



# El Paso Animal Services

**MAYOR**  
Oscar Leoser

## Animal Shelter Advisory Committee Minutes May 11, 2022

### CITY COUNCIL

District 1  
Peter Svarzbein

District 2  
Alexsandra Annello

District 3  
Cassandra Hernandez

District 4  
Joe Molinar

District 5  
Isabel Salcido

District 6  
Claudia L. Rodriguez

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Henry Rivera

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Cissy Lizarraga

### 1. Call to Order- Establish Quorum

A meeting of the Animal Shelter Advisory Committee was held at the Animal Services Shelter by Chair Alexsandra Annello at 6:05.

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	
Alexsandra Annello	X	

Animal Services staff present: Terry Kebschull, Adan Parra, Esty Molina, Valentin Garcia, Renee Rojas and Maribel Karisch

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Tommy Gonzalez

### 2. Approval of Minutes

Discussion and action on approval of minutes for April 13, 2022

*Loretta Hyde motioned to accept the April 13, 2022 minutes; Kay Rosenkranz 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

Alexsandra Annello asked the committee whether they would like something particular in the chair report; response was no.

#### B. El Paso Animal Services April 2022 update and statistics

**Terry Kebschull – Director**

El Paso Animal Services | 5001 Fred Wilson | El Paso, TX 79906

O: (915) 212-7297 | Email: EPAS@elpasotexas.gov



DELIVERING EXCEPTIONAL SERVICES



# El Paso Animal Services

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Terry Kebschull presented the Animal Services statistics for April. He explained that in April there was an influx of kittens and puppies that were brought with or without mothers. Animal Services will be reiterating the "kit napping" message to the public in efforts to increase the survival rate for kittens. The intake for April was 1,611 compared to 1,238 last year. The intake for cats was 616 compared to 457 in 2021. The outcome comparative was 1,316 compared to 1,088 in 2021. Animal Services continues to strive for positive outcomes for all animals, but it's preferably that they do not enter the shelter. Animal Services continues to provide microchip clinics in the efforts to get strays home. There are currently 1,959 fosters out, Terry gave kudos to all the foster parents for their support. The euthanasia history was 268. Animals Services continue to have a high euthanasia number for behavior (82) and infectious (93). The died-in-care for the shelter and foster combined were 102. The LRR for April was 77.45%; 69.24% for dogs and 85.54% for cats. The Calendar year LRR was 79.64%. Animal Shelter Count LRR was 77.45% for 2022 compared to 80.79% in 2021. In the Community and Pet Support Program, there were 67 community RTO's and no found reports were created. Terry added that the reason for no found report might be due to placing animals on social media, however he encourages finders to create a lost report, so that the animals could be tracked on the finder map. Total intake for the CAPS program were 658.

Barbara Candelaria asked whether the shelter could close for one or two days in the efforts of catching up with cleaning/ intakes, has the HVAC system been taken care of and are you hiring more staff. Terry explained the HVAC project is in the works, but will begin until this fall due to the shortage of supplies. He also mentioned that if the shelter closed, then on the third day, there would be an inpouring of animals. The process for hiring nine employees has begun and tomorrow on May 12, the candidates will take a tour of the shelter as part of the onboard process.

Loretta Hyde expressed that even closing for a day; it would make it very difficult for finders, especially if they aren't able to hold on to the animals. She suggested using an infrared light device to help control disease.

Regina Wagner asked whether alternatives are still given to individuals before leaving animals at the shelter (i.e. Retention Program). Terry explained that the finders are given alternatives who eventually become fosters and Animal Services provides all the resources needed. A vaccination/microchip clinic is scheduled for May 22. The committee requested including the 2019 statistics for further comparison.

Alexsandra Annello asked whether a procedure is in place for when military/border-patrol officers have orders to move out of state and cannot take their dogs for what-

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ever reason.

Terry explained that he would look into getting something on the website.

Loretta added that she has this type of service on her website and it's called "courtesy listings". The animals have to be vaccinated, microchipped and spayed/neutered, if not they the animal(s) are adopted through the shelter.

Gina Gagen provided a list of rescues to Terry and the ASAC and also provided the Pearland Parvo Recovery Center phone number (832) 736-0852 for support.

### C. El Paso County Animal Welfare Department April update.

Lauralei Combs congratulated Terry on the nine candidates. She also mentioned that for April 2021-April 2022 there was a decrease of animals taken to the shelter. At their clinic, there were 13 pets spay/neutered, 19 rabies and 33 wellness vaccinations administered, and 13 pets were microchipped. She also mentioned that the county received a mobile medical facility building as a donation from the VA. The building will be placed in a three-acre lot in Socorro. The County is also moving forward with covering the cost of the E.C.F.V.G. certification and a three year contract will be signed after passing the exam. She also added that the big topic at the Humane Society Conference was the veterinarian shortage.

