

**THE GOVERNING BOARD  
OF THE JOINT POWERS AGENCY OF THE  
STANISLAUS ANIMAL SERVICES AGENCY (SASA)**  
Meeting Minutes

**Regular Meeting**

**Thursday**

**September 15, 2022**

**Members Present:**

Merry Mayhew, City of Hughson, Chair – Present  
Jewel Warr, Alternate for Jody Hayes, Stanislaus County – Present  
Scotty Douglass, Alternate for Joe Lopez, City of Modesto – Present  
Michael Pitcock, City of Waterford – Present  
Ken Irwin, City of Patterson – Present  
Alex Terrazas, City of Ceres – Present

**Staff Present:**

Rob Taro, Deputy County Counsel  
Vaughn Maurice, Executive Director  
Megan Morriss, Confidential Assistant  
Mavis Williamson, Supervisor  
Alyssa Moreno, Supervisor

**Guests and Dignitaries:** None

The meeting was called to order at 9:00am by Chair, Merry Mayhew.

**1. Welcome:**

**2. Roll Call (Silent):** See Above

**3. Presentations:** None

**4. Public Comment Period (Limit of 5 minutes per person):**

- A. Laura Deschamp spoke about issues occurring at SASA and the good work the rescue support team does which is comprised of citizens. Handouts given.
- B. Rich Tennis spoke about issues occurring with SASA including that it should be a no-kill shelter. He also spoke about euthanasia guidelines. Handouts given.
- C. Gail Tennis spoke about issues occurring with SASA and the rescue support team comprised of citizens. She would like the rescue's ideas to be taken into consideration at the shelter. Handouts given.
- D. Kinney Tennis spoke about issues occurring with SASA and the rescues. Would like more emphasis put on stopping backyard breeders. The shelter also has poor customer service. Handouts given.

**5. Minutes of Previous Meetings:**

- A. Motion to approve the Agency Board Meeting Minutes from August 18, 2022 (City of Modesto/City of Waterford; 6-0)

**6. Correspondence: None**

**7. New Business:**

- A. Motion to elect the Chair as City of Modesto for Fiscal Year 2022-2023. (City of Waterford/City of Patterson; 6-0)
- B. Motion to elect the Vice Chair as City of Waterford for Fiscal Year 2022-2023. (City of Modesto/City of Patterson; 6-0)
- C. Motion to approve the Executive Director to enter into and sign an independent contractor agreement with DocuPet for the period beginning October 1, 2022, through September 30, 2025, for the pet licensing program at \$77,000 a year. Along with this request is a budget adjustment of \$57,750.03 as an expense and \$57,750.03 as license revenue. (City of Patterson/City of Ceres; 6-0)
- D. Motion to reject all bids for Westside Landscape and Concrete, Inc. and have service providers rebid on the correct map of SASA property following City of Modesto purchasing guidelines. (City of Waterford/Stanslaus County; 6-0)
- E. Motion to authorize the Executive Director to waive rescue or adoption fees if in best interest of the animal on a case-by-case basis for red/yellow dogs or at-risk status at Executive Director discretion. Monthly report back to the JPA Board on this authorization. (City of Modesto/City of Waterford; 6-0)

**8. Committee Reports:**

- A. Executive Director Report:
- i. Strep Zoo was a heartbreaking occurrence at our shelter. It really emphasized that we need population management. It is more humane for the animals. 4 weeks ago, we began the list of 15 dogs on the red list. These are our longest-term dogs. Our goal was to get the animals out of the shelter as quickly as possible. Rescues/Networkers and staff got all the at-risk dogs out of the shelter. Next week is the last week of 15 dogs. Last month we had 537 animals through our intake, and we were closed to all non-emergency intake. That policy has been lifted. We are required to take in animals by law. Our best way to do that is managed admissions where we offer alternative options.

If all options are exhausted, then we set up an appointment for a few weeks out. Rescues and staff are doing a great job. We are starting to develop relationships with several shelters who may be able to take dogs when they have available space. We'll continue to build these relationships and partnerships to help with overcrowding. We sent numerous dogs out through some of the new partner agencies, but we still have a full shelter. As of 9/15/22 we had 184 occupied kennels. The shelter made an adjustment to the red list by changing the final day to get dogs out to Saturday instead of Friday. In the next 2 weeks we will be done with the list of 15 dogs and return back to our normal green, yellow, red list numbers. Many shelters are experiencing intake numbers increasing. Intake is up 23% all over the west coast of the United States.

- ii. The shelter received a donation of \$1800, solicited by Vaughn to pay adoption fees for 15 dogs. The shelter also received a few other donations to help with waiving adoption fees.
- iii. Hiring situation is challenging at the Shelter. For the Operations Manager position, we conducted a national search for candidates. Connie Hooker was selected for the position. Now a supervisor position is open. Business Manager interviews are at the end of the month. 9 great candidates. We also have a Registered Vet Technician (RVT) starting 9/26/22 that was approved by the Board of Supervisors. We now have 3 RVT's. Our veterinarian search is still ongoing. Recently the County gave employees a pay raise, so the Veterinarian salary was adjusted on the recruitment but the salary is still low compared to other advertisements in the area. We also changed the working title to Medical Director. We reposted the position to CVMA and AVMA.
- iv. 10/8/22-Beggin for Birdies is an event hosted by our auxiliary who is becoming more active.
- v. 9/10/22-Veterans get one free adoption per year but also get a free adoption on 9/10/22 as our September promotion.
- vi. October shelter promotion is \$13 adoption fees for cats and \$31 adoption fees for dogs.
- vii. Social media update. Facebook followers up 42% with Facebook interaction up 43%. Instagram interaction up 95% with new followers up 121%.
- viii. November is the Animal Welfare conference in New Orleans and Vaughn will be attending. Therefore, November meeting will be canceled.

**9. Informational:** None

**10. Member Referrals:** None

**11. Closed Session:** None

**12. Adjournment:** Motion to Adjourn Meeting at 10:58am (City of Patterson/City of Waterford; 5-0, City of Modesto absent)

**Adjourned:** 10:58am

ATTESTED: Megan Morriss, Confidential Assistant  
of the Governing Board  
of the Joint Powers Agency  
of the Stanislaus Animal Services Agency  
State of California