

**SAN FRANCISCO COMMISSION OF  
ANIMAL CONTROL & WELFARE  
Meeting Minutes June 18, 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; Lisa Wayne, SF RPD

**Absent:** Officer Joe Majeski, SFPD

**2. General Public Comment:**

- Three members of the public commented on the issues of SF ACC's and SF SPCA's intake policy during the shelter-in-place/COVID-19 order.

**3. Approval of Draft Minutes from May 2020 Meeting**

- Meeting minutes were approved.

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

- A. Commissioner Irani reported that the SF Board of Supervisors voted unanimously in support of the Commission's recommendation from the January meeting in support of the activists who were arrested while investigating factory farms.
- B. Commissioner Irani reported on upcoming legislation, the Good Food Purchasing Program, that the SF Board of Supervisors Rules Committee will be voting on in July.

**5. New Business**

**A. Homeless Youth and Companion Animals** (Discussion/Action Item)

- Commissioner Tobin provided an overview of the program, in support of animals living with their guardians at the Stanyan Street safe sleeping site, after she was approached by rescue partners asking about ways in which services and supplies could be provided. Commissioner Van Horn and Full Belly Bus joined the project assisting with veterinary services and other needs. Commissioners Tobin and Van Horn also reported on some upcoming activities and said they could be contacted by those who would like to volunteer or donate resources.

**6. Old Business**

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

- Commissioner Irani opened the final discussion regarding the proposal for SF ACC to begin alerting partners, the public and other interested parties within 48 hours prior to euthanasia. Commissioner Irani read information from a letter from the SF ACC regarding the number of animals euthanized; and requested clarity regarding some of the numbers/statistics provided in the letter and on their website regarding adoptable animals and non-domesticated animals.
- Commissioner Irani discussed the City of Austin's live release rate and how social media postings were not required as part of their legislation. Commissioner Irani also voiced concern as to whether the example of Austin's law could be used to support the proposal.
- Commissioner Fortier discussed some of the responses she had received from the public regarding the proposal, as well as SF ACC's response and its potential impact to them. Commissioner Fortier also discussed whether the Commission is in the position of making a recommendation based on the information that has so far been provided.
- Commissioner Rosenberg discussed concerns about the proposal, and made note that more people may now be participating in Commission remote meetings and reminded, for those who may not be aware, that the Commission doesn't pass legislation and is only an advisory board that makes recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.
- Commissioner Tobin discussed a letter of support from the No Kill Advocacy Center that offered the City of Austin as an example for the proposal. Commissioner Irani discussed how social media postings are not required in the City of Austin's legislation. Commissioner Tenofsky discussed that the City of Austin is interested in making their legislation stronger. Commissioner

Tenofsky also explained that the social media aspect hasn't yet been done, so there isn't a way to measure its success.

- SF ACC Deputy Director Skeel communicated that the SF ACC is not in support of the proposal, and that no animals are euthanized due to lack of space. SF ACC Deputy Director Skeel also explained that the SF ACC feels they are already moving in the direction that the Commission wants, that a 48-hour alert would be unnecessary, and that the SF ACC is already exceeding that requirement.
- Commissioner Tenofsky discussed that the proposal, and the section that covers the types of animals in which the proposal does not apply.
- Twenty-four members of the public commented on the proposal. Sixteen callers stated they were against the proposal, and eight callers stated they were in favor of the proposal.
- Commissioner Irani stated that public comments received via e-mail would also be entered into the record. Of the e-mail messages received, twenty-eight messages were in favor of the proposal, thirteen messages were against the proposal, and one message stated only considerations related to the proposal. Commissioners Fortier and Tobin also read a selection of the e-mail messages that were received.
- In response to some of the public comments, Commissioner Tenofsky asked to read into the record the proposal section that covers the types of animals in which the proposal does not apply.
- SF ACC Deputy Director Skeel indicated that he had received notice that there were more people who wanted to make public comment, but they were cut off. Commissioner Irani asked for the public comment line to be reopened. Six members of the public called in to comment on the proposal. Five callers stated they were against the proposal, and one caller stated she was in favor of the proposal.
- The Commission voted against a recommendation of the proposal. Commissioners Fortier, Rosenberg, Tobin and Van Horn voted against the recommendation; Commissioners Tenofsky and Torres voted in favor of it.

**B. San Francisco Live Animal Markets (Discussion)**

- Commissioner Van Horn provided an overview of the challenges while trying to address this issue during this time, and the lack of response from City departments and representatives to Commission inquires. Commissioner Fortier also discussed similar experiences when contacting Supervisors; and agreed with Commissioner Van Horn that this issue is not something that can be easily address at this time.
- One member of the public called in support of action on this issue.
- Commissioners will provide any follow-up or updates concerning this issue at future meetings, but there is no immediate action being considered at this time.

**7. General Public Comment**

- One public comment received by e-mail concerning the San Francisco Live Animal Markets issue was read into the record.

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

A. E-Mail Communications

**9. Adjournment (approx. 7:54PM)**