



Department of Animal Services

Animal Shelter Advisory Committee

Minutes April 10, 2019

Mayor
Dee Margo

City Council

District 1
Peter Svarzbein

District 2
Alexsandra Annello

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

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 6:11 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	
Vacant		
Julie Rutledge	X	
G. Eric Stoltz		X
Regina Wagner	X	

Animal Services staff present: Paula Powell, Maribel Karisch, Michele Anderson, 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 March 21, 2019 minutes.

Guy Johnsen motioned to accept the March 21, 2019 minutes; Julie Rutledge seconded; all members voted in favor, and motion passed unanimously.

3. **Chairman Remarks**

Ken Margherio announced the upcoming Best Friends Conference that will be held in Dallas from July 25-27. He has spoken to City Representatives about the ASAC vacant positions. Representative Claudia Ordaz explained that the no kill mission should be a community effort. She further explained that the ASAC should have county representation, but had not been integrated. The ASAC will be getting representation from county in May.



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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 reported that since April is Prevention of Cruelty to Animals month, Sun City Cats is posting information to encourage the community to report animal cruelty cases. This information will help prevent abuse and neglect. There were some cases reported already on animal cruelty, referencing kittens in trashcans. She suggested giving a script to 311 on how to care for kittens when the shelter and rescue groups are closed. She also suggested having 311 share "The Kitten Lady" video on YouTube to assist callers with kitten questions. The kittens will not survive if they are not properly cared for or fed. Sun City Cats is also concentrating on increasing awareness for correct colony care. She gave a special thank you to Dr. Johnsen and Dr. Cain for the TNR event that was held last Saturday. Over one-hundred cats had surgery, 36 were pregnant.

C. Rescue Agency/ Limited Shelter Report

Julie Rutledge announced the 30th Annual Classic K-9 Walk for Pets Fund Raiser. The event is on April 28 at Alburn Park from 8:00 am-1:00 pm. The one-mile walk will start at 9:00 am. The event will have several vendors, pet contests and rescue group adoptions. She passed out posters and flyers and mentioned that mailers were sent out last week.

D. Department of Animal Service

Ramon Herrera presented the CATZ cast for the new cat catio project at the Zoo. Paula Powell announced the \$500,000.00 Petco Foundation grant awarded to Animal Services for the cat catio. The project is a first of its kind in the country. Paula Powell reminded the committee of the strategic goals, which are what is going to help Animal Services reach 90% LRR. The intake by type were 2,111 and 1,775 outcomes for March. The 25 that died-in-care were mostly neonates and died within 24 hours of arrival. They were either too sick or injured. There are currently 473 fosters and that number is expected to increase. The euthanasia history for March was 80 infectious, 9 no-infectious, 23 trauma, 18 behavior and 10 owner requested. The LRR for March was 92.53% and it is the highest percentage in Animal Services history. The LRR for cats was 93.75% and 91.91% for dogs. The Calendar year LRR was 89.50% and the Fiscal year LRR was 85.04%. The shelter Animal Count LRR for March 2018 was 91.12% and 92.53% for March 2019. The PAW Cast was titled The PURR Cast for April, which was presented by Hamlet, the shelter cat.

Ken Margherio was amazed by the 92.53% LRR and commended Animal Services for a great job.



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5. **Call to the public**
Marcia Margherio- Disease Prevention Part II
Ron Conveau –Rescue groups/ Behavioral Dogs
6. **Main Agenda**
 - A. **Research and Advise on Effective Ordinances and Policies to Improve Overall Health, Welfare and Safety for Animals**

Regina Wagner motioned to modify the agenda item How to be the Boss of your organization save rate; Barbara Candelaria seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

A1. How to be the Boss of your Organization Save Rate

Paula Powell shared the presentation that she presented at America's Pet's Alive in Austin. The presentation consisted of what Animal Services is doing and what other cities are following. She started her presentation with the question *what does no kill mean to her, to staff, to the community and most important to the pets of the community*. She expressed the importance of defining and understanding what no kill means. Animal Services will continue to train staff to understand the definition, because no kill means that pets will be euthanized. Paula also stressed to always, always ask why before euthanizing. Animal Services has to understand what is being euthanized, so data must be studied every single day. Paula also explained that she gets a daily report every day that includes the number of pets, surgeries performed at both the shelter and Socorro, Low cost vaccination clinics, euthanasias, adoptions, return to owner, died-in-care, transfers, intakes, dogs in training and percentage of population in treatment in which she reviews every single day in order to make that change. The whole team gets involved in reviewing the data and in the development of strict policies. The policies go through a pilot program and more data is collected. The Director decides whether to implement a policy or not.

