

ANIMAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
August 1, 2019

Regular Session

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Laurie Daily-Johnston, Chair

Roll Call:

Renee Rhoy, Ceres
Laurie Daily-Johnston, Stanislaus County
Kathryn Burns, Modesto
Kiley Gravatt, Hughson

Absent:

Ann Taylor, Patterson

Unfilled Positions:

Waterford
County Veterinarian

Staff in attendance:

Annette Patton, Executive Director Linda Ford, Confidential
Mavis Williamson, Client Services Supervisor

Dignitaries and Guests:

Meeting Minutes

1. Public Comment – None
2. Approved the Minutes of May 2, 2019 meeting. (Burns/Rhoy - 4/0).
3. Discussed the removal of breed labels on shelter dogs – Question - How will people search for their lost dogs by breed? There will be some research done with other shelters, using Chameleon, to see how this works for them. Chameleon does have a mixed breed selection, which will list on PetHarbor. Soon, we will pilot the program for a month to see how it works.
4. Discussed Jog a Dog: Kathryn Burns brought information on different programs from other agencies. Many rely heavily on volunteers. Volunteers are required to attend a one-hour orientation and then two additional training sessions specific to their area of interest. (Animal Care, Socialization, Special Events, Jog a Dog.) Jog a Dog assists in breaking the stigma of being kenneled in a shelter, gets

animals out and noticed, they wear adopt me bandanas or vests which markets the agency and can start a dialog with a potential adopter. Some of the running groups in our area are: Shadow Chase, Teen Run America, Modesto Moves and Dusty Bottom Trails. We may be able to increase our volunteers with Veteran programs, high school programs, etc. Volunteer commitment is key and six months or more is most beneficial. SASA will invite Jennifer Smith, Volunteer Coordinator to the October meeting to share her programs and how our volunteer program is structured.

5. Introduced ASA: Annette had the pleasure of introducing Melanie and Will Riddle to the Animal Services Advisory Committee. Both entities were excited to meet each other and believe they can work together. ASA has 2.5 members with Melanie acting as President and Will as Treasurer. ASA recently paid for two days with the SNIP Bus spaying and neutering the dogs living at MOES. ASA needs to know what SASA needs and then will acquire the volunteers to assist. Laurie Daily-Johnston suggested ASA check some of the "Friends of the Shelter" with other agencies to see how they do fund raisers, community events, like MOES, pet food distribution, and more.
6. Discussed: The status of the educational screens in Client Services with Mavis Williamson. Mavis said the screens have been evaluated, and will be ordered soon. The screens can utilize a youtube channel, a DVR or make use of WiFi. One screen will be utilized for educational information and one for pricing, etc. Additionally, there will be at least one kiosk with a touch screen to assist people unable to go through the kennels. The kiosk will allow people to look for an adoptable animal, to see if their pet is here or to license their pet.
7. Discussed: Shelter Administration Priorities and how the committee and others can help. Annette provided the following information from the ASAC bylaws.

The Committee is established to protect and enhance the quality of life for animals and residents of Stanislaus County. Responsibilities include educating the community on animal care; public relations; and serving as a resource.

- Serve as an advisor to the SASA Board and Executive Director
- Promote a public awareness of the Stanislaus Animal Services Agency
- Develop methods to promote adoption of animals at the shelter.
- Develop methods to decrease the number of animals entering the shelter.
- Continue efforts to increase and encourage volunteer participation at the shelter.

In promoting awareness, all members are reminded to support the shelter by attending their respective City Council meetings and promoting animal welfare. Annual Reports will also be presented at City Council meetings soon, and you are invited to attend. What you will hear is the live release rate for dogs is 90%, and cats is 71% in fiscal 2018/2019. There is room for improvement with cats, and we can accomplish more with a robust foster program for pre-ween kittens. SASA is very happy to have Best Friends Animal Society staff on site. Best Friends is key in reducing the cat live intake. Best Friends works diligently on the

community cat program, which includes spay and/or neuter of the community cats. We couldn't make these increases in live release rates without their help.

In promoting adoption of animals at the shelter - SASA shared some of the upcoming adoption promotions which will continue monthly. Linda will send the list of promotions to ASAC members. We utilize Facebook and are moving toward Instagram, soon. Amazon Wish list will be utilized for the many upcoming events, like Diversity Day and Trunk or Treat. ASAC will be happy to assist by sponsoring events if they know in advance, specifically when it comes to those honoring volunteers.

In developing ways to decrease animal intake – pilot project with City of Hughson. SASA is attempting to get on Nextdoor.com. Sent application, which was rejected, waited two weeks to re-apply, did that under law enforcement and received approval, we are now waiting to hear when we can utilize the program. The idea is to post those animals coming from Hughson on the nextdoor.com program to get them home sooner. SASA officers have been challenged to get dogs back home from the field rather than processing them through the shelter. Additionally, SASA would like to provide microchip readers to varying entities allowing citizens to scan the found pet to get them back home. SASA will add educational items on our website, like what to do if you find or lost a pet. Increase volunteers – we are trying to get our volunteer base increased.

Continue efforts to increase and encourage volunteer participation at the shelter. Yes, please continue to support our efforts to increase volunteers. Our volunteers help at off site events, help at PETCO and can foster puppies, kittens or special needs animals. In the future SASA will highlight a volunteer assignment monthly, by area of expertise, which can include photography, video tapes, bottle feeding, and more. Bottle feeding training will be offered monthly and the video will be placed on our website. Volunteer jobs and job descriptions will be written and added to the SASA website.

8. Future Agenda Items: Revisit labels on shelter dogs
Update from Volunteer Coordinator
Home to Home – reduction of shelter intake
9. Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Next meeting: Thursday, November 7, 2019 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