

ANIMAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ASAC)
Meeting Minutes

Regular Meeting

Thursday

May 7, 2026

Members Present:

Cynthia Homen-City of Patterson representative
Melinda Martin-City of Modesto representative
Piper McKnight-Stanislaus County representative
Linda Ford-City of Hughson representative

Staff Present:

Lily Yap, Executive Director
Connie Hooker, Operations Manager
Megan Morriss, Confidential Assistant IV

Guests and Dignitaries: None

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 pm by Chair, Piper McKnight.

1. **Welcome:** Chair, Piper McKnight
2. **Roll Call:** All members present.
3. **Public Comment Period (Limit of 5 minutes per person):** None
4. **Minutes of Previous Meeting:** Item pulled from agenda.
5. **New Business:**
 - A. Meeting the Operations Manager-Connie Hooker
 - a. Connie Hooker to continue onboarding and provide ongoing assessments of foster program challenges.
 - b. Staff confirmed SASA policies/procedures remain accessible online; no further action required.
 - c. Staff resolved ITC website error and restored historical shelter statistics; continue monitoring for accuracy.

Public comment:
Nancy Klein-Spoke about her concerns with the missing statistics.
 - B. Director's report-Lily Yap
 - a. Staffing updates:
 1. New second veterinarian to begin late June; staff to ensure onboarding and schedule planning.

2. Animal Care Specialist vacancy fully filled. No action needed.
- b. Quarterly statistics reviewed:
 1. Continue tracking and reporting adoption conversion rates and intake/euthanasia trends. Noted decrease in euthanasia rates.
 2. Ensure annual statistical archives remain posted and updated.
- c. Kennel Access Procedures
 1. Staff to maintain current protocols for locked kennels (Isolation, rescue holds, maternity, etc.)
- d. Upcoming Programs and Events:
 1. Town Hall with Best Friends: Staff to finalize mid-June date and logistics.
 2. Volunteer Program: UNC Charlotte assessment to proceed; Linda Ford acknowledged for contributions.
 3. LEMO turf installation to be coordinated with attention to heat and drainage requirements.

Public comment:

Nancy Klein- Concerns voiced about vet schedule, weekend availability, spay/neuter access, vaccine clinics, and owner-surrender euthanasia.

Unknown citizen-Questions about Best Friends partnership.

Staff response: Yes, we have an ongoing agreement with Best Friends. The turf will be animal rated. Will have drainage and sprinkler system to wet the yards and cool them off. Also has shade structures. Turf can be sprayed with Rescue.

C. Veterinarian Outreach-Piper McKnight

- a. Piper McKnight to distribute surveys on 6/18/26 during Vet Appreciation Day regarding:
 1. willingness to support local spay/neuter
 2. offering discounted services
 3. distributing SASA information
- b. Staff to add survey questions on rabies certificate reporting, potential dog license amnesty, and Docupet registration research.
- c. Committee requests Shelter to explore enforcement strategies for backyard breeder litter permits.
- d. Possible special meeting to approve outreach materials.

Public Comment:

Unknown citizen- Challenges of addressing backyard breeders.

Nancy Klein-Read an online code about vets needing to provide rabies certificates to the shelter or public health. HSC 121690. Request for special meeting once outreach survey is ready.

Staff response: Also include in the survey to see if vets would be willing to provide SASA with the rabies information so then we could contact about a license. Also suggested to have a dog license amnesty period. Docupet registration is also something the shelter is looking into. The committee would like the Shelter to pursue the backyard breeders for litter permits.

D. Programming spotlight-

- a. TNR/SNR Program
 - 1. 18 cat appointments weekly plus 15 on Wednesdays
 - 2. Officers release cats back to originating neighborhoods
- b. Barn Cat Program
 - 1. Uses Airtable; 15 placements so far
 - 2. Trap rentals available
 - 3. Emphasis on need for ongoing cat spay/neuter

Public comment:

Nancy Klein-Public concerns about friendly TNR cats not being adoptable. Suggestion to change website label from “rescue” to “TNR/SNR” for transparency.

Staff response: Yes, we rent out traps. Very affordable to purchase also. Cats are allowed to roam freely. Feral cats are wildlife. We need to continue our spay/neuter programs for cats.

E. Compassion Caravan-Melinda Martin

- a. Lily Yap & Melinda Martin to continue coordinating site visits with shelters/rescues statewide.
- b. Focus on small dogs/puppies; maintain PPE/parvo-minimizing protocols.
- c. Staff to assess program frequency and address public concerns regarding kennel access and RED list volume.

Staff response: Lily and Melinda are transporting dogs/puppies to shelters and rescues across California to get our foot in the door with no commitment. It's not just about adoption but creating a path and new

relationships with these shelters/rescues. Primarily focused on small dogs and puppies. Shelter/rescues can customize their needs. We are using PPE, puppy corrals, and minimizing the risk for Parvo for the puppies.

Public comment:

Nancy Klein-raised concerns about the frequency of the Compassion Caravan and the growing number of dogs placed on the R.E.D. list. She also emphasized that locked kennel doors and the lack of small dogs or puppies may push the public toward backyard breeders.

Board comment:

- City of Patterson representative, Cynthia Homen, requested the advisory committee be presented with an organizational chart.

6. Adjournment: 8:04 pm

ATTESTED: Megan Morriss, Secretary
of the Animal Services Advisory Committee (ASAC)