

Elva [REDACTED], former "Orange Smock Volunteer" (feral cat, kitten, fearful cat, socializer.)

I am unable to attend the May 11, 2023 Commission Meeting and respectfully submit my comments and concerns.

The Volunteer trapping community and other Cat Volunteers have successfully worked in conjunction with San Francisco ACC and SPCA for over 20 years humanely cutting down outdoor cat populations found in neighborhoods and parks.

Does it make sense for ACC to turn away members of the public who find stray unneutered or unspayed cats, so they can produce more and more homeless animals?

Is it humane for ACC to feed cats to coyotes by knowingly leaving cats and kittens outdoors, when there are skilled, experienced foster people who can properly look after them and make sure all are spayed and neutered, possibly adopted, or returned outside at a safer time?

Virginia Donhue's main goal was to get a new building for ACC. What keeps getting kicked to the curb is the purpose of a municipal animal shelter, you know: maybe humanely rescue and house as many animals, including cats as possible and to CONTROL them by spay/neutering as many as possible. We have a brand new, UNDER-USED new building/ We have a Director and head veterinarian, who keep espousing reasons that are not backed up by the history of what had been occurring in San Francisco. Instead they continue to use outdated, unsubstantiated UC Davis studies pertaining to other cities, as their means to provide excuse after excuse as to why San Francisco's cats should be left outside. As Benjamin Disraeli said "There are three kinds of lies: lies, damned lies, and statistics."

San Francisco's brand new tax payer funded building is frequently empty of cats and cat facilities are used for pigeons and Guinea pigs. So many animals get transferred out of the building, leaving space for more animals who are in need - who are turned away. We have a medical staff that is rude and insulting to volunteers, then they claim they don't have enough help. We have a director and other lead staff who retaliate against volunteers that speak out, by keeping them from volunteering. Volunteers are afraid to speak up, the employees that care are afraid of retaliation.

These serious issues need to CHANGE. San Francisco's cats and dogs deserve better. Underutilized building and staff unwilling or not allowed to adequately service San Francisco's animals, is outrageously disgraceful and WRONG.

SF ACC needs new people in key leadership positions.

There should be a watchdog committee set up for ACC. Wildlife, Cat, Dog, Veterinary representatives should be part of that committee.

Thank you for your consideration.