

## San Francisco Animal Commission Meeting Minutes July 14, 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, Christopher Campbell, SF RPD,

Absent: Officer Joe Majeski SFPD

**2. General Public Comment** - A caller informed the commission about the previous policy with ACC/SPCA TNR and cat policy. Another caller offered solutions to ACC's current intake policy for cats/kittens and dogs, as well as respect for the volunteers and their skills. One caller suggested enabling the meeting chat function to help callers get through. The caller also shared a story about a kitten caught in a pipe and ACC's failure to take proper care to check if the kitten was chipped, spayed, etc; and that leaving kittens unchecked and unspayed will lead to an increase in the unhoused cat population.

**3. Approval of Draft Minutes from the May and June Meeting** - Approved

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

Commissioner Ozernoy announced a free STEM Saturday event in Potrero Hill. Many animal organizations will be present on Saturday, July 16, 11-4, 953 De Haro benefiting Potrero Neighborhood Center.

**5. New Business** Glue Traps [Discussion Item/Presentation] [Commissioner Ozernoy] The Commission discussed recent legislation and other actions concerning glue traps. Joining in the discussion was Alison Hermance, Director of Communications and Marketing at WildCare.

WildCare has a cycle of programs with the goal of helping animals and people where the boundaries intersect.

WildCare hospital in San Rafael 3500-4000 animals a year, over 200+ species. 90%+ admitted because of negative interactions with people.

*Glue or sticky traps* are an example of that negative interactions. Sold as an easy, non-toxic solution to use for a rodent/insect problem, they are not.

100 animals since 2017 - mostly birds, some mammals, and reptiles. Glue traps don't kill the animal, and the animal instead dies of exposure, dehydration, or injuries trying to get out of the trap. It takes days for the animal to die.

The majority of animals brought in were not the intended target. If found, bring immediately to WildCare Hospital for treatment. Care needs to be handled by professionals. Removal is very tedious and difficult. Requires anesthesia and medication. Rehabilitation could be months.

### What can we do?

#### 1. Make glue traps inaccessible

Encourage retailers not to carry glue traps. Internal and external pressure from employees and animal welfare groups is helping.

#### 2. WildCare's goal is to get legislative bans at the city, county, and state levels.

Ireland, Australia, Wales, India, New Zealand, England, and Washington, D.C. are all at various stages of legislative bans on glue traps. Some countries, such as New Zealand, used an incremental approach toward banning. New Zealand, over the course of years, has demonstrated that functional workarounds are as effective.

**3. The best way is prevention.** Animals are attracted to human environments because of their access to food, water, and shelter.

- Secure food and garbage - contain or eliminate food sources
- Remove shelter - clean debris, ground cover, ivy, etc. Seal vent covers and entry points of home with metal, concrete, or 1/2" metal mesh. Encourage natural predators. Use catch and release traps in your house.
- Humane - snap traps, electrical current targets but only used indoors and secure not to be accessible to unintended targets.

Share info with friends and family. Politely inform managers of stores to stop selling glue traps and sticky tape. Support bans.

### **Questions/comments from Commissioners**

Commissioner Tobin asked about what the City of San Francisco (ACC and Rec and Park) is using for pest management.

Dr. O'Neill mentioned that ACC has a contract with Pestec Pest Control Solutions. Dr. O'Neill was unsure of the methods Pestec is using.

Vice Chairperson Ozernoy spoke with a person in Washington D.C. who helped with the legislation. They also took a very measured approach. She also noted in addition to the cruelty of the traps, they also are a health hazard, especially if used around food service/restaurants.

Chairperson Torres asked about how to promote the ban with restaurants, etc. The most effective way is the top-down approach not to make the glue traps accessible. It is easier to convince government entities to ban them than to get the public to stop using them voluntarily. A ban raises awareness.

Commissioner Fortier asked about the rat infertility product and costs. Is it more cost-effective? Is there a labor-savings? Ms. Hermance noted it is available for the public to purchase.

How does commercial vs. public cost savings compare? Commissioner Fortier offered to check on the cost models. Vice Chairperson Ozernoy offered to work on this with Commissioner Fortier.

### **Public comment on the presentation**

Two callers are grateful for the presentation and support of the ban, as well as thanking the commission for caring about issues that affects all animals, and not just pets.

## **6. Old Business**

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

16 birds, 106 cats/kittens, 62 dogs, and 45 others - A total of 229 in care  
Cats/Kittens had increased adoptions. Underage kittens and moms are in care with medical issues. Guinea Pigs and rabbits are in overflow rooms. There are two sets of puppies and moms which is unusual.

As of July 5, the SF/SPCA Shelter Medicine has a new system and can now accommodate more spay/neuters.

### **ACC staff updates**

Two new Animal Care Attendants

Captain Corso was hired as the new Deputy Director was hired. She is on maternity leave until January. In the meantime, the ACO's are understaffed and taking on new roles.

6 summer interns from the City's Opportunities for All program. Two are assigned to work in the vet room, and four are working with Animal Care Attendants.

The shelter is full due to owner surrenders and housing issues.

Commissioner Fortier asked about the rescue partners and if they are experiencing the same capacity issues. She also asked about the TV show.

Dr. O'Neill notes that the partners are also full, and that the TV show will focus on wildlife and coyote issues.

**Public comment on the ACC report** - none.

**B. Commission Governance** - Commissioner Torres

Commissioners approved the resolution to continue with remote meetings.

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

- ACC admission policy
- Colette Dunleavy- Companion animal abductions
- April-June quarterly report from ACC.

The next meeting is on August 11, 2022.

**9. Adjournment** - approximately 7:05 p.m.