms. Gonzalez continues to work on obtaining funding for this effort. Dr. Roger Freund advised that it would be beneficial to offer education on pet responsibility (Vaccination, Registration and Microchips for pets). Regina Wagner offered to share information on TNR resources. Ellen Smyth advised that once this program is presented to

City Council they should inquire about funding. Ellen Smyth advised she has starting a list of board recommendations and that this could be added to it. Ms. Gonzalez advised that a video has been produced and is ready to be presented. Regina Wagner suggested that ads could be placed on public transportation.

Motion: No action taken.

4. Discussion and action on the ASAC Mission: Providing a healthier environment through diligent care of animals with the goal of saving maximum animal lives.” Proposed ideas to move action items forward , this Agenda item was postponed for discussion from the August 14, 2013 ASAC meeting. Marcia Margherio was not present at this meeting. Dr. Roger Freund advised that the item should be postponed again in order to discuss once Ms. Margherio was present at the meeting. Janice Nutt proposed to share ideas with the present and requested information on procedure to notify owners of microchipped animals that their pets have been impounded at the Animal Services Shelter. Dr. Roger Freund explained the procedure followed by his clinic staff when Animal Services is contacted to track a pet owner and advised that outdated information and failure rate of microchips is a common fact that prevents pet owners from being notified. Ellen Smyth requested that Elda Rodriguez-Heffner and Luis Rios to explain to the committee the procedure followed by Animal Services when a microchip is found on an animal; both provided a brief synopsis of the procedure followed by both enforcement and shelter personnel. Janice Nutt advised that more advertisement and outreach will help to educate the public. Regina Wagner suggested for individuals who are surrendering their pets to fill out a survey giving immediate ownership to Animal Services in order to avoid unnecessary holding periods.

Postpone one month.

5. Discussion and action on how rescue organizations pull animals from the Shelter. This agenda item was postponed from the August 14, 2013 ASAC

meeting. Regina Wagner inquired on the outcome of the case discussed at the last meeting. Ellen Smyth requested an update on this case; Kurt Fenstermacher spoke of permit requirements for foster-based rescues and of our geographic location, which creates a unique situation for Animal Services and the groups they interact with. Regina Wagner inquired about the required facility inspection to obtain a permit and 30-day holding period to obtain a health certificate before animals cross state lines.

Motion: No action taken.

6. Discussion and action on proposed education program for City Ordinance offenders. This item was postponed from the August 14, 2013 ASAC meeting. It was discussed at this meeting that ASAC would not endorse this program and would be unable to support its implementation due to the fact that the committee does not have judiciary powers. Mr. Moreno advised that he was under the impression that he would have to work directly with ASAC, which is the committee directly involved with animal issues.

Motion made by Robert Melson and seconded by Betty Hoover to not endorse this program and to advise Mr. Charlie Moreno to present this item to City Council in order to request its implementation.

Ayes: Roger Freund, Patricia Gonzalez, Betty Hoover, Linda Krasowski, Ann Morgan-Lilly, Robert Melson, Janice Nutt, Eddie Sandoval, Regina Wagner.

Nays: None.

7. Discussion and action on the intake policy at the Shelter. This item was postponed from the August 14, 2013 ASAC meeting. Linda Krasowski requested presentations and other documents to be sent prior to the meeting day to committee members. Larry Brunt provided a presentation on how animals are impounded and processed at the Shelter, and it was emphasized that the number one priority of the Animal Services Shelter is the control of rabies. Linda

Krasowski advised that her intent was to know the procedures followed by Animal Services when injured animals are impounded. Larry Brunt explained that a special section in holding areas is reserved for injured and sick animals and that Dr. Bernie Page, who is on call is contacted immediately to address animals requiring urgent care or emergency cases; Dr. Page advised that medication is administered as needed. Regina Wagner inquired about the procedure followed when other groups, individuals, or enforcement agencies impound animals at the Shelter. Committee members discussed the need to have information available at the front office in order to refer public to rescue groups as an alternative to impound pets. Volunteer coordinator Rose Janice was introduced at this meeting and it was suggested that volunteers could help Animal Services in building stronger relationships with rescue groups.

Motion: No action taken.

