



ANIMAL CARE SERVICES CITIZENS ADVISORY

MINUTES

September 25, 2007

ATTENDANCE

Members

Patricia Wilcox
Ashle Crocker
Eugene Lukehart
Marge Carpenter
Molly Kenneth

Staff

Ernest Molieri

Public

Jennifer Doll
Bev Gonsalves
Dia Goode

*Note: MSP is used in the minutes as an abbreviation to indicate Moved, Seconded and Passed.
MSF is used in the minutes as an abbreviation to indicate Moved, Seconded and Failed.*

CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL

Meeting called to order at the New City Hall conference room – 915 “I” Street, Room CH 1217, Sacramento, California, at 6:00 p.m. by chairperson, Pat Wilcox.

Maria Sanchez was absent for the Committee. Donna Wicky and Hector Cazares were absent for City Staff.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES OF 7 /31/2007

Motion to approve the minutes of 07/31/07 was made by Marge Carpenter, seconded by Eugene Lukehart. MSP by unanimous vote.

STAFF REPORTS

2. Review, Comment and Approve Committee Letter Regarding Shelter Staffing

The Committee discussed the letter regarding staffing levels, and approved the letter as drafted. Pat Wilcox will distribute the letter to Hector and to City Council for approval. Motion to approve the letter by Eugene Lukehart. Marge Carpenter seconded the motion. MSP by unanimous vote.

3. Review and Discuss Advisory Committee Meeting Protocol and Format and Content of Minutes

Committee discussed protocol regarding content and format of minutes. The

Committee expressed that the minutes from the last few meetings have been thorough. Marge Carpenter made a motion to receive and file. Molly Kenneth seconded the motion. MSP by unanimous vote.

4. Update on Facility and Shelter Events
Division Manager's Report (Ernie Moleri):

- 1) Facilities/Equipment Update:
 - a. Cattery groundbreaking event was held last Friday, September 14th.
 - b. The winning bid was for \$740,000 and the contractor is Advantage Building Contractors, a local firm.
 - c. Two colorful tables and four chairs have been ordered for the "Get Acquainted" area.
 - d. Shelter started planning for a surgical building.
- 2) The Committee has one vacancy to fill the space of Moe Ortiz. The application time is now closed.
- 3) Applications are now being reviewed for ACO and ACT interviews will be held within the next two weeks.
- 4) The bumper stickers re: Spay/neutering have been ordered. Ernie passed around a sample for the Committee to see.
- 5) Shelter is nearly ready to print new citations under the Administrative Process.
- 6) Councilmember Sandy Sheedy awarded the SSPCA a \$20,000 contribution towards spay/neutering efforts for City residents at their VIP luncheon on 9/12
- 7) Since the new cat licensing ordinance, the Shelter has licensed nearly 800 cats
- 8) Claudia Schlachter has been permanently appointed as the Volunteer and Special Events Coordinator, effective May 12, 2007.

Dia Goode raised a question regarding cat licensing (#7, above). Specifically, she asked during what period of time were the 800 cats licensed? Ernie Moleri said it was during a 5 month period between April 20 through August 31. Dia next asked if the 800 included the number adopted from the shelter, which are all licensed. Ernie said that he thought a large number were in fact cats that were licensed at shelter and adopted. Dia asked how many of the licenses were renewals. The answer is uncertain, however, the licensing ordinance passed in the last year, so the numbers are probably more reflective of new licenses versus renewals.

Dia Goode suggested that in the future the City look at the numbers separately for new licenses, renewals, and for licenses for cats adopted from the shelter. Ernie agreed that was a good idea.

Volunteer Hours Report (Ernie Moleri):

103 Volunteers booked 2,658.25 volunteer hours for July, of which 1,830 hours were in caring for 63 animals in foster care. During the month of August, 113 volunteers booked 2,839.50 hours, of which 1,722 hours were in caring for 59 animals in foster care.

VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHTS:

- The Community spay/neuter clinic was offered in August at which 16 animals were altered and vaccinated. An additional 19 people brought their pets in for vaccinations and microchipping. Rosemary Lamb organized the transport of numerous cats to the Auburn Spay Neuter clinic. The shelter is so grateful to its clinic volunteers and UCD Vet students who help run these clinics each month.
- The Foster program continues to care for many animals outside the shelter, saving lives that might not otherwise have been possible. During July and August, the shelter moved the SNOmobile to the front of the shelter and offered space for many of the foster animals. The greater majority of them were adopted.
- The July and August New Volunteer Orientations continued to bring in many new volunteers. At July's Orientation, the shelter had 21 new people attend and for August, they had 19. Training is ongoing. The Shelter expects to start training "senior" volunteers to help with dog training classes.
- In July, volunteers helped staff two "educational" events at local venues. The shelter was able to share spay/neuter information, talk about shelter adoptions and provide shelter information. In August, the shelter participated in the National Homeless Animals Day Event, held on the west steps of the Capitol.
- During the months of July and August, the volunteer coordinator conducted 9 shelter tours, visited two schools and taught 16 volunteer classes (53 participant "bodies" and 48 hours of classroom time).

5. Training Update for Shelter Staff

- Santa Rosa Animal Services Officer Academy – two weeks
- Bird fighting training provided to all ACOs presented by HSUS
- Two successful bird fighting prosecutions – two year probation, 45 days of service, restitution, and cannot own any livestock
- Upcoming tranquilizer gun training and weapons training

PUBLIC COMMENTS – MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA

6. Dia Goode noted that in past years the Committee had inquired about the spay/neuter account, FOCAS account, and monthly breakout of how many animals came in and were adopted per quarter. Dia has not seen any of these reports this year, and she requests all of these statistics for the fiscal year 2006/2007 for the monetary accounts, and the reports for animal adoptions and euthanizations in the prior year.

Jennifer Doll requested a report of volunteer hours. Ernie provided copies to the Committee and to the members of the public. Jennifer would like these reports to be posted for the public. In the alternative, Jennifer would like the Shelter staff to bring copies to the meetings.

COMMITTEE COMMENTS, QUESTIONS, AND IDEAS

7. In response to Dia Goode's request (see #6,above), the Committee

acknowledged that it had previously voted for the fiscal reports to be produced quarterly, and the Committee reiterated this request. The Committee further requested that the City provide the adoption reports on a monthly basis. The Committee formally requests that the two fiscal reports be provided at the next meeting in October, and the adoption report at the November/December meeting. At the October meeting, the Committee and the City will propose and discuss a schedule by which the City will provide these reports to the Committee.

Marge Carpenter requested information regarding how the cattery will work: capacity, number of cages, what happens to cats that are not in the cattery, what type of cages will be purchased. Marge would like monthly reports at the meetings.

Marge said she heard about a cat temperament testing program. Ernie Molieri said that the program is being considered for the adoptability of cats, similar to behavior testing for dogs, to help with screening and adoptions. The SPCA is providing some information to the Shelter. San Francisco is adopting this type of program, as are other jurisdictions.

Pat Wilcox asked where more information is available. Ernie said the San Francisco SPCA has been conducting assessments for some time, and members of the public could contact the SPCA. Doctor Emily Weiss is one expert in the field.

Ernie reported that the Shelter is just looking into this idea right now. Nothing is being actively pursued or considered. As the Shelter continues to explore the idea, they will bring information forward to the Committee.

Molly Kenneth expressed concern about behavior testing in dogs, specifically that it can be used as a justification for euthanizing animals. She is concerned that behavior testing for cats will yield similar results. She said that the dog behavior evaluations are still not perfected, and the Shelter should focus on fine-tuning the dog evaluations before moving forward with any type of cat testing. Marge Carpenter and Jennifer Doll expressed similar concerns.

Marge Carpenter asked what type of fundraising will be done for the cattery. Ernie has not received any specific details, but discussions are ongoing. One possibility is to donate bricks, similar to the SPCA.

Ashle Crocker will not be in attendance at the October 30, 2007 meeting. Molly Kenneth volunteered to prepare the minutes for that meeting.

SET FUTURE AGENDA

Agenda items: 1) Approval of Minutes 2) Spay/Neuter Fiscal Report 3) Fiscal Report on FOCAS Account 4) Discussion of Consistent Reporting Schedule 5) Update on Facilities and Shelter Events; 6) Training Update for Shelter Staff; 7) Public Comments Matters not on the Agenda; 8) Committee Comments, Questions and Ideas; 9) Adjournment.

ADJOURNMENT

Molly Kenneth presented a motion to adjourn. MSP by unanimous vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.