

**San Francisco Animal Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
May 9, 2024**

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Present: Chair Michael Angelo Torres; Vice Chair Irina Ozernoy; Commissioners: Lisa Fagundes; Mikaila Garfinkel; Jane Tobin; Dr. Brian Van Horn, DMV; Department Representatives: Natural Resources Manager Christopher Campbell, SF Recreation and Parks

Absent: Commissioner Michael Reed; Department Representatives: Deputy Director Amy Corso, SF Animal Care and Control; Dr. George Han, SF Department of Public Health; Officer Greg Sutherland, SF Police Department

**2. New Business**

**Coexistence and Coyotes** (Discussion Item) (Commissioner Tobin) Sarah Killingsworth, Keeping It Wild Program Coordinator at Project Coyote, presented on coyotes and compassionate coexistence with wildlife.

Sarah Killingsworth shared coyote traits, behaviors, habitats, breeding information, and food sources. To coexist with coyotes, the following is recommended:

1. Not feed them
2. Remove any attractants (garbage, etc.)
3. Supervise pets (leash dogs, don't leave cats outside)
4. Keep coyotes wary of humans (do not habituate them to humans)
5. Appreciate coyotes

**Questions/Comments from Commissioners**

- Commissioner Tobin asked about how the coyote population is being monitored. Sarah Killingsworth responded that great information on this topic exists on Janet Kessler's website, Coyote Yips.
- Commissioner Van Horn asked about Project Coyotes' national and local mission and goals, including coexistence with all wildlife, not just coyotes.
- Commissioner Van Horn also asked about disease vectors and if anyone is determining if deceased coyotes carry any disease. Currently, it is not being tested or reported.
- Sarah Killingsworth noted that we kill 500K coyotes annually and still have 2.5 million nationwide. Eradicating coyote populations doesn't work because each litter produces more pups when the population is under stress. Also, the availability of food (intentional or unintentional) is a factor. She suggested reading "Accidental Ecosystems" to learn more about the behavior of coyotes in adaptation and resilience.
- Feral cats were discussed briefly. They are both predators of wildlife (birds, etc.) and prey of coyotes.

**3. General Public Comment**

- A member of the public commented on the feral cat population at Pier 70 and raccoons being trapped and killed, but not coyotes, and tracking and reporting accuracy.
- Another member of the public also commented on issues involving raccoons being killed at Pier 70.
- A written public comment received commented that SF ACC and SF SPCA cat policies contributed to the coyote issue as free-roaming cats become a food source for coyotes.

**4. Approval of draft Minutes from April 11, 2024 - Approved.**

**5. Chairperson's and Commissioners' Reports**

- Commissioner Tobin provided an update on news articles regarding the San Francisco Zoo. The update included the role of the Animal Commission as an advisor on the Joint Zoo/Rec and Park Committee, the function of that Committee, and a status on communication/follow-up on the allegations outlined in the San Francisco Chronicle regarding the SF Zoo. More information will be available in June.
- Vice Chair Ozernoy shared communications she and Commissioner Tobin had with U.S. Representative Ted Lieu's office regarding the proposed glue trap ban. The legislative team is currently working to gain bipartisan support for the legislation. Vice Chair Ozernoy will keep the Commission updated.

**6. Items to be discussed at the next meeting**

- Possible topics include updates on glue trap bans, SF Zoo, and safe pet housing.

**7. Adjournment 6:22 pm.**