

**San Francisco Animal Commission
Meeting Minutes
January 12, 2023**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

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

Absent: Christopher Campbell, SF RPD, Officer Greg Sutherland, SFPD

2. General Public Comment

Several callers commented on the importance of e-shock collars as a training tool, the firing of Toni Sestak of Toni's Kitty Rescue, and another caller requesting more action on the live animal markets.

3. Draft Minutes from October 13, 2022, and November 10, 2022 - Commission Approved

4. Chairperson's and Commissioners' Reports - Commissioner Irani reported on recent changes to the Child Nutrition Act of 2022.

5. New Business

Helping San Francisco's Lost Cats [Discussion Item] [Commissioner Irani] Damia Foti, of happycatlady.com, presented her work finding lost cats and reuniting them with their families. As a highlight, the following items help in reuniting lost cats with guardians:

- Signage
- Pawboost/Nextdoor
- Door-to-door conversations with neighbors!
- Food placement tips
- Cameras
- Persistence!

Commissioners' Questions/Comments

Commissioners responded with questions on ACC's policy with cat admissions policy and reinstatement of the CIP (Call Interested Party) policy. Financial support is needed for her work. What are the best tools for reunification - and Dami responded that Pawboost. It would be useful to have ACC use Pawboost for lost animals. While it is important to use the tools, personal contact is most effective.

Commissioner Van Horn asked if there is any connection/data with Community Cats. Commissioner Irani asked about what else might be helpful in reunification and what the commission can do - Dami Forti said a single online platform to streamline would be helpful. More people to help and fill in.

Commissioner Irani also asked which GPS tracker she uses. Dami uses Tractive but acknowledges that there is a need for improvement in tracker technology to make it smaller and more efficient.

Public Comment

Callers responded with gratitude for Dami's work but highlighted the importance of ACC in accepting all cats and the need to change the CIP policy at ACC. Another caller wanted to know how many community cats she may be coming across and her connection to Community Cats.

6. Old Business

A. Reporting from Animal Care & Control [Discussion Item] [Commissioner Torres and Dr. O'Neill] Animal Care & Control reported regarding outcomes for animals and ongoing operations. Dr. O'Neill provided a summary of the current population at ACC and what animals are in foster care and due in.

ACC is tracking calls at the front desk about diverting the intake of cats: (Nov 1 - Dec 31)

- 5 calls - 3 cats officers saw in the neighborhood but healthy. 2 - were older litters of kittens and referred to Community Cats.
- Total calls 3457, ACO's responded to 1816 calls. The front desk staff continues to keep a log.

Commissioners' Questions/Comments

Dr. Van Horn asked about hiring in the vet room. Dr. O'Neill responded that there are budget cuts planned. Dr. Van Horn asked about Manny's event and why Director Donohue is not coming to the commission to deal with the political questions. Dr. O'Neill responded that staff has to be able to do multiple roles, and she accepts taking on the task of coming to Commission meetings. Chair Torres asked about budget cuts and, without Toni's Kitty Rescue, more information about the foster care coordinator position. Chair Torres also asked about other grant-funded positions at ACC. Dr. O'Neill responded that Behavior and Training are grant funded. Commissioner Tobin asked about how prepared ACC was able to manage foster care during a springtime influx of kittens. Dr. O'Neill responded that they have divided the responsibility knowing that the position may not be filled.

Public Comment

More comments about ACC firing TKR, which is going to negatively impact the cats and the cat population. Another caller asked about ACC's vetting of its rescue partners.

B. Commission Governance [Discussion/Action Item] [Commissioners Torres]

- Chair Torres shared his work plan as well as Commission oversight and website information.
- Commissioner Tobin reported she would share the public education series spreadsheet.
- Commissioner Ozernoy gave some information on glue-trap bans and legislation in other parts of California.

Commissioners voted to approve the Teleconference Meeting Resolution to meet online.

7. Items to be put on the agenda for future Commission meetings

- The next meeting will be held remotely on Thursday, February 9, 2023.
- SFPD Greg Sutherland, ongoing reporting from ACC, and an update on In-Person meetings

8. Adjournment - Approx. 7:40 pm