8. Discussion and action on the kennel/cage disinfection process at the Shelter. This item was postponed from the August 14, 2013 ASAC meeting. Linda Krasowski advised that she requested this item to be added to the agenda due to her concerns regarding the procedure followed by shelter personnel to clean and disinfect kennels. Dr. Roger Freund inquired if Dr. Waldrup had reviewed the Shelter procedure, and advised cleaning and disinfecting are both part of Animal Services internal procedures. Luis Rios advised that cleaning takes place early in the morning and is unlikely that the public would see the procedures followed by shelter staff. Ms. Krasowski suggested a quality control form to be used for training and quality improvement purposes.

Motion: No action taken.

9. Discussion on reporting periods and data provided by Animal Services Statistics Reports. Robert Melson voiced his concern over not getting a real picture of the number of intakes, euthanasia rates, and other numbers. Mr. Melson requested complete, detailed statistics to be provided to the committee on monthly basis and the source where the information is being obtained to be

included on the reports. Janice Nutt requested the stats to be broken down by species and gender as well. Regina Wagner requested numbers from different jurisdictions to be provided as well.

Motion made by Robert Melson for detailed Animal Services Stats reports to be provided to ASAC committee members on monthly basis.

Ayes: Roger Freund, Patricia Gonzalez, Betty Hoover, Linda Krasowski, Ann Morgan-Lilly, Robert Melson, Janice Nutt, Regina Wagner.

Nays: None.

10. Discussion on implementation of a disaster preparedness plan for pets in El Paso. Dr. Roger Freund spoke about his conversation with a Red Cross representative at the end of the August ASAC meeting, and shared the idea to create an emergency plan to foster pets on disaster or emergency situations. Dr. Roger Freund requested ideas from committee members and advised that he will begin working on a program to be presented to city authorities.

Motion: No action taken.

11. Call to Public

- a. Charlie Moreno requested a search option to be added to the Animal Services website to allow users to search and filter data in order to facilitate finding pet information. Mr. Moreno suggested for pet information to be shared through social networks. Mr. Moreno advised that he has a group of volunteers willing to help by taking pictures of Shelter pets to improve adoption rates and to work on improving the shelter software; he also requested allowing volunteers helping with the management of Animal Services Facebook page. Mr. Moreno suggested the establishment of a hotline to provide education and support to pet owners and to increase advertisement at the front door to provide

information on different area shelters. Mr. Moreno mentioned the importance of increasing conversations with Fort Bliss authorities due to the large number of animals coming from there. Mr. Moreno also requested information on the current status of the 1999 no-kill resolution.

- b. Catherine Fagan suggested that the disaster preparedness plan for the City should include a list of national teams and contacts trained to address specific disaster situations. Ms. Fagan advised that the national shelter release average is close to 25 percent and inquired about the language and content of the surrender/euthanasia request form provided to pet owners at the Shelter. Ms. Fagan inquired about the number of animals returned on the field versus number of animals impounded, and spoke about movie trailers and suggested alternatives to make them available to the public. Ms. Fagan requested information on the procedure to request discussion items to be added to the agenda.
- c. Candolite Flores spoke about number of animals brought in from the county area and inquired if they could build their own shelter. Rep. Ann Morgan-Lilly advised that building a shelter has not been planned by county authorities. Ms. Flores requested detailed stats reports to be made available to offer the public a clear view of how pet responsibility can affect euthanasia rates. She also spoke about the importance of national microchip registration and updating contact information promptly. Ms. Flores suggested the creation of a form to describe the character of animals at intake in order to facilitate the adoption process and to change the format of kennel cards to be able to place them in public view.
- d. Member of the public requested the creation of a local database to store microchip information Dr. Roger Freund advised that Animal Services is working on establishing a database.
- e. Barbara Valencia discussed the process followed by out-of state shelter to obtain a rescue permit, and advised that all the city of El Paso regulations had been followed. Ms. Valencia explained that pets are held in the State of Texas for a minimum of 30 days at local foster homes before they are taken across the state line. Kurt Fenstermacher spoke of upcoming changes to Title 7 to allow foster-based shelters to apply for permits.

12. Not having any more items of discussion the meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Prepared by: Sandra Pellegrini, Animal Services

Approved by: 
A.S.A.C. Chairperson