



## Department of Animal Services

**Mayor**  
Dee Margo

### City Council

*District 1*  
Peter Svarzbein

*District 2*  
Alexandra Anello

*District 3*  
Cassandra Hernandez

*District 4*  
Dr. Sam Morgan

*District 5*  
Isabel Salcido

*District 6*  
Claudia Ordaz Perez

*District 7*  
Henry Rivera

*District 8*  
Cissy Lizarraga

**City Manager**  
Tommy Gonzalez

### Animal Shelter Advisory Committee

#### Minutes February 13, 2019

**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 6:04p.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, 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 January 09, 2019 minutes.

Guy Johnsen motioned to accept the January 9, 2019 minutes; Edith Prado seconded; all members voted in favor, and motion passed unanimously.

**3. Chairman Remarks**

Ken Margherio explained that he is working diligently to fill the vacant ASAC member position(s). He was disappointed to see only one agenda item for the meeting. He asked members to concentrate on animal welfare issues and on how the committee can help find solutions. He also requested that each subcommittee give a short monthly update, starting next month.



## Department of Animal Services

### 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- None

#### B. Subcommittee- Title 7 Task Force

Since there were no submissions for proposed changes to Title 7, the subcommittee will move forward. Two public members have shown interest in joining the subcommittee; however, Paula Powell suggested the subcommittee meet first. She went through an extensive session at the conference and has carefully gone through Title 7 to clean it up. Liability protection of the veterinarians and shelter, owned pets and establishing ownership are examples of what needs rewording. She is working on this task with Ryan Clinton and Ana Schumacher.

Ken gave some background on Ryan Clinton. He is the founder of Fix Austin, an organization since 2005. He is one of the top 25 attorneys in Texas and he wrote the No Kill plan for Austin.

Paula suggested committee members look over Title 7 carefully and determine what needs clarification. She also mentioned that House Bill 112 has passed and federal installations require to follow No Kill policies. Charlie Moreno inquired whether EPPD would be giving input on how they view Title 7 according to animal related calls and issues. Paula explained that at this time they are not meeting with EPPD; however, they will meet with them to discuss animal cruelty definitions and standards of care issues.

#### C. Rescue Agency/ Limited Shelter Report None

#### D. Department of Animal Services

Paula Powell expressed how the big thing at Animal Services is how they are communicating. Staff is attaching a strategic goal to emails as a way to reiterate the strategic plan. January was a difficult month. The intake was down, but because Animal Services is trying to save more animals, there were more in their care and it's getting harder to achieve the 5%.

The intake area is going through a huge transformation with a snaking system pilot program that started in February. The system entails keeping the dogs two days in the barn and the third day in the garage, so by the time the dogs are moved to the general population they are vaccinated. The population manager is handling the movement. Along with the snaking system, a new cleaning protocol was developed. The Humane Society of the U. S. and Austin Pet's Alive gave intake advise. Animal Services is still working out the details with staff for the new overnight drop-off vaccination protocols that are currently in place.

There was more shelter euthanasia this January, compared to last year. Owner-requested euthanasia was about the same. Last year's died-in-care were 24 and this year there were 23. Adoptions were down from 694 in January 2018 to 646 in January 2019. Transfers were also down in January, from 447 in 2018 to 375



## Department of Animal Services

in 2019. There were 90 animals transferred out on February 13, 2019. There are currently 305 fosters. Animal Services fosters surpassed every city in Texas last year. Animal Services also started the Finder to Foster program. Under this program, the finder has the option to foster during the holding period which prevents the pet from staying at the shelter. The program yield 68 new fosters during the first month. Austin Pet's Alive will replicate the program.

The LRR for January was 85.73% compared to last year at 91.48%. The Calendar year LRR was 85.73% for January 2019 compared to 84.38% in January 2018. The Fiscal year LRR was 85.50%, compared to 83.11% in January 2018. The Animal Shelter Count LRR for January 2018 was 87.16%. The cat LRR was 89.90%, the dog LRR was at 85.79% and the euthanasia rate was at 11.00%. The Animal Shelter count LRR for January 2019 was 85.79%. The cat LRR was 91.48% and the euthanasia rate was 12.61%. Due to distemper, the LRR dropped for dogs to 83.41%. Animal Services was hit hard with distemper this year and parvovirus last year.

Michele Anderson and Andrea Read presented Paw Cast.

Dr. Johnsen shared some information on the new probiotic by Purina that helps reduce anxiety and on the distemper/parvovirus testing at intake. He also mentioned how the community needs more repetitive communication to learn more about animal welfare and how to treat animals.

Charlie Moreno expressed how important it's been having the enrichment program at the shelter, especially since, five years ago there wasn't a volunteer program. He thanked everyone at Animal Services for an amazing job.

Ken suggested for Paula to share the PETA Conference videos with ASAC, Animal Services staff and using them as a training tool for county officers.

Paula mentioned that she will have staff who attended the conference share their experiences at one of the meetings.

5. **Call to the public**  
None

6. **Main Agenda**

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

- A1. Discussion and action on ASAC by-laws.**

Discussion on the by-laws started with Dr. Johnsen asking for clarification on the statutory and non-statutory written reports to city council. Ana Schumacher explained that she would combine the two duties, however, if they are separate, she will place them one after the other. There was also discussion over the approval of the reports before submitting to City Council. It was clarified, that the reports need approval from the committee before submission. The approval or disapproval can be done by placing the reports on the agenda. After discussion on the public comment, *Article VI- Order of Business*, section 2, the public will have to sign-in before the start



## Department of Animal Services

of the meeting and have a five-minute limit. The sign-in sheet will be for public comment only.

The chair will continue to open public comment for agenda items and speakers will have a three-minute time limit. The committee can move to grant additional time to speakers. The secretary will keep time. Public comment shall be a non-action item, but recommendations may be noted as future agenda items. Other changes to the by-laws include moving *Article VIII City Staff Records* to before *Article VI Officers*. Under *Article IX Subcommittees*, section 1, the word *statutory* will be deleted. In section 3, same Article, citizens who serve on subcommittees will now vote and sit as vice-chair. In *Article X, Voting*, section 2, *Reconsideration of items*, subsection B, at the end of the first sentence, the word *below* will be added. In case there's an amendment to the ordinance, the by-laws will have to be amended. Ana Schumacher will update the by-laws with changes and submit to secretary for next month's meeting.

7. **Future Agenda Items**

By-laws

Humane Education

8. **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 7:54 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 blue ink, appearing to read "Ana Schumacher", is written over a horizontal line.