

**San Francisco Animal Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
February 8, 2024**

**Call to Order and Roll Call**

Present: Chair Michael Angelo Torres, Vice Chair Irina Ozernoy Commissioners: Lisa Fagundes, Jane Tobin, Mikaila Garfinkel, Michael Reed, Brian Van Horn, Advisor: Deputy Director Amy Corso, SF ACC

Absent: Advisors\* Christopher Campbell, SF RPD; Dr. George Han, SFDPH; Officer Greg Sutherland, SFPD \*Advisors attend as needed.

**General Public Comment**

A member of the public shared comments on ACC not responsive to the outdoor cat population

**Approval of draft Minutes from January 2024** - Approved

**Chairperson's and Commissioners' Reports**

Chair Torres shared a thank you letter from an animal aid partner on behalf of Sulala Rescue in Gaza thanking the Animal Commissions for their support of aid for animals in Gaza.

**New Business**

**A. Glue Trap Prohibition Act (HR7018) [Discussion/Action Item] [Commissioner Ozernoy]**

The Commission discussed proposed congressional legislation being introduced by Representative Ted Lieu (CA District 36) to ban the use, sale, and distribution of glue traps and vote to support the proposed legislation and provide a letter to Representative Nancy Pelosi requesting co-sponsorship.

**Commissioner Questions/Comments:**

- Q: Commissioner Tobin asked about the Recreation and Park advisor input and their department's use as a last resort in their Integrated Pest Management plan when public safety is at risk.  
A: Commissioner Ozernoy- explained how Rep Lieu became involved in the issue. They are in the process of garnering support for the legislation. West Hollywood won't go into effect until the Spring. Still exploring and garnering support.
- Commissioner Garfinkel also expressed how inhumane glue traps are for the targeted rodent population.
- Q: Commissioner Ozernoy - also asked Deputy Director Corso about SF ACC's experiences with glue traps
- A: Deputy Director Corso noted how devastated a person is when they see what actually happens when glue traps are used.
- Commissioner Reed asked if it did pass, would it be separated for outdoor vs. indoor use.
- Commissioner Fagundes commented that even if it fails at the federal level, it may prompt passing at the local level.

The Commission voted unanimously to endorse the proposed legislation and to send a letter to Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi requesting co-sponsorship.

**Public Comment:** A member of the public shared support of the proposed legislation.

## **Old Business**

**A. Reporting from Animal Care & Control [Discussion Item] [Commissioner Torres and Deputy Director Amy Corso]** Animal Care & Control shared a report regarding on-going operations, provided shelter updates, and presented the July–September 2023 and October–December 2023 Quarterly Reports. The commission also discussed updates to the Animal Commission’s Recommendations, live animal market reporting discussions, and current laws and responses regarding animal neglect calls.

SF ACC Deputy Director Corso shared animal intake numbers and outcome numbers for the July–September 2023 and October–December 2023 reporting periods. Included in the reports is data on adoption and fostering, partner transfers, ACO calls, and veterinary procedure numbers including spay/neuter and euthanasia.

Deputy Director Corso shared that the shelter is full. Transfer partners are full. Custody animals are full. Adopters and fosters are needed.

There will be a vaccine clinic on March 9<sup>th</sup> - still working out the staffing details.

Deputy Director Corso also announced that SF ACC received a grant from Cal for All Animals which provides funding for medical procedures which could keep pets with families and might help reduce the number of owner surrenders. The amount of the grant is \$150K. Grant will be used for non-emergency, surgical needs. Criteria - must be an SF resident and must qualify under financial guidelines.

Chair Torres asked about the veterinary open position at SF ACC, and Commissioners discussed the situations in which SF ACC is legally required to house animals, and in which situations they are not legally required, but do so as a community service.

Commissioner Van Horn March discussed SFVMA and the voting regarding staffing vaccine clinics. Those who voted to support are being contacted to cover the clinics. More information is forthcoming. Commissioner Van Horn mentioned a possible workaround the requirement for the veterinarian to be onsite, and that Vet Tech is in the process of getting two new hires.

Commissioner Garfinkel asked about the general reasons why the shelters are full. Deputy Director Corso discussed inadequate pet-friendly housing and medical costs; and it’s a nationwide problem - everyone is full, especially large dogs.

### **Discussion and responses regarding**

Chair Torres and Deputy Director Corso discussed SF ACC’s response letter to the Recommendations that were voted on last year by the Commission. Clarification was provided by SF ACC regarding microchip reading and tracking, Good Samaritan and Finder to Adopt processes, found cats protocols, SF ACC’s relationship with SFPCA regarding community cats, animal transfers to adoption partner organizations, and what could cause an adoption partner separation.

A letter from Animal Outlook, asking SF ACC to consider the use of video when responding to incidents of animal cruelty that ACOs did not personally witness, was briefly discussed. This will be discussed at a future meeting as SF ACC hadn’t yet reviewed the letter.

Chair Torres shared a written public comment regarding recent animal neglect complaints made to SF ACC regarding a dog that was kept outside. Deputy Director Corso discussed what is required for dogs – including sheltering requirements, clean bedding, food, clean water, tethering limits, and room to roam – who are kept outside.

The Commission also discussed the number of animal neglect complaints that are received, the number of open animal neglect cases, and the legal process when cases are brought to the District Attorney.

**Public Comment:**

A member of the public commented on the terminology that SF ACC doesn't allow partner organizations to use when animals are transferred from the shelter.

A member of the public commented on the CIP (Call Interested Party) Holds that are no longer in effect at SF ACC.

A member of the public commented on the necessity of strengthening the City's laws regarding animals kept outside, and if the number of animals at SF ACC impacts the ability of ACOs to animal neglect calls. Deputy Director Corso responded that ACOs responds to all calls.

A member of the public commented on SF ACC's response to animal neglect calls.

**Adjournment at 7:07 p.m.**