



Department of Animal Services

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Animal Shelter Advisory Committee

Minutes October 10, 2018

1. **Call to Order- Establish Quorum**

A meeting of the Animal Shelter Advisory Committee was held at the Humane Society of El Paso conference room and was called to order at 6:07 p.m. by Chair Ken Margherio.

Board Member A.S.A.C.	Present	Absent
Barbara Candelaria	X	
Amanda Herrera		X
Dr. Guy Johnsen	X	
Ken Margherio	X	
Charlie Moreno	X	
Claudia Ordaz Perez		X
Edith Prado	X	
Maria Ramirez		X
Julie Rutledge	X	
G. Eric Stoltz		X
Regina Wagner		X

Animal Services staff present: Paula Powell, Maribel Karisch, Ramon Herrera, Michele Anderson and Ana Schumacher

Public present: List of attendees available upon request.

2. **Approval of Minutes**

Discussion and action on the approval of the August 8, 2018 minutes.

Charlie Moreno motioned to accept the August 8, 2018 minutes; Guy Johnson seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

3. **Chairman Remarks**

Ken Margherio mentioned that with the new committee members on board and other changes that have taken place, the ASAC binder needs to be updated.

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

A. Member- Free Roaming Cats-

Paula Powell – Director
5001 Fred Wilson | El Paso, Texas 79906 | (915) 212-7297

"Delivering Outstanding Services"



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Regina Wagner not present.

B. Subcommittee-Disease Control Presentation

Dr. Guy Johnsen introduced Eric Boehm who is the Executive Director of the El Paso Veterinary Medical Association (EPVMA). Eric Boehm explained that the El Paso Community Foundation, together with other animal related organizations, which is now known as the El Paso Animal Summit has found money to be bring to El Paso, as long as there is community engagement; and so the Disease Control Pilot Project was developed. The pilot project will replicate a study made by the ASPCA and the Albuquerque Animal Services in 2014 and published in 2018. The study consisted of testing impounded animals for distemper and Parvovirus. Each animal that was geo-coded created a heat map of the city, identifying the areas of disease and the lack of vaccination. The project will be composed of three prongs. The first one will be the research, which East El Paso Vet Techs will collect blood samples from animals in El Paso Animal Services, County, the Humane Society and the Animal Rescue League. Coding cats as spayed/neutered, adult or kitten will also create a cat map. The second prong will consist of EPVMA publications, Social Media and the distribution of flyers on vaccinating, micro chipping and registering to all pet shops. The third prong will involve the Humane Society's collaborative with Sun City Cats and community cats. The pilot program will run for three months to collect data. The data collected will be used to apply for future grants. The project will benefit the El Paso Animal Collaborative. The EPVMA, El Paso Animal Services, Humane Society and County, are funding the pilot project which is set up by the El Paso Community Foundation. The Foundation is helping with administration, research for future grants and more community involvement.

C. Rescue Agency/ Limited Shelter Report

None

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Paula Powell explained that August was a great month; however, September was a very difficult month since she started with Animal Services. The August intake was slightly higher with 2556 animals. Austin Pet's Alive was currently at the shelter assisting with the intake process. There was a good outcome for August with almost 1,000 adoptions. The foster program has also been growing with more foster parents who are doing a great job. There are currently 505 animals out in foster. She also introduced the new attorney assigned to Animal Services, Ana Schumacher. The live release rate for August was 88.03% and increase from last year. The calendar LRR was 85.84% compared to last year's LRR of 75.42%. The LRR for fiscal year was 83.11% compared to 70.89% last year.

The September intake comparatives decreased slightly from last year from 2433 to 2300 animals, but Animal Services is working with Austin Pet's Alive for solutions. There was an increase of died-in-care due to distemper in the facility and hit by car injuries. There were also several neonates that were in fosters and others in the shelter, that accounted for the increase. Austin Pet's Alive is also helping train staff to use different neonate protocols. Animal Services staff will then train fosters on how to care for the neonates. The number of animals out on foster has also increased to 554.



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The LLR for September was 78.5% compared to 79.83% from last year. The calendar LRR was 85.84 %. The shelter animal count LRR for September was 78.25% compared to 70.55% last year. The number of return to owner has also increased to 25%.

Animal Services will conduct an officer academy for County, Tiguas and Ft. Bliss officers as well as for leadership. Paula Powell added that it will take the entire community to achieve no kill.

Michele Anderson presented the Paw Cast for September.

