



## 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**  
**July 10, 2019**

#### **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 6:05p.m. by Chair Ken Margherio.

Board Member A.S.A.C.	Present	Absent
Dr. Guy Johnsen	X	
Julie Rutledge	X	
Claudia Ordaz Perez	X	
Regina Wagner	X	
Yvonne Rosales		X
Ken Margherio	X	
Mary Kay Rosenkranz	X	
Yansi Parent	X	
Barbara Candelaria	X	
Celeste Varela		X
Edith Prado		X

Animal Services staff present: Paula Powell, Maribel Karisch, Ramon Herrera, Adan Parra and Ana Schumacher

Public present: List of attendees available upon request.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

Discussion and action on the approval of the June 12, 2019 minutes.

**Barbara Candelaria** motioned to accept the June 12, 2019 minutes; **Regina Wagner** seconded; all members voted in favor, and motion passed unanimously.

#### **Chairman Remarks**

Ken Margherio confirmed with secretary that reminder inspections letter were sent to shelters.

He also introduced the new ASAC members: Mary Kay Rosenkranz and Yansi Parent. Mary Kay Rosenkranz is representing District 4 and has been involved with rescues since 2013. Her first pet was from Animal Rescue League, she worked with the Siberian husky community, other rescues across the state of Texas and has three dogs of her own. Yansi Parent is representing District 5 and is currently volunteering



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at the Humane Society of El Paso. She is from Houston, Texas and moved to El Paso two years ago. District 8 needs reappointment or new member and Regina Wagner was reappointed for a second term

### 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 on issues regarding the cats that are abandoned, dumped, removed or relocated around the community. She showed flyers to the committee of over 70 community cats that have gone missing and most likely dead. Four colonies have been completely wiped out. Trapping and relocating is ineffective, cruel and illegal under the local Title 7 and the Texas penal code section 41.092, and this type of mindset in removing free-roaming cats is being repeated after the failed strategy used by Animal Control decades ago, she explained. This only creates the "vacuum effect" and the core reason why the TNR program was implemented in the first place. In addition, by continuing to allow people to relocate and dump cats only compromises the entire community cat program since reaching *no kill* depends on TNR. Caregivers and volunteers are fully vested in the colonies by putting all their time, blood, sweat, tears and money to help these animals. Regina asked why would the caregivers and volunteers help the city with TNR while people that undermine the program and the laws go unpunished, and the city has done nothing. Ignoring the problem has placed the entire program and the no kill equation at risk. The city, at all levels and all departments, including all groups and citizens have to take the trapping, removing, dumping and relocating of these cats seriously. They need to support the community cat program.

Regina Wagner gave an overview of the TNR and community cat program for the new committee members. Information on the programs can be found on the Animal Services website.

#### **B. Subcommittee**

Paula Powell mentioned that the Title 7 subcommittee is ready to meet before the next ASAC meeting. The initial meeting will be with the committee members first which are: Paula Powell, Dr. Guy Johnsen, Eric Bohem, Ken Margherio, Eydie Prado and Loreta Hyde.

#### **C. Rescue Agency/ Limited Shelter Report**

None

#### **D. County Report**

None

#### **E. Department of Animal Services**

Paula Powell went over the Animal Services strategic goals and mentioned the high intake of 2806 animals for June. There were 2540 animal for the outcome comparatives with 370 shelter euthanasia, 175 died, 793 adoptions down from 997



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last year and 2775 fosters currently out. There were 21 owner requested euthanasia, 27 trauma, 50 behavior, 117 non-infectious and 155 infectious for the June euthanasia history.

The died-in-care breakdown is 24 cats and 5 dogs for contagious disease, 40 cats and 3 dogs for failure-to-thrive, 3 cats and 1 dog for trauma and 82 cats and 17 dogs for unknown reason. The 82 cats were mostly kittens. Claudia Ordaz-Perez inquired about whether animals that are hit by car and died are counted as a statistic. Paula Powell explained that if the pet is in our care and dies or is euthanized, it's still considered a statistic. Ken Margherio requested a better breakdown under trauma.

Paula added that she is very happy with the decreasing number of contagious disease. The LRR for June was at 80.25% even with the intake of 400 more animals that month, the LRR for June was 3% higher than any other June historically.

The calendar year LRR was 86.30%, very close to last years at 84.46%. The Fiscal year LRR was 84.46% with two months left, compared to last year's LRR at 83.11%.

