



El Paso Animal Services

MAYOR
Oscar Leeser

Animal Shelter Advisory Committee Minutes

January 12, 2022

CITY COUNCIL

District 1
Peter Svarzbein

District 2
Alexsandra Annello

District 3
Cassandra Hernandez

District 4
Joe Molinar

District 5
Isabel Salcido

District 6
Claudia L. Rodriguez

District 7
Henry Rivera

District 8
Cissy Lizarraga

1. Call to Order- Establish Quorum

A meeting of the Animal Shelter Advisory Committee was held at the Animal Services Shelter by Chair Representative Alexsandra Annello at 6:05.

Board Members	Present	Absent
Regina Wagner		X
Celeste Varela	X	
Sandra DiFrancesco	X	
Mary Kay Rosenkranz	X	
Karen Polanco	X	
Barbara Candelaria	X	
Gina Gagen	X	
Elvira Stephanie Frias	X	
Patricia Y. Riley	X	
Loretta Hyde	X	
Alexsandra Annello	X	

Animal Services staff present: Ramon Herrera, Maribel Karisch, Michele Anderson, Adan Parra.

CITY MANAGER
Tommy Gonzalez

2. Approval of Minutes

Discussion and action on approval of minutes for December 8, 2021

Patricia Riley motioned to accept the December 8, 2021; Gina Gagen seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed and motion passed unanimously.

3. Reports-Support the City of El Paso's Initiative to Reach and Sustain a 90% or Greater Live-Release Rate by 2020.

A. Chair Report No Report

B. El Paso Animal Services December 2021 update and statistics

Ramon Herrera mentioned that Animal Services' main goal continues to be the return to pre-pandemic operations. While the struggle continues with outcomes,

Ramon Herrera – Interim Director

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DELIVERING EXCEPTIONAL SERVICES



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assistance with intakes remains; the intake for December 2021 was 1,236. The outcome for December 2021 was 1,120 with the help of different adoption promotions that took place at The Winter Fest, local businesses and organizations, off-site events and the assistance from the Bissell Foundation. In the efforts to increase outcomes, adoptions will be the focus for 2022, so adoption opportunities will be incorporated in the Free Microchip Clinics. Ramon pointed out that the number of Return to Owner (RTOs) have gained momentum and Animal Services will continue to microchip as many pets possible as long as the national animal welfare partnerships continue their support and resources. There are 1,607 fosters out that includes the foster pets that are waiting for surgery to finalize the adoption. Ramon added that 3 traveling veterinarians are scheduled to arrive on February 7th and will stay through the 10th to help with surgeries. Another veterinarian will arrive at the end of February. Infectious and trauma were the two top reasons for euthanasia. The LRR was 80.65%, which was higher than November 2021 and the calendar year LRR was 84.27%. A transport of 80 to 90 dogs to Canada is scheduled for this weekend. Considering the outcome challenges that Animal Services continues to struggle with, these types of transports have made it possible to sustain a positive LRR. The total intakes for CAPS were 1,236, no appointment intakes were 362 and field intakes were 628. The Animal Shelter count LRR was 80.65% compared to 92.54% last year. The CAPS found reports created were 190 and community RTOs were 88. Ramon Herrera presented the PAW Cast.

Alexsandra Annello inquired whether there would be a decrease in non-essential employees per the discussion held by council on going back to phase 1 and would there be modifications with volunteers as well.

Ramon explained that all of Animal Services staff is essential. He is considering modifying the hours of operation by opening later to allow for cleaning and feeding of all animals. He added that an emergency response plan was placed in March of 2020 that does entail the reduction of intake, however with much of the staff out, the present shelter population needs to be taken care of.

Ramon also explained that Animal Services is getting the word out to the community on the Safe Outdoor Act through education. Animal Services started education outreach this week and also posted material on the website. He will have updates on the shelter's covid-19 situation as well as the outreach efforts.

Gina Gagen inquired about the horse that is currently at the shelter. Ramon explained that no one has reclaimed it yet. If not reclaimed, the horse needs to get the proper exams by the state veterinarian before adoption. Gina also inquired about where the veterinarians are from. Ramon explained that one of the vets was a former employee of Animal Services who is currently working in Kansas City.

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Loretta Hyde inquired about how the Safe Outdoor Dogs Act will be enforced. Ramon explained that Animal Services has started education outreach before the law takes effect. This education will answer the misconceptions of tethering dogs and examples of what is appropriate tethering and housing will be in the media in the coming days. Ramon added that he will coordinate with Lauralei Combs from El Paso County Welfare and share the Animal Services informational resources.

C. El Paso County Animal Welfare Department November update.

No report

4. Call to the public

None

5. Main Agenda

None

6. Future Agenda Item

Presentation on the update of the funding for Animal Services

7. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:33 PM

Karen Polanco motioned to adjourn; Stephanie Frias seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

Prepared by: Maribel Karisch

Approved by A.S.A.C. Chairman _____

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