Paula also mentioned that the Animal Protection Officers have been canvassing on Sundays. They are walking door to door on either Friday and/or Saturday informing the public of the free micro chipping on Sundays. They have been doing this for the last two Sundays, with a great turn out. There were 41 pets micro-chipped the first and 39 on the second Sunday. The canvassing will continue every Sunday non-stop. The next canvassing will take place on the 79907 zip code, close to Del Valle High School from 9 am to 1 pm. The officers are targeting high stray intake areas. Paula explained that Pet's Alive is also helping the Humane Society in getting ready for next year's kitten season. She also explained that the redesigned ventilation system would be upgraded next year. Dr. Johnsen inquired about whether animals with kennel cough could possibly be in foster while under medical observation. Paula explained that Animal Services is looking for fosters and will talk to Valentin Garcia more on this.

5. Call to the public

Linda Krasowski and Patricia Johnson commented.

6. Main Agenda

A. **Research and Advice on Effective Ordinances and Policies to Improve Overall Health, Welfare and Safety for Animals**

A1. *Discussion and Action on a Resolution in support of an Animal Abuse Registry.*

Barbara Candelaria started discussion mentioning that ASAC had voted on this item last September or October and nothing was done.

Charlie explained that this item was previously discussed last year and ASAC passed the vote to allow Animal Services to research the topic. Paula Powell explained that in September's meeting, she mentioned that the Animal Abuse Registry would not be available until the relationship between Animal Services and the Animal Cruelty unit is established. The Animal Cruelty Unit is still working out the kinks on defining animal abuse and standards of care.

Charlie suggested that rescue groups develop a do-not adopt list for now, since there are not that many convictions for a registry, even though he agrees on having one. Barbara Candelaria explained getting a registry will bring animal cruelty awareness and Representative Ordaz wants to get this registry to state legislature next year. Charlie also suggested having the community show up to these cases so that the judges see that animal abuse is a public problem. Eydie Prado mentioned that she would be the liaison between Animal Services and the Animal Cruelty Unit for better communication. Ken Margherio asked whether there was a motion to table, however, Dr. Johnsen expressed that the Animal



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Cruelty Unit and Animal Services need to establish their relationship first, before adding the item. Dr. Johnsen also suggested dropping the item since the item has been on the agenda three times, and the members presenting did not show up for the meeting. Eydie Prado will meet with the Animal Cruelty Unit to prepare a presentation for next month's meeting.

B. Promote Education and Engagement in Animal Health and Welfare

B1. Discussion and action on Overview of Animal Welfare Shelter

Statistics and Relationships of Intakes and Outcomes.

Ken Margherio began his presentation by asking, where are we nationally in animal welfare? He gave the Live Saving Progress across the nation statistics: the national save rate is approximately 65% to 70% with the national intake estimate of 6.9 million from Best Friends, 7.6 million from the Humane Society of United States, and 6.5 million from ASPCA. It's estimated that 4.9 million animals have been saved. The estimated euthanasia rate is 23%, that's about 1.5 to 1.7 million animals. In spite of these numbers, there have been positive changes over the years. In 1984, 17 million animals died in municipal shelters, but that changed in 2008, with only 4 million; and the numbers kept decreasing. In 2011 there were 3 million and then 1.5 to 1.7 million in 2017. With 66% of stray impounded animals, only 10% are returned to their owners nationally. Increased efforts in RTO and more pet identifications are crucial in returning more pets to their owners in the future.

Ken Margherio continued to explain that Maine and Delaware, are the only two States with over 90% save rate. California is at 72% and Texas is at 62% save rate, considering that Texas has the highest intake rate of any other state. There are 19 states with over 80%, 16 states between 60%-80% and 8 states that have less than 50% live release rate.

He added some interesting facts about pet ownership. There are approximately 78 million dogs and 85.8 million cats owned in the United States, that means 68% of all households have a pet. In 1994, \$17 billion was spent on pets, that number has increased to \$72 billion today.

National adoptions have also increased by 18.5% since 2011, considering that 7 million animals are impounded, about 3.2 million animals are adopted. This increase has significantly reduced euthanasia. With only 27% of adoptions coming from municipal shelter, there's always competition with breeders and puppy mills where 34% of dogs are coming from these facilities.

Ken also shared some El Paso calendar year LLR statistics: In 2015-34%, 2016-58%, 2017-73% and 2018-85%. So far 16,687 animals have been placed or found homes. El Paso Animal Services has saved 50,620 animals since the approval of our No-Kill plan in January 2016.

He closed his presentation by expressing the need for municipal shelters becoming marketing experts and make shelter animals more appealing to the public. There is a tremendous marketing opportunity for shelter to save more lives and if more pet owners choose to adopt, this will decrease the euthanasia rate, making our nation to a certain No-Kill status.



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7. **Future Agenda Item**
Report on the Animal Shelter Foundation
Discussion and action on ASAC Bi-laws
Animal Cruelty Presentation

8. **Adjournment**
Meeting adjourned at 8:12 PM

Julie Rutledge motioned to adjourn; Charlie Moreno seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

Prepared by: Maribel Karisch

Approved by A.S.A.C. Chairman

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