

ANIMAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
August 9, 2018

Regular Session

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Kavishti Kokaram, Chair

Roll Call:

Kavishti Kokaram, DVM – Chair
Kathryn Burns, Modesto
Ann Taylor, Patterson – Vice Chair
Nina Ellison, Stanislaus County

Absent:

Renee Rhoy, Ceres

Unfilled Positions:

Hughson
Waterford

Staff in attendance:

Annette Patton, Executive Director Linda Ford, Confidential Asst.

Dignitaries and Guests:

Meeting Minutes

1. **Public Comment:** None
2. **Approved the Minutes of May 3, 2018 meeting:** (Taylor/Burns – 4/0)
3. **Discussion – Pets for Vets program**

Ann Taylor reviewed the programs she researched and advises companion and support dogs seems the best fit. This program will match animals to a veteran based on work skills and compatibility. Ann, Kathryn and Hans (our new Intern) will make a site visit to Kern County. Programs may be funded through grant money. Veterans apply through the veteran's administration. More information to come after the site visit. The new FETCH program may be able to assist with the training and getting dogs placed with a veteran. The new intern (Hans) will be here 16 hours a week beginning in September and will assist with those needing assistance from the Stanislaus Animal Services Agency. (Assistance includes housing, care, fencing, etc.) The idea is to keep animals at home rather than surrender them to SASA.

4. Discussion - Foster Program:

We have a new program for pre-wean kittens with no mother. We are unable to take them in after 2 p.m. because it leaves no time to find a foster. We send them back to be fostered with a care package. We let the foster know they can return with them first thing in the morning, or they can continue to care for them until the kittens can be spayed/neutered and placed up for adoption. Kittens are currently adopted as buy one, get one free. We continue to work the Foster VACA for long term shelter dogs.

5. Director's Report:

- a. Annual Report Statistics – The committee has copies from 2010-2011 forward. We have the TNR program and Cat adoptions, kitten adoptions reached over 1,000 which beats any SASA record. Best Friends is here, and those cats do not make it into the shelter. Live release rates for dogs are up again this year. If you have any questions, the report is posted on our website.
- b. Stanislaus Health Foundation Shelter Buddies reading program. We hope to utilize students from Shackelford and Bret Hart schools to come and read to the animals in the kennels. We need to get chairs and pillows; Stanislaus Health Foundation will pay for these items so there is no expense. It's a win-win, the students learn to read, and the animals are getting interaction from people.
- c. Finding Rover rolled out yesterday and is on our website. This is a free App for animal owners and shelters. The App will assist in locating lost pets if/when used.
- d. Euthanasia Policy – we are mid-way through a revised policy which will utilize a panel of four to review the animals and their behavior before any animal is euthanized. Memos must have good descriptions of behavior from intake forward. Opinions will not be accepted, there must be descriptions of what staff is seeing.

6. Future Agenda Items: Pets for Vets, Foster Program.

7. Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Next meeting: Thursday, October 4, 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