

**SAN FRANCISCO COMMISSION OF
ANIMAL CONTROL & WELFARE
Meeting Minutes May 21, 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 Joe Majeski; Lisa Wayne

2. General Public Comment:

- Five members of the public commented on the issues of pigeon population control, the SF ACC's mission statement, and SF ACC's intake policy during the shelter-in-place/COVID-19 order.

3. Approval of Draft Minutes from February 2020 Meeting

- Meeting minutes were approved.

4. Chairperson's and Commissioners' Reports

- A. Commissioner Irani provided an update on the Commission's animal cruelty and factory farming resolution, and also provided an overview on pending federal legislation concerning factory farming.

5. New Business

A. San Francisco Live Animal Markets (Discussion Item)

- Commissioners Irani and Van Horn provided a Commission history and overview of animal markets in San Francisco; and additional information concerning regulation and oversight in some of the local markets; and discussed if state laws are understood/defined and ultimately enforced.
- Commissioner Fortier asked about enforcement and responsible agencies. SF ACC Deputy Director Skeel responded that the SF ACC does not have as much authority as they would like to have in order to respond, but they have worked with Dept of Public Health and CA Dept Fish and Wildlife in the past to address some of the issues that have come up.
- Commissioner Irani discussed recent legislation in New York to address animal markets. Commissioner Fortier also discussed reaching out to members of the Board of Supervisors.
- Three members of the public commented in support of the Commission addressing live animal markets.
- Commissioners agreed to continue the discussion to the next meeting. Commissioners will reach out to members of the Board of Supervisors, and to animal welfare organizations, for input. Commissioners will also continue working to locate a Dept of Public Health contact for representation/assistance in that area.

6. Old Business

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

- Commissioner Tenofsky continued the discussion regarding the proposal for SF ACC to alert partners, the public and other interested parties within 48 hours prior to euthanasia. Commissioner Tenofsky provided an update concerning the suggested changes in proposal language. Commissioner Fortier had offered a number of changes and voiced appreciation for the proposal revisions.
- SF ACC Deputy Director Skeel discussed conversations with that he had with SF ACC staff; and indicated that SF ACC is not in favor of the proposal. In summary, SF ACC believes the proposal would not change outcomes/euthanasia numbers and that the proposal would require staff resources that they would not be able to provide. SF ACC feels they already have the best processes in place; and asked that they be allowed to provide any additional requested information before a vote is taken.
- Commissioner Rosenberg agreed with SF ACC Deputy Director Skeel's concerns; and voiced that she would not feel comfortable in supporting the proposal as it is written.

- Commissioner Tobin asked Commissioner Tenofsky about the level of success for those organizations that have implemented similar notification policies. Commissioner Tenofsky wasn't yet aware of specific results; but responded to earlier Commissioners' comments concerning the social media posting process.
- SF ACC Deputy Director Skeel voiced appreciation for the comments heard; and provided the reasons why SF ACC would choose to euthanize an animal.
- Five members of the public commented in support of the proposal.
- Commissioners agreed to continue the discussion to the next meeting. Commissioner Irani acknowledged the impact of the shelter-in-place/COVID-19 order on city resources and the concern it has also brought to the public concerning transparency; and opened the discussion for Commissioners' thoughts following SF ACC Deputy Director Skeel's offer to provide additional reports. Commissioners discussed if any additional reporting was needed, clarified the next steps if the proposal is recommended, and discussed further some of the language in the proposal. SF ACC Deputy Director Skeel was asked by some of the Commissioners to compile additional information, to include any impact the proposal might have on staff resources.

B. Feral Cat Management Policy (Discussion)

- Commissioner Irani continued the discussion with an overview of some of the issues that have been brought to the Commission's attention with the shelter-in-place/COVID-19 order in place.
- Commissioner Fortier stated appreciation for SF ACC who are currently housing the animals of guardians who have been impacted by COVID-19.
- SF ACC Deputy Director Skeel provided a brief update on services under the shelter-in-place/COVID-19 order; and discussed the kitten care kits that are available to the public.
- Three members of the public commented on the feral cat policy, and what they feel is SF ACC's delegation of responsibility for kitten care to the public.
- Commissioner Irani asked for periodic updates from SF ACC going forward, regarding the policy and its impact on the feral cat community. SF ACC Deputy Director Skeel provided an explanation of current procedures and how they were put into place in response to the shelter-in-place/COVID-19 order. SF ACC Deputy Director Skeel stated that SF ACC would be able to provide impact updates for future meetings.

7. General Public Comment

Three members of the public commented on the SF ACC policy on bats, and SF ACC's current processes under the shelter-in-place/COVID-19 order.

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

- A. Euthanasia Protocol at SF Animal Care and Control
- B. San Francisco Live Animal Markets

9. Adjournment (approx. 7:20PM)