

**SAN FRANCISCO COMMISSION OF
ANIMAL CONTROL & WELFARE
Meeting Minutes February 20, 2020**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Present: Nina Irani; Russell Tenofsky; Michael Angelo Torres; Annemarie Fortier; Bunny Rosenberg; John Skeel, SF ACC; Jane Tobin; Brian Van Horn, DVM

Absent: Officer Ryan Crockett; Lisa Wayne

2. General Public Comment:

- None

3. Approval of Draft Minutes from January 2020 Meeting

- Meeting minutes were approved as corrected.

4. Chairperson's and Commissioners' Reports

- None

5. New Business

- None

6. Old Business

A. Euthanasia Protocol at SF Animal Care and Control (Discussion/Action Item)

- Commissioner Tenofsky led discussion/overview of voiced concerns from the public, ordinances from other cities, and resulting draft language regarding proposal of having SF ACC alert partners, public and other interested parties via various means within 48 hours prior to euthanasia.
- Commissioner Irani asked for proposal feedback from SF ACC and P.J. McKosky, who brought this matter to the attention of the Commission. SF ACC Deputy Director John Skeel said that euthanasia numbers have gone down in recent years and would provide more specific numbers, and what measures they are taking, at a future meeting. McKosky spoke in support of the proposal, transparency, and provided an instance in which a long distance adopter saw a photo of a cat on Facebook and ultimately saved the cat's life, and shared other experiences from when he ran a no-kill shelter in New York.
- Commissioner Fortier and Commissioner Tenofsky discussed the process for moving the proposal forward, by submitting to the Board of Supervisors and the need for a Board member to sponsor it. Commissioner Fortier asked McKosky for his thoughts concerning some of the proposal language, and discussed the proposed notification process. Commissioner Rosenberg joined the discussion to provide feedback concerning Muttville Senior Dog Rescue and the SF ACC notification process.
- Commissioner Irani clarified some of the additional language that had been recently added to the proposal and also addressed some of the redundancy in the proposal language. Commissioners discussed notification wording and addressed some of the confusion regarding its intent.
- SF ACC Deputy Director Skeel, Commissioners Van Horn and Tobin discussed the notification process and asked how similar processes have worked for other organizations that have implemented similar processes. McKosky didn't have statistics, but was able to provide some examples of successes. Commissioners also discussed SF ACC ability to regular post to/maintain their social media sites.
- Commissioners further discussed the language in the proposal, including the definition of "interested party" and clarification concerning the term.
- Six members of the public commented in support of the proposal. Three members of the public also offered suggestions on wording, support to reinstate CIP notifications, and requests that SF ACC increase their social media presence. Urban Wildlife Rescue also sent a letter of support.

- Commissioners are in agreement that the discussion of proposal will continue to next meeting. Commissioner Irani stated she would like for SF ACC, as well as SF Police Officer Ryan Crockett to weigh in on it. Commissioner Van Horn stated he would feel more comfortable hearing from Virginia Donohue at SF ACC. SF ACC Deputy Director Skeel will review their software program capabilities in regards to social media. Commissioner Tenosky will revise the proposal text, and look further into the similar policies that were adopted by other cities.

B. Feral Cat Management Policy (Discussion)

- SF ACC Deputy Director Skeel led discussion/overview along with Maria Conlon, representative from the cat community/Give Me Shelter Cat Rescue. SF ACC Deputy Director Skeel provided kitten statistics for the 2019 time period, statistics for nursing queens during the February – December 2019 time period, new medical and behavioral trainings for foster homes, and new feral queen foster standard procedures. Conlon updated the Commission on a recent SF ACC meeting, and also asked that the Commission continues to address transparency and accountability issues. CIP notifications and the telephone protocol that's in place were also discussed.
- Commissioner Tobin and SF Deputy Director Skeel discussed the feral cat policy, the level of mistrust around it, and if anything had changed. SF Deputy Director Skeel said he wasn't aware of any policy changes at this time.
- Commissioners discussed the telephone protocol and what is being told by the SF SPCA when they receive calls from the public, and clarification was requested concerning what is happening when calls come in to the SF ACC.
- Three members of the public commented in support of the previous feral cat policy.
- Commissioners are in agreement that this discussion will continue to next meeting.

C. Commission Governance (Discussion)

- Commissioners Irani and Torres provided an update on the website, and the orientation manual. Commissioner Fortier led a discussion on commission attendance issues. Revisions to the orientation manual will be introduced at a future meeting.

7. General Public Comment

- Five members of the public commented on the issues of feral cats and kittens, reinstatement of CIP notifications, live animal markets, and the SF ACC policy on bats.

8. Items to be put on Calendar for Future Commission Meetings

- A. Euthanasia Protocol at SF Animal Care and Control
- B. Feral Cat Management Policy
- C. Commission Governance
- D. State Animal Grant Proposal
- E. Report from SF Police Officer Ryan Crockett

9. Adjournment (approx. 7:35PM)