

# San Francisco Commission of Animal Control & Welfare

## Meeting Minutes May 12, 2022

### 1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Present: Michael Angelo Torres, Annemarie Fortier, Irina Ozernoy, Brian Van Horn, DVM, Shari O'Neill, DVM/ACC

Absent: Commissioners - Iris Chan, Jane Tobin, Nina Irani  
Christopher Campbell, SF RPD, Officer Joe Majeski SFPD

**2. General Public Comment** - Two calls voiced disapproval of ACC's cat policy and the need to revisit it.

**3. Approval of Draft Minutes from the April 14, Meeting** - Approved.

### 4. Chairperson's and Commissioners' Reports

No reports

### 5. New Business

#### **Lila Travis, Executive Director of Yggdrasil Urban Wildlife Rescue (YUWR)**

The Yggdrasil Urban Wildlife Rescue (YUWR) and Education Center is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization serving the San Francisco Bay Area in California since 2001. YUWR is dedicated to the rehabilitation of orphaned and injured wildlife living in urban city centers and the education of the public about how to live harmoniously with our cities' wildlife.

After a brief history of YUWR's origins, Lila Travis shared the programs and partnerships. YUWR is 100% volunteer-run with an annual operating budget of \$50K, YUWR teams, trained by CA Fish and Wildlife, heal sick, injured, and orphaned wildlife.

Animals YUWR cares for include - squirrels, opossums, hummingbirds, fawns, misc rodents, reptiles, and amphibians

#### *Programs*

1. Transport - YUWR will take wildlife in distress to partner organizations and/or to YUWR for rehabilitation and foster care until ready to be reintroduced to the wild. During rehab, special care and processes are used to ensure the animal is able to successfully reintroduced to the wild.
2. Response Team - When an orphaned wildlife mammal is found, YUWR nurse these animals back to a healthy state where they are able to be released back into the wild.
3. Emergency Call Line - offers 24/7 advice on where to go to get help when you find an animal in need
4. Public Education - Through education and events for children and adults alike, YUWR tries to raise awareness of these wild residents of our cities in the hope that a better co-habitation will lead to fewer injuries/orphans and more enjoyment of the urban wildlife with which we share our cities.

#### *Partnerships*

CA Fish and Wildlife, UC Berkeley for post-rewilding data analysis, animal shelters serving San Francisco, Berkeley, Oakland, Alameda

Questions from Chair Torres - Has the public's perception of wildlife changed or are wildlife considered pests in need of management. Lila Travis responded with both. The pandemic had more people experiencing outside therefore an uptick in respect for nature and awareness/more encounters with wildlife.

How can we help - answer transportation which has dropped as people have gone back to work and gas prices have increased. Administrative - social media, grant writing, website management. Backyards are needed for rehab.

Question from the public - would it be possible to train those with barriers to employment (or homeless) to care for wildlife? Answer - a creative idea worth exploring!

## **6. Old Business**

**Reporting from Animal Care & Control** [Commissioner Torres and Dr. Shari O'Neill]

[The January-March 2022 Quarterly report is available under supporting docs on the Animal Commission website.](#)

*Shelter Animal Stats* -Dr. O'Neill provided the number of animals at the shelter and in foster care.

*Update distemper* - This continues to be a concern.

*ACO hiring progress* - New hires discussed as well as barriers to hiring.

Commissioner Fortier had questions about Vicious and Dangerous dog's hearings and outcomes.

Public Comment had two more callers questioning ACC and the cat policy change from a couple of years back and the status of the policy. The impact of the policy according to the callers is negative for cats and wildlife. The policy needs to be revisited.

## **7. Commission Governance** - Commissioner Torres

- Commissioners voted to conduct meetings remotely through June when it will be voted on again.

## **8. Items to be put on the Agenda for Future Commission Meetings**

The next meeting is on Thursday, June 9.

## **9. Adjournment** - approximately 6:50 p.m.