There are two reasons for euthanizing: medical and aggression. The initiator, approved staff member and the Director must approve the euthanasia in advance. Before making the decisions to euthanize, daily rounds are conducted with staff to discuss each animal and meetings for behavior dogs are scheduled on Tuesdays with the enrichment coordinator, medical and kennel staff. The veterinarians are the only authorized individuals to perform medical euthanasia and must be reported to the director daily. After the daily rounds, each animal goes through a guiding principles checklist to determine the best outcome for each animal. Paula closed by adding that saving lives means people involvement and that a policy is never perfect and will need review and update, but a policy is better than no policy.

Paula explained that the Sun Rise shelter and Socorro clinic are secured locations to help alleviate the incoming summer population. There are also



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eight transfer flights scheduled through October. One flight is scheduled for next week.

Dr. Johnsen loved the concept of Animal Services allowing other agencies reviewing and making improvements to the policy.

Paula added that her priority are the animals under her care, and if an animal has a rescue group hold and is suffering, Animal Services will not transfer.

A2. Discussion and action on what to do as a Humane Education Subcommittee Item tabled

Dr. Guy Johnsen motioned to table the Human Education subcommittee item; Julie Rutledge seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

B. Promote Education and Engagement in Animal Health and Welfare

B1. Discussion and action on Community Foundation Campaign

Dr. Guy Johnsen read a report on the Community Foundation Campaign. Report is attached.

Paula mentioned that she would ask City Council to release the funds.

Dr. Johnsen explained that the Foundation is currently working to apply for grants to help with the Disease Prevention Project. The Foundation is also considering applying for other grants, including one for the Reproduction Population Control project in the near future.

B2. Discussion and action on Disclosures by Shelters

Julie Rutledge passed out copies of animal related legislature bills that she considered important to discuss, since the committee had been going over legislative topics in previous meetings. The bills included bills 921, 306 that died in session, and 1801 which is the state bill for outdoor dining with canines. She expressed the importance for the ASAC to be acquainted with animal related legislature.

7. Future Agenda Items

Best Practices for Return to Owner
Humane Education Committee

8. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:34 PM

Eydie Prado motioned to adjourn; Barbara Candelaria seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.



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Prepared by: Maribel Karisch

Approved by A.S.A.C. Chairman



EL PASO ANIMAL COLLABORATIVE PROJECT

A committee was formed by the EPVMA in January 2018 called the Disease & Reproductive Control Committee, that was initially tasked to develop a campaign designed to impact this community in disease prevention and population control.

In the spring of 2018, our Executive Director Eric Boehm was engaged in conversation with members of the El Paso Community Foundation (EPCF) who were directed by their Board to investigate ways the Foundation can get involved in Animal Welfare.

Long story short, our Disease & Reproductive Committee campaign got absorbed into the Community Foundation's El Paso Animal Collaborative (EPAC) which is represented by several animal agencies, rescues etc.

Our initial research project, was the creation of the research instrument, collection of data on 1000 dogs & 1000 cats, and the creation of a heat map from that data. This was to answer the research questions of where distemper and parvo were, where unvaccinated dogs were, and where were cats coming from.

As our project has progressed, we ran into some issues that caused some major changes, such as not being able to draw blood from dogs as they came to Animal Services. So, we have asked Helix Solutions, our contracted statisticians, to change their focus. Helix Solutions has done the following for us, per our requests.

A) They have imported past intake information from Animal Services covering 2017 & 2018, over 50,000 records.

B) They have scrubbed that data to find out if we could answer our planned research questions. The answer was that while the data was valuable, i.e. it answered our question about cats, the data did not answer our questions about disease and lack of vaccination. This was also done to provide justification for moving forward with our research project. This is when it was determined that we would not be able to draw blood from the dogs entering Animal Services.

C) Given this, we asked Helix Solutions to use the data they had already processed, and cross-reference it with demographic data to be able to give us target areas for future public projects, that we can use for future grant requests that the EPCF has identified. They have completed the initial version of the new heat maps, and we will be working with them to fine tune them. Once that is done, we will present to the Disease Control Committee and EPAC for further discussions.

So, our next steps are as follows:

- 1) The El Paso Animal Collaborative will need to accept and fine tune the new proposal.
- 2) The four major funders of the El Paso Animal Collaborative (EPVMA, HSEP, EPAS, and EPCSD) will need to meet and agree to give their approval to EPCF to release funds from the collaborative to fund a new project.
- 3) Hopefully, our information will lead to future grant requests for the community.