

**ANIMAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
January 4, 2018**

Regular Session

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m. by Kathryn Burns, Vice-Chair

Roll Call:

Kathryn Burns, Modesto
Renee Rhoy, Ceres

Nina Ellison, Stanislaus County

Absent:

Kavishti Kokaram, DVM
Ann Taylor, Patterson

Unfilled Positions:

Hughson and Waterford

Staff in attendance:

Annette Patton, Executive Director

Linda Ford, Confidential Asst.

Dignitaries and Guests:

Jim DeMartini, Stanislaus County Supervisor

Meeting Minutes

- 1. Public Comment:** Karen Mosser brought a book called "The Lion in the Living room" by Abigale Tucker, and said it is an excellent read. The book is \$10 at Target and Karen provided one for SASA. Karen said the State Theatre is doing free ads for the shelter beginning next week.

Monica Barker from Cat Network of Stanislaus showed a copy of a calendar called Felines and Firefighters; Cat Network of Stanislaus will accept donations of \$20 with some proceeds going to Alley Cat Allies to assist recent fire victims in California.

- 2. Approved the Minutes of October 5, 2017 meeting:** (No Quorum/No Approval). Linda mentioned the minutes should have reflected the next meeting as the canceled meeting in November, rather than today's meeting. The correction will be made, prior to meeting approval, in February.
- 3. Election of the Chair and Vice Chair:** (No Quorum/No Nominations or Elections).

4. **Appointed Members to the Education Sub-Committee:** (No Quorum/No Appointments).

5. **Director's Report:** Annette shared information on a new Owner Surrender Prevention program. The program, which is in the pilot stages, is being spearheaded by Monica Barker and Augusta Farley. The program is designed to keep dogs at home with their owners. Assistance can be in the form of fencing, housing, and veterinary assistance, to name a few. There is hope the program will roll out soon. An application will be submitted to Stanislaus State to get a master's student to work this program with a mentor. Ann Taylor has volunteered to be the mentor.

The news media here today, due to the recent dog attack in our area. Local businesses were very cooperative during the investigation. The adult dogs were aggressive, one having to be chemically captured. All were mixed breed dogs, running in a pack, with a pack mentality.

Marketing, State Theatre will be running ads for Animal Services, at no charge. In December, staff with dogs, spent a number of days at Vintage Fair Mall, and took pictures with Santa.

The Annual Report was presented a number of times, City Council meetings, the Board of Supervisor's meeting, Rotary and a number of MAC meetings. The last MAC meeting will be held in late February at the Salida Library. The statistics, for fiscal 2016/2017 are very impressive and they are trending better this year. Thank you to those that came out to see the presentation.

A sign of the times is increased security. We value the security of employees and our volunteers, rescue, fosters and community. In the future you will see some changes, including a badge/check in system for people spending time in the facility.

Animal Services is busier than ever. There were 22 adoptions just Tuesday morning. There are new signs and procedures in place. We have a Pay it Forward program, and will have additional signage for that soon. Pay it Forward is paying for the next adoption or a list can be offered or SASA will choose.

We will continue to keep our community safe by not placing aggressive or bite dogs back out in the community. Even then, our statistics are still excellent.

An upcoming Strategic Planning Session will drive our budget this year. There is hope for more staff due to the amount of work that is processed throughout the facility. We look forward to continued positive results with all programs. We cannot continue with current staffing levels with the increase in business. Increases have been witnessed in licensing, adoptions, rescue, clinics, phones,

and volunteers. With so many new volunteers coming on board, a full time volunteer coordinator is needed.

There will be a huge announcement later in January. We hope to visit Front Street Shelter in Sacramento to take a look at their successful pre-wean kitten foster program.

Kathy Fielder started a program; staff has implemented for her, called "Four on the Floor". This is a training program. The idea is to show dogs how to mind, via reward. Once they are sitting or standing quietly, they get a treat. You will see treat boxes to be utilized for this purpose.

Dogs will be highlighted at the 4th Tuesday, Board of Supervisor Meetings beginning January 23, 2018, thanks to the Chair of the Board, Jim DeMartini.

Euthanasia of cats used to be 91% six years ago, we will strive to make that our save rate.

6. **Future Agenda Items:** Approve minutes, Elections, Appointment of members to the Education Sub Committee.
7. **Adjourn:** Meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Next meeting: Thursday, February 1, 2018 at 6 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Stanislaus Animal Services Agency.

Note: Those unable to attend, call Linda Ford at 209-342-1742