

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

Regular Meeting

Thursday

August 21, 2025

Members Present:

Jewel Warr, Alternate for Stanislaus County-Chair
Scotty Douglass, Alternate for City of Modesto
Mike Pitcock, City of Waterford
Dominique Romo, City of Hughson
Mike Willet, Alternate for City of Patterson

Members Absent:

Doug Dunford, City of Ceres

Staff Present:

Jesus Mendoza, Deputy County Counsel
Lily Yap, Executive Director
Stephanie Loomis, Business Manager
Linda Ford, Confidential Assistant IV

Guests and Dignitaries: None

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am by Chair, Jewel Warr.

1. **Welcome:** Jewel Warr-Chair.
2. **Roll Call (Silent):**
3. **Presentations:** None
4. **Public Comment Period (Limit of 5 minutes per person):**
Chris Ricci – Modesto City Council – Believes SASA needs to raise licensing fees for dogs to \$20, immediately or as soon as we can get it approved. Stated we can do that in ways that do not make people of lower economic brackets suffer by creating programs that exempt certain individuals based on criteria. The people that can pay are the people that expect this agency to provide the following services: Regular veterinary services, a TNR program, and the licensing feral cat colonies.

Additional public comment came after the Fee Increase presentation.

5. **Minutes of Previous Meetings:**

- A. Approved the Agency Board Special Meeting Minutes from June 16, 2025. (City of Hughson/City of Patterson - 5/0).

6. **Correspondence:** None

7. **New Business:**

- A. Elected a new Chair and Vice Chair of the Stanislaus Animals Services Agency Board for Fiscal Year 2025-2026. Scotty Douglass, City of Modesto elected Chair, followed by Motion to elect Doug Dunford, City of Ceres as Vice Chair. (City of Waterford/City of Patterson; 5-0)
- B. Appointed Melinda Martin to the Stanislaus Animal Services Agency Advisory Committee to Represent the City of Modesto. (City of Patterson/City of Hughson; 5-0)
- C. Postponed approval to Amend Existing Fees for Stanislaus Animal Services Agency. After the presentation, much discussion and public comment the City of Modesto made a motion to postpone consideration of this item until the next meeting with a quorum and further moved to place the item back with the Ad Hoc Budget Subcommittee. (City of Modesto/City of Patterson; 5/0 with roll call approval of motion by City of Waterford, Stanislaus County and City of Hughson)

Public Comments:

- **Chris Ricci** - Does not support the new fee schedule.
- Exempting seniors doesn't make sense.
- We need to increase licensing fees and license cats so our level of service is better.
- **Tina Von Stade** - Believes there is a need for a TNR program, adding Fresno has an excellent TNR program.
- **Nancy Klien** - Agrees with the license structure and likes that they are on a sliding scale.
- Asked if the research from other areas included questions about the services provided with their fees?
- Stated adopting a shelter dog that is fully vetted, S/N, vaccinations, microchip, is a great savings, compared to bred dogs and SASA should showcase the cost comparison.
- S/N must be in place, it is critical.
- SASA is not a gifted service, we need to educate the public.
- **Lily Yap** - thanked everyone for their questions and comments. Lily added a priority right now is making the veterinary position more appealing.

8. Committee Reports: None

9. Informational Reports:

A. Executive Director's Report: Lily Yap

- a. Best Friends Proposal – Lily stated that in a future meeting there will be a proposal from Best Friends and National Thunder for review and approval. The Best Friends proposal includes coordinating some free training to support decreased length of stay, increased safe rates for both dogs and cats, Incentive Programming for at risk dogs and puppies, and Incentive Programming specifically for neo-natal kittens.
- b. Reopening for Stray Intake – Lily provided an overview of how our re-opening for stray intake has gone, after our restricted intake due to Strep-Zoo.
- c. Strategic Planning – SASA finalized our agreement with a facilitator; after interviewing several facilitators and in terms of best value, Andrea Stevenson was selected. Look for additional information and surveys to be rolled out to our stakeholders this Fall.

10. Closed Session: None

11. Adjournment at 10:28 am

Adjourned: 10:28 am

ATTESTED: Linda Ford for Megan Morriss, Clerk
of the Governing Board
of the Joint Powers Agency
of the Stanislaus Animal Services Agency
State of California