The Shelter Animal Count LRR was at 80.25% with dogs at 83.75% and cats at 76.97%. Animal Services continues to maintain and improve conditions for the intake of about 600 dogs and 400 cats. The Socorro satellite was opened to relieve the OK corral, but is not currently open to the public. The dogs are on a two to three times a day walk schedule. Volunteers are also walking dogs at the shelter while kennels are cleaned. Twelve new animal care attendant positions have been approved by city council to help with the large population at the shelter. The new intake protocol has helped in the reduction of disease in the facility.

The 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend intake was about 200 to 300 pet, which was eight less pets than last year. The dogs in the barn are kept cool with portable evaporative cooler and after hours fosters are taken home by Animal Services employees.

### 5. Call to the public

Betty Hernandez-Surrender of kittens

Anita Baldwin-Feral cats about to be displaced

### 6. Main Agenda

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

##### A1. **Disease Control**

Ken Margherio thanked the committee members for their support in making Disease control their priority. He went over a few statistics where a combined total of 1,400 cats and dogs have lost their lives due to infectious disease and expressed more can be done to save more lives. Even though 1,200 animals have been vaccinated through the four free clinics, he asked what can ASAC do to help. Next month, the Community Foundation will talk about the program and how they can make a difference in animal welfare and disease control. Data from the free clinics has been collected and placed in a larger scale program. He asked Paula to see about city funding during the budget hearings. He also asked what can ASAC, Animal Services and rescue groups do to make an impact on disease that will help the live release rate.

Barbara Candelaria mentioned that spay and neuter can also prevent the spread of





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disease.

Dr. Johnsen added that the veterinarians are also part of the problem as they are a for-profit group however the EPVMA is acquiring more understanding of the community issues. The EPVMA is shifting towards a project orient process in understanding the importance of vaccinating especially within the first year.

Dr. Johnsen added that the veterinarians are not the only problem, there is also city council members that have to be re-educated in animal welfare issues when new members are elected and the other is enforcement. In spite of it all, the LRR has increased drastically from 34% to 84% within three years. Whether it's disease control or spay/neuter, the EPVMA wants to be part of the solution. Paul Powell mentioned that Animal Services has one veterinarian and some that are contract. The veterinarian community is stepping up with vaccinating, spay/neuter, adoption and foster rechecks. Animal Services is trying to help in establishing a vet/client relationship, not trying to take business away.

Ken Margherio encouraged members to attend the Community Foundation Meetings. The Foundation has a good collaboration which includes, veterinarians, rescue groups, and a zoo representative. The conversations are open to animal welfare issues and improvements.

Paula also explained that the veterinarians that want to participate in the voucher program, go through a bid process. Loretta Hyde added that she has three vets that are interested in participating in the program.

### **A2. Quick Update on EPWU**

Paula Powell mentioned that EPWU would not be pursuing the purchase of the land. They will be extending the time so the city can take care of the cats and time to formulate a plan to accommodate them.

Representative Claudia Ordaz-Perez thanked Regina Wagner for the calls made to the city representatives and the EPWU. After contacting the EPWU CEO, she found out that he was well informed on the cat issues and wants to work with Regina Wagner, Animal Services and ASAC to find a good resolution. The entire project has been postponed until a reasonable resolution is found for these cats. The EPWU staff is also familiar with the architectural options that Regina Wagner presented to ASAC.

## **B. Promote Education and Engagement in Animal Health and Welfare**

### **B1. Community Foundation Collaborative**

Katie Herron will be at next month's meeting. Paula Powell gave the numbers from last clinic that was held on June 22. There were 352 pets chipped, 492 parvovirus/distemper vaccinations and 213 rabies vaccinations administered thanks to Dr. Johnsen.

### **B2. Lost and Found App**

Adan Parra presented the new Lost and Found app. The project has been in the works for over a year. The purpose of the app is to give the citizens a more centralized location to search for their pets and/or report a lost pet which will increase the number of pets return to owners without Animal Services intervention. The app



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is on the Animal Services website and will have a mobile version. The idea originated from the city of Austin's lost and found map. The app has a section to create a lost pet report if the pet has a microchip or rabies tag. Animals that are picked up by an Animal Protection Officer or citizen will be on the map. A finder will be directed to the website to see whether a pet has been lost around that area. The app will help keep more pets in their homes rather than the shelter. The app was built with the contributions of Lety Hernandez, Michele Anderson, Adan Parra and IT. The app will be released sometime next week.

7. **Future Agenda Items**  
Follow up on displacement of cats  
Community Foundation  
Disease Control

8. **Adjournment**  
Meeting adjourned at 7:56 PM

**Barbara Candelaria 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 dark ink, appearing to read "Regina Wagner", is written over a horizontal line.