

# San Francisco Commission of Animal Control & Welfare

## Meeting Minutes June 9, 2022

### 1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Present: Michael Angelo Torres, Annemarie Fortier, Irina Ozernoy, Jane Tobin, Nina Irani, Iris Chan, Brian Van Horn, DVM, Shari O'Neill, DVM/ACC

Absent: Christopher Campbell, SF RPD, Officer Joe Majeski SFPD

**2. General Public Comment** - Three callers voiced disapproval of ACC's cat policy and the need to revisit it as a future agenda item.

**3. Approval of Draft Minutes from the May Meeting** - Postponed until commissioners have time to review.

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

Commissioner Fortier mentioned that in a recent SFGate article, there is a person helping people with reuniting animal guardians with lost/stolen animals. Commissioner Fortier will report back if she is able to make contact with the person.

Commissioner Van Horn reported District Attorneys' office has many priorities but with the new DA, Commissioner Van Horn will check in again and report back.

### 5. New Business

No new business

### 6. Old Business

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

- Covid has impacted the shelter and it is slowing things down.
- Friends of SFACC donor event on June 18.
- Hiring - ACO position candidate withdrew their application. The front desk has two new people starting soon. Animal Care positions, there are two in process.
- SPCA and ACC - large dog adoption promotion. Full with
- Sizzle real is in the works for a possible new show.
- *Shelter Animal Stats* -Dr. O'Neill provided the number of animals at the shelter and in foster care. 7 birds, 88 cats, 55 dogs, and 33 others (guinea pigs, rabbits)61 in foster (58 =cats and kittens). Many impounds and foster is working to place.

Commissioner Tobin asked about the increased large dog population and origin. Dr. O'Neill reported there are many owner surrenders but not because of the pandemic. The dog population has changed (mostly large dogs), and Behavior and Training are working on typical adolescent behavior. Why is still unknown but most are Pitbull Mixes.

Commissioner Tobin asked about the Capacity for Care related to cats/kittens. Dr. O'Neill noted the vet staff is keeping up with Spay/Neuter. Fosters 75-85 is the threshold for fostering.

Commissioner Fortier asked about the 30 impounded cats and where are they from? Her other question was regarding foster cats - specifically who fosters cats/kittens? Dr. O'Neill noted that the impounded cats/kittens were a mix of Queens and kittens from no specific area. But this number of cats is a typical "summer spike". Cats/Kittens are fostered through Toni's Kitty Rescue, a volunteer -

run program. ACC manages the foster cat/kitten medical support. TKR manages the kitten foster program, supplies, and husbandry.

Commissioner Irani brought up scanning for microchips and if there are differences between cats and dogs in microchip scanning. Dr. O'Neill notes that all impounded are scanned. If a caller asks about bringing in a healthy outdoor cat, the ACC policy is to leave the healthy cat where it was found as that has been the policy since the change in 2019 when the SPCA discontinued the Queens' kitten program.

Commissioner Irani asked how to tell the difference between owned or feral. Dr. O'Neill responded it varies and that behavior is not necessarily an indicator that the cat is feral.

Dr. O'Neill noted ACC always takes underage kittens. If it's a healthy cat. No. Sick injured yes. If unneutered - the cats will be spayed and neutered through the SPCA Community Cats program. If returning an outdoor cat to its location is too unsafe to return to, ACC will evaluate the area.

Commissioner Van Horn - noted at an annual veterinary conference there was a discussion of an increase in the tick situation. Trying to identify why? Is it climate change, coyotes, or lack of opossums?

Dr. O'Neill will check on the opossum population but suggested contacting YGGDRASIL for input and she will report back.

**Public Comment** had two more callers refuting Dr. O'Neill and ACC's cat policy change. Healthy cats are turned away. The policy needs to be revisited.

Another caller noted a situation about dumped and abandoned cats that are healthy and ACC's policy is not addressing that population as these animals are not necessarily outdoor cats by choice.

Rocket from Bay Woof asked about large dogs and are these animals a result of pandemic returns and what is ACC doing to manage it (i.e.) training any large animals, etc.

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

- Commissioners will vote at the July meeting to conduct meetings remotely.
- The new website is still being updated and for the time being, both are up until the new website is final.
- Sharing social media sites is not available right now but Chair Torres noted he is working on it and will update us.
- In-person meetings will likely not happen for several months.

**Additional public comment** - another caller reported a story about a woman who rescued two cats and had a negative experience due to ACC's cat policy.

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

- Glue traps
- Possible item includes revisiting ACC's Cat policy.

The next meeting is on Thursday, July 14, 2022.

## **9. Adjournment** - approximately 6:30 p.m.