Barbara Candelaria inquired whether the position is open to foreign veterinarians that are currently working in El Paso. Lauralei explained that the county is in the developing stages of the criteria, however a degree from a foreign country is required.

### 4. Call to the public

None

### 5. Main Agenda

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

Barbara Candelaria asked whether Item A2 could be discussed first.

*Alexsandra Annello motioned to move item A2 to the forefront, seconded by Kay Rosenkranz, all members voted in favor, none opposed and motion passed unanimously*

#### A2. Discussion and action on section 823 of the Texas Health and Safety Code; Status of shelters

Regina Wagner briefly went the ASAC duties under Chapter 823 and added that the committee did not offer guidance to the shelters. She also mentioned

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that Animal Services and the Humane Society are complaint, Animal Rescue League is on the process and Pet Guardian Angel and Laws and Paws are not compliant. The compliant shelters were supposed be publicized on the Animal Services website per previous ASAC discussions. Celeste Varela suggested not publicizing until all shelters have been informed.

*Regina Wagner motioned for annually, ASAC will sent a letter to all known shelters on the defined region to inform them of the process of the 823.005 requirements, Loretta Hyde seconded, all voted in favor, none opposed and motion, passed unanimously.*

Loretta suggested including Dr. Waldrup's contact information She also briefly went over the Chapter 823.005 requirements of the shelter inspections and the difference between a shelter and rescue group under section 823.001. Alexsandra will draft the letter for next month's meeting.

### A1. Continued discussion and action on the high euthanasia for behavior issues in dogs.

Barbara Candelaria explained that Ramon was going to present the ASAC with behavior euthanasia data and looking at the April's statistics there were more behavior than medical euthanasia. She added that in previous years the shelter would sent out a public announcement about closing the shelter for a day to clean. It happened once or twice a month and there has to be a way to do it. Also, schedule weekends to walk dogs, not just at an event that occurs every three or four months because this is the biggest reason for euthanasia. She also mentioned that the HVAC system repairs have been going on for the last 8-9 years and now it's until fall. This is another reason for infectious disease.

Alexsandra mentioned that she received a CIP list that has active projects and the dog kennels and the HVAC are on the list. The kennels are partially deferred, but the estimate completion date for the HVAC is summer of 2022. Terry added that he didn't say that the HVAC project was postponed, it is moving forward.

Alexsandra will double check with Capital Improvements for accuracy and send an email to secretary to forward to the ASAC.

Loretta inquired about the report she requested last month. Terry explained that it's the Pit Bulls, Shepherds and Pit Bull mixes.

Barbara Candelaria suggested making a public announcement for the communities help at the shelters.

Alexsandra suggested having an event with Animals Services and asking

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the media to be there. Barbara mentioned that 92.3 The Fox held a spot for Animal Services once a month to talk about events.

Sandy DiFrancesco inquired about whether the dogs on the list that have been at the shelter over six months been euthanized. Terry explained that the data was taken from last month, so these animals could have different outcomes. Loretta suggested including data for the those dogs that were euthanized for behavior, reasons for not being adopted and if they do have behavior issues how to get them more help.

Alexsandra inquired on whether the high euthanasia rate is impacting the no kill goal or is the number based on intakes. Terry explained that no kill is based on the number of intake and euthanasia compared to outcome. He expressed that Animal Services is a no kill shelter and the goal is 90% or more. The sick animals receive multiple treatments and if they are not responding to the treatments, euthanasia is the best outcome; Animal Services does not euthanize for space. There are also animals that are vicious that are a health risk and the community's health comes first.

Gina Gagen asked whether a dog is automatic euthanized when the owner makes this request. Terry explained that it's on a case by case bases and it is not an automatic no.

*Kay Rosenkranz motioned to form a committee for event coordination; Alexsandra Anello seconded; all voted in favor, none opposed and motion, passed unanimously.*

The events subcommittee will present their suggestions at the June meeting. Celeste suggested having small group to coordinate, but have the entire ASAC participate at the events and rotate.

### A3. Discussion and action on the ASAC Annual Report

Alexsandra mentioned that at the May meeting, there was discussion over the preparation of the annual report. Barbara Candelaria explained that the chair prepares the report and either submits to City Council or presents it to the committee for input. Alexsandra added that she would present the report at the June meeting so that the ASAC can look at it.

## 6. Future Agenda Item

Item A1

Letter of notification for shelters

Events subcommittee presentation

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Services provided to Armed Services members

Legislature compiling

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**7. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 7:44 PM

**Celeste Varela motioned to adjourn; Barbara Candelaria 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 "Maribel", written over a horizontal line.

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