

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

Regular Meeting

Thursday

November 20, 2025

Members Present:

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

Staff Present:

Mobin Bhatti, Deputy County Counsel
Lily Yap, Executive Director
Stephanie Loomis, Business Manager
Megan Morriss, Confidential Assistant IV

Guests and Dignitaries: None

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am by Chair, Scotty Douglass.

- 1. Welcome:** Scotty Douglass-Chair.
- 2. Roll Call (Silent):**
- 3. Presentations:** None
- 4. Public Comment Period (Limit of 5 minutes per person):**
 - A. Richard Davis** – Expressed concern regarding shelter direction under new leadership; criticized the “Capacity for Care” model and raised issues about transporting ill animals, including a poodle that passed shortly after being redirected from transport.
 - B. Claudia Henley (reading statement from Darla Chavez)** – Shared concerns about the same poodle transport incident; questioned health certification practices and proper spay/neuter assessments.
 - C. Wyvonne Nixor** – Voiced frustration over lack of spay/neuter access and absence of a TNR program; emphasized need for accountability and action on growing cat colonies.

- D. **Tanya** – Provided handout; described volunteer-led TNR efforts helping 66 cats; requested removal of one-cat appointment limit and advocated for a dedicated TNR staff position and full vaccinations.
- E. **Mark Riggins** – Volunteer and transport driver; expressed concern regarding shelter vet care and the decision to transport the sick poodle; called for improved medical staffing and shelter operations.
- F. **Bridget Miles** – Spoke on emotional toll of euthanizing healthy animals; urged expansion of spay/neuter programs and greater compassion.
- G. **Jackie Wolfe** – Highlighted personal TNR efforts; called for better public education and volunteer vet support; noted TNR success prior to COVID.
- H. **Karen Massa** – Supported reinstating TNR programs and pursuing grants; recommended partnerships with Alley Cats and Best Friends.
- I. **Chris Ricci (Modesto City Council)** – Expressed concern regarding shelter policies and lack of transparency; demanded changes aligned with community needs and warned of political consequences.
- J. **Eleonora Babayants** – Raised alarm over increasing euthanasia lists; requested more time for rescues and better support from Animal Services; advocated for increased food distribution to reduce surrenders.
- K. **Nancy Klein** – Stressed broken trust between shelter and volunteers; cited specific incidents including the poodle and a stabbed dog; expressed concern about euthanasia when there are open kennels.
- L. **Theresa Gaxiola** – Shared personal rescue efforts and financial investment; expressed concern regarding shelter cleanliness and lack of public outreach for animal rescue.
- M. **Tina** – Formerly investigated; described past TNR efforts and ongoing support for homeless cats.
- N. **Edward Davis** – Shared adoption stories; expressed emotional distress over euthanasia of adoptable animals, including one intended for a WWII veteran.
- O. **Manteca Resident** – Inquired about a dog with a broken jaw; reported lack of follow-up from shelter staff.
- P. **Chet Stiger** – First-time attendee; criticized unclear signage and financial transparency; encouraged Board members to walk through the kennels firsthand.
- Q. **Debbie Parks** – Described difficulty reclaiming her dogs; criticized shelter space management and staff interactions, though noted dogs were treated well.

5. Minutes of Previous Meetings:

A. Approved the Agency Board Special Meeting Minutes from October 16, 2025. (City of Waterford/City of Patterson - 6/0).

6. Correspondence: None

7. New Business:

A. Amended motion approved for the Stanislaus Animal Services Agency to implement the reclassification of the Registered Veterinary Supervisor and deferring the implementation of the reclassification of the County Veterinarian. (City of Modesto/Stanislaus County; 6/0)

a. Public comment:

Mark Riggins – Asked if the Chief Veterinarian would provide medical care full-time or only three days a week; emphasized the need for 7-day coverage.

Staff Response – Confirmed the Chief Veterinarian is a full-time role; specific workdays are yet to be determined.

Nancy Klein – Supported RVT reclassification; noted staffing shortages in the hospital and emphasized the need for improved customer service and marketing.

Chris Ricci – Questioned the cost-effectiveness of hiring a veterinarian; suggested exploring partnerships with MJC for spay/neuter services and urged a broader community-focused approach.

Staff Response – Clarified the RVT reclassification applies to an existing hospital role, not a new position; expressed interest in collaborating with MJC but noted limitations with accepting animals from the public.

Jewel Warr – Asked if the reclassification was simply formalizing an existing role.

Staff Response – Confirmed the reclassification grants full supervisory authority to a position currently working out of class as Acting Supervisor.

8. Committee Reports: None

9. Informational Reports:

A. None

10. Closed Session: None

11. Adjournment at 10:28 am

Adjourned: 10:28 am

ATTESTED: Megan Morrise, Clerk
of the Governing Board
of the Joint Powers Agency
of the Stanislaus Animal Services Agency
State of California