



Department of Animal Services

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District 5
Dr. Michiel R. Noe

District 6
Claudia Ordaz Perez

District 7
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Cissy Lizarraga

City Manager
Tommy Gonzalez

Animal Shelter Advisory Committee

Minutes

November 14, 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 4:15 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 and Ana Schumacher

Public present: List of attendees available upon request.

2. **Approval of Minutes**

Discussion and action on the approval of the October 10, 2018 minutes.

Guy Johnsen motioned to accept the October 10, 2018 minutes; Eydie Prado seconded; all members voted in favor, Regina Wagner abstained, and motion passed unanimously.

3. **Chairman Remarks**

Ken Margherio stressed on the importance of attending the meetings. He also asked the members present to encourage those members that have not attended the meetings. He indicated there was one meeting where quorum was not established and a couple of close calls on other meetings. He reminded everyone to please confirm attendance so that the committee won't be waiting, especially if the member(s) knows they won't be attending.

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

"Delivering Outstanding Services"



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He also mentioned that in next month's meeting, ASAC would be having elections for Chair and Vice- Chairman.

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-

Regina Wagner mentioned in her report the importance of educating and guiding the community in TNR. She also stressed on educating the community on spay/neuter of not only the TNR cats, but also abandoned cats. The education is for pet owners as well for those who abandon their cats. Sun City Cats altered 2,617 cats during the months of January 2018- October 2018. Animal Services altered 2,526 cats in the same period. There were 5,143 cats altered through combined efforts.

TNR does not happen overnight, and it's important that the community knows. It takes years and years to see the impact, and it is starting to show at Animal Services where the stray cat intake has decreased compared to last year, Regina added with excitement. In addition, there are more community members openly participating in TNR and are teaching the correct methods to family and friends to continue in the efforts. She gave an example of an older woman trapping in-spite of her disability. Regina also mentioned the need for volunteers in the 79936 zip code. The TNR efforts have expanded from Anthony to Clint, even though trapping and transporting have been a challenge. She also explained the importance of empowering the cat feeders. Sun City cats have seen many abandoned cats when the public traps and abandons a cat, it becomes more difficult to trap for TNR purposes. Sun City Cats also reported a cat gravesite to Animal Services.

In the areas where TNR has been completed, kittens have not been seen. TNR does work. There's an average of 30-50 cats getting TNR surgery weekly by Sun City Cats' participating veterinarians. Socorro had over 600 cats done last year to 1004 surgeries from January-October this year. This was due to the increase in available surgical slots at the Saturday TNR events. She closed her report by adding that winter is when more trapping should be accomplished since the cats are not reproducing as much during this time; we want to TNR as many before kitten season arrives.

B. Subcommittee-

Ken Margherio inquired about where the committee is with the by-laws. Julie Rudledge explained that the committee would be presenting the by-laws in December's meeting. Barbara Candelaria asked about the Animal Cruelty Unit's presentation. Eydie Prado explained that the presentation was rescheduled for December, however the person presenting is unavailable in December and will present in January.

C. Rescue Agency/ Limited Shelter Report

None

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Paula Powell started her report with the October intake comparatives in which she mentioned that the stray intake for October had decreased compared to last year. The outcome for October 2018 were 2374 animals compared to 2348 in October 2017. She mentioned that there was an increase in the die in care and this was due to severely sick kittens. Animal Services will be working on protocols this week. There are currently 373 animal out on foster. Paula also mentioned that this September and October were harder than last year. The live release rate was 80.83% compared to last years of 79.83%. The LLR for calendar year was 85.34% compared to last year's 75.42%. The Fiscal year's LLR is 70.25% compared to 83.11% for last fiscal year. The Animals count LLR was 80.83% with a 13.58% euthanasia rate. Animal Services will be working on protocols this week, due to the die in care increase. The LLR for the Shelter Animal Count for 2017 was 75.56% with a euthanasia rate of 18.27%. The reason for the euthanasia increase was due to distemper and Parvovirus. After the visit with Austin Pets Alive, there will be minor changes and new protocols for the die in care. Sally Singleton is the new Population Manager who will be reporting directly to Paula Powell. As part of her duties, Sally will be monitoring animals at intake, moving animals and assuring that all animals at the shelter have a placement plan. So far, there has been positive results during the last two weeks. Kyla Young attended a transport apprenticeship to help with the animal placement. Dr. Johnsen inquired whether the population manager would better define specific medical problems. Paula explained the Sally is in the medical office working alongside Dr. Canupp to go over medical protocols and implement the Austin Pet's alive protocols. Ken Margherio asked about the decrease in fosters and whether the die in care attributed to the decrease. Paula explained that it was distemper and she did not want to send more animals out. Considering the decrease in fosters, there were more fostered animals that were saved, than died in care. Paula expanded on the Officer Academy that will take place on December 3, 2018 for Leadership at the Horizon Golf course. County, Tigua and Ft. Bliss have agreed to help remedy the issues of intake from these areas. Paula also announced that the Paw Cast is an award winning presentation. Ramon Herrera presented the October Paw Cast.

5. **Call to the public**

None

6. **Main Agenda**

A. Promote Education and Engagement in Animal Health and Welfare

A.1 Humane Society Tour

Julie Rudlege explained that the focus of the Humane Society is that it's a limited admission shelter. They take owner surrender animals, pull from Animal Services and have born in shelter animals. They occasionally get a few abandoned animals. The Humane Society primarily adopts out animals. They are supporting Animal Services in the efforts in becoming no kill by helping in saving those animals that are having trouble being adopted. They are also expanding programs and are applying for grants to help with the failure to thrive animals which is one of their challenges. They are working on a neonate nursery



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to be ready in March 2019 which will include staff and volunteers around the clock. The Austin Pet's Alive protocols will be implemented. The Humane Society also helped Animal Services with parvovirus puppies to give them a better chance of survival. They also care for felines that have ringworm and because ringworm is contagious, these felines are harder to foster. Julie explained that the Humane Society will take in as many animals at what capacity allows. In the efforts in decreasing the number of owner surrenders, fees are being increased and all owner surrenders are by appointment. Julie Rutledge proceeded to take the members through the facility. She took the members through the lobby, customer service areas, large and small kennels, cat room, the new soon to be neonate nursery, storage and supply room, laundry room foster office, crematory and the surgical suite.

7. **Future Agenda Items**

Chairman and Vice-chair Nominations
Discussion and action on ASAC Bi-Laws
Discussion and action on scanning animal remains

8. **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 5:11 PM

Charlie Moreno motioned to adjourn; Regina Wagner 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 the line for the A.S.A.C. Chairman's approval.