

**SAN FRANCISCO COMMISSION OF
ANIMAL CONTROL & WELFARE
Meeting Minutes April 20, 2017**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Present: Annemarie Fortier; Julene Johnson; Russell Tenofsky; Bunny Rosenberg; Robin Hansen, DVM; Shari O'Neill, DVM, Jane Tobin

Absent: Lisa Wayne; Officer Ryan Crockett; Virginia Donohue (SF ACC)

2. General Public Comment

Eric Mills, of Action for Animals in Oakland shared "Dangerous Crossings" a book which features among other things, San Francisco Animal Control and Welfare Commission hearings and recommendations from the selling, and importing of live animals (turtles, frogs, etc.) at food markets. Fish and Game Commission is proposing a total ban on this practice for cruelty, disease control and environmental reasons. This was supported by Richard Schelke, a meeting attendee and former Chair of this Commission when this topic was addressed by the Commission.

Eric Mills recommended the Commission write a letter in support of the total ban of this practice and that the SF/SPCA and ACC investigate and cite violations.

3. Approval of Draft Minutes from the March 16, 2017 meeting

Approved.

4. Chairperson's opening remarks and Commissioners Report

Chairperson Fortier announced we should know by the next meeting (May 10th), the names of the newly appointed or reappointed Commissioners.

Commissioner Johnson suggested the Commission follow the AB485 bill as it reached State legislature. This bill bans the sale of dogs, cats, and rabbits at pet stores in California unless the animals are from rescue groups or shelters. Process for approval:

1. Assembly of business and professions committee
2. Appropriations Committee/Assembly vote
3. The to Senate to vote for approval

Commissioner Johnson noted the ACC Live Release Rate statistics are posted for 2015/16 fiscal year. This is 8-9 months late. SF/SPCA does not have their calendar year statistics updated and we are four months into the new year. She urged greater speed for transparency and to stay with other shelters which provide real time data of those statistics.

Both SF/SPCA and ACC are hiring new Operations Directors. Commission will invite newly hired Operations staff for both organizations to discuss reporting.

Commissioner Tobin gave a report on SF Joint Zoo Committee meeting. Death of long-term resident Polar Bear, Earth Day Celebrations and Scary and Hairy spider exhibit. Zoo continues to be creative to attract crowds following attendance drops due to unusually heavy rains.

6. Old Business

Commissioner Orientation Packet - Commissioner Rosenberg provided a Commissioner packet created in 2005 by former Commission Rauthier. This packet outlines role/responsibilities and codes (health/animal). Commissioners discussed reviewing and updating for future use. It was decided 2-3 could work on it first, bring it to the Commission for approval and route to the City Attorney for final review/comment.

First review and changes include Commission will reinstate practice to hold officer elections in July which should include new commissioners.

Agenda items from Commissioners will be due 7 days prior to meeting to ensure they are included in the Agenda which requires it is posted to the public 72 hour prior to meeting date.

Eliminate the responsibility for the Vice Chair to read task assignments as it is redundant.

Change meeting date to 3rd Thursday of the month.

Eliminate the requirement for Commissioners to raise hand to address the Commission but confirmed meeting should be held in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order which is also required by Sunshine Ordinance and Brown Act.

Chairperson Fortier clarified what constitutes a meeting. Meetings are a series of gatherings and conversations held between commissioners in email and text need to be made public as they are officially considered meetings.

Roles and Responsibilities of Commissioners were also discussed. Commissioner Rosenberg will collect any mail at City Hall. Approved meeting minutes will be posted online immediately along with audio.

Recent legislation ACWC successes will be updated with quarterly reports and some highlights. Health codes will be updated with links and simplified.

Next Steps - Commissioners Rosenberg and Tobin will meet to update and provide a draft version for editing at the next meeting.

7. General Public Comment

Richard Schelke commented that during his term(s) on the board, the Commissioner Packet was helpful and re-confirmed that July elections are best for commission officers.

8. Items to be put on the Calendar for Future Commission Meetings -Policy and Procedure manual for new commissioners.

Commissioner Johnson reiterated the importance of timely statistical data from ACC and SFSPCA.

9. Adjournment (approx 6:18 p.m.)