

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

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Present: Chair Michael Angelo Torres; Vice Chair Irina Ozernoy; Commissioners: Lisa Fagundes; Mikaila Garfinkel; Michael Reed; Dr. Brian Van Horn, DMV; Department Representatives: Deputy Director Amy Corso, SF Animal Care and Control; Natural Resources Manager Christopher Campbell, SF Recreation and Parks

Absent: Commissioner Jane Tobin; Department Representatives: Dr. George Han, SF Department of Public Health; Officer Greg Sutherland, SF Police Department

2. General Public Comment

No public comments were provided.

3. Approval of the draft meeting minutes from July 2024 – Approved

4. Chairperson and Commissioners Reports

- Commissioner Ozernoy announced there would be a Zoom session on "Living with Coyotes in the Bay Area" on Wednesday, August 21st.

5. New Business

A. Conserving Snow Leopards “Guardians of High Mountains” Using a Holistic and Interdisciplinary Approach [Discussion Item] [Commissioner Torres]

Ashleigh Lutz-Nelson, Executive Director for Snow Leopard Conservancy, presented on the organization’s work with local communities and collaborations with other non-governmental organizations.

- Commissioners discussed Snow Leopard Conservancy’s recent relocation to San Francisco, and their work with animal welfare partner organizations and non-government organizations.
- The Snow Leopard Conservancy discussed their interest in collaborating with the SF Zoo.
- Commissioners asked about human/animal wildlife conflict, communications involving sharws spaces, and finding a balance with the community. The Snow Leopard Conservancy responded they have a values-based approach with the community and understand the need and help to build trust.
- A member of the public commented on the mass slaughter of animals, and situations regarding wolf slaughter when in conflict with livestock.

B. Horseback Riding in San Francisco [Discussion/Action Item] [Commissioners Garfinkel and Torres] The Commission discussed and voted on a letter recommending that animal welfare and safety standards be implemented before horseback riding can resume in the City.

- Noted in the discussion was a change to the letter that was provided prior to the meeting – that recommended standards must be met “and enforced.”
- Commissioners discussed legal vs. UC Davis recommended standards. Legal requirements are minimal, whereas recommended care is a higher standard of care.
- No public comment

- Commissioners voted unanimously to send the letter to the Mayor's Office, the Board of Supervisors, and the City Administrator's Office. The Department of Recreation and Parks would be cc'd on the letter.

6. Old Business

A. Reporting from Animal Care & Control [Discussion Item] [Commissioner Torres and Deputy Director Amy Corso] Animal Care & Control shared reports regarding ongoing department operations, shelter updates, and presented the January–March 2024 and April–July 2024 Quarterly Reports.

- SF ACC Deputy Director Corso reported on shelter intakes, adoptions, transfers, and euthanasia numbers. Also discussed were court cases regarding animal abuse, volunteer numbers and the shelter's hours of support.
- Commissioners discussed the Guardian Assistance Program, where fees are waived for some medical services, low-cost microchip and vaccine clinics, and pet pantry events.
- Commissioners asked if there was any impact on the shelter's services following the recent homeless encampment sweeps and were advised that there hasn't been so far.
- A member of the public commented on in-coming calls to SF ACC from the public, and how they felt the shelter's cat policy was deficient.

Items to be put on the Agenda for Future Commission Meetings

- Commissioner Torres covered possible follow-up items in the months ahead including the SF Zoo and horseback riding in Golden Gate Park.

7. Adjournment - 6:32 PM