



# El Paso Animal Services

**MAYOR**  
Oscar Leaser

## Animal Shelter Advisory Committee Minutes

November 10, 2021

### CITY COUNCIL

**District 1**  
Peter Svarzbein

**District 2**  
Alexandra 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 virtually by Vice Chair Celeste Varela at 6:15 PM.

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
Alexandra Annello		X

Animal Services staff present: Ramon Herrera, Maribel Karisch, Michele Anderson, Adan Parra and Esty Molina

**CITY MANAGER**  
Tommy Gonzalez

### 2. Approval of Minutes

Discussion and action on approval of minutes for October 13, 2021

*Barbara Candelaria motioned to accept the October 13, 2021; Dr. 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 October update and statistics

Ramon mentioned that staff took a survey to see where Animal Services stands with the present Strategic Plan. Staff also gave additional feedback for the updated

**Ramon Herrera – Interim Director**

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DELIVERING EXCEPTIONAL SERVICES



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version. The intake for October was 1,833, compared to 1,222 in 2020. The majority of the intakes were cats. The outcome was 1,579 which included the euthanasia of several cats that were not thriving due to a poisoning situation. Adoptions continue to remain *low*, and the goal is to get back to the pre-pandemic numbers. Animal Services' focus for next year will be to do extensive adoption marketing and promotions. There are a combination of 1,325 fosters and foster-to-adopt pets. Ramon added that he has been talking to several organizations like Best Friends about having a huge spay/ neuter-a-thon in order to complete the adoption process for the foster-to-adopt pets as well as get public pets and community cats spayed and neutered. The euthanasia top reasons are infectious and non-infectious animals that did not respond to treatment as well as kittens that failed to thrive. The LRR was 78.04% with 76.14% for cats and 80.39% dogs. The calendar LRR was 85.10% and the Shelter Count LRR was 78.04% compared to 89.71% in 2020.

Ramon explained that he continues to keep an eye on the Community RTOs. (Return to Owner) These are the pets that are returned to owners with the community's help. Animal Services continues to encourage the public to fill out found reports. The total intakes were 1,833 and of those, 513 were with no appointment.

Ramon will update the ASAC on the new part-time Veterinarian as details surface. Ramon presented the PAW Cast.

Ramon mentioned that Animal Services' goal is to keep the same momentum in spite of the constant challenges that will continue through the rest of the year and hopefully the intake will decrease.

Celeste Varela asked whether the deaths of the poisoned cats were accidental or intentional. Ramon explained that an investigation is ongoing and an arrest will soon be announced.

Celeste also asked whether current microchipped pets are checked for current owner information at microchipping events. Ramon explained that during down time, staff will scan pets to make sure that the microchips are working and to update information. Barbara Candelaria inquired about the earliest and latest time a volunteer can walk dogs. Ramon explained that a volunteer can start at 7:00 am. If there is a special group accommodations can be made to start at 6:00 am. The times for walking dogs during the morning and evening can range from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm. Barbara suggested having an off-site adoption event at a pet friendly location next to the Mountain Star Brewery on Lomaland Dr. Ramon mentioned that he will ask staff to check out the location and he added that an off-site adoption event will take place on November 12-14 at the Fountains of Farah.

### C. El Paso County Animal Welfare Department October update. No report

### 4. Call to the public

None

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## 5. Main Agenda

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

#### A1. Discussion on the update of the Safe Outdoor Dogs Act

Dr. Gina Gagen informed the committee of the Safe Outdoor Dog Act that was passed in the Senate on October 18, 2021 and will go in effect on January 18, 2022. The law requires for dogs to have protection from inclement weather if housed outside. The shelter must have enough room to move and lie down completely, portable water and avoid standing water and animal waste. The dogs collars should fit properly and not restrained by a chain and/or weights. The law will also give law enforcement the ability to cease a dog if tethered inhumanely and is in distress.

Celeste Varela suggested sending out a Press Release on the passage of the law. Ramon explained that an amendment to Title 7 is being done and Animal Services will reach out to the community to help in properly understanding the new law.

## 6. Future Agenda Item

ASAC By-laws approval

## 7. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:59 PM

**Dr. Patricia Riley motioned to adjourn; Kay Rosenkranz 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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