

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

Special Meeting

Thursday

January 15, 2026

Members Present:

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

Staff Present:

Jesus Mendoza, Deputy County Counsel
Lily Yap, Executive Director
Megan Morriss, Confidential Assistant IV
Dr. Sarah Brockett, Veterinarian
Connie Hooker, Operations Manager

Guests and Dignitaries: None

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 am by Chair, Scotty Douglass.

1. **Welcome:** Scotty Douglass-Chair.
2. **Roll Call:** All members present.
3. **Presentations:**
 - A. The Board members received a presentation from Stevenson Wallace Consulting firm, Andrea Stevenson-Facilitator along with a Power Point presentation. The presentation included research results for an increased understanding of stakeholder feedback, defining success for animal welfare in Stanislaus County, increased understanding of resident sentiment around animal welfare (public comment session), and identifying next steps for addressing community requests and SASA resourcing.
4. **Public Comment Period (Limit of 5 minutes per person):**
 - A. **Laurie Daley**
 - Cares about animals and people; notes pets help humans.
 - Suggests finding creative funding sources: property tax, bonds, sales tax, nonprofit partnerships.

B. Karen Massa

- Shelter had TNR under previous director; currently no TNR program.

C. Joanne

- Rescued 10 dogs; requested update on two dogs that had been adopted but received rude response and no follow-up.
- Calls for better staff training, improved access to services, collaboration with homeless community, and community education.
- Notes staff morale impacts customer service.

D. Tina von Stade

- Volunteer; concerned about cat welfare and shelter operations.
- Urgent need for strong TNR program, low-cost vaccine clinic, and faster appointments.
- Questions closure of LOVE Clinic and use of spay/neuter funds.
- Notes no budget for cat foster program; fosters pay out of pocket.
- Suggests Board members be more engaged and proactive.

E. Dana

- Airport neighborhood resident; managing growing feral cat population.
- Shelter previously sterilized 15 cats/week; now only 10 per city/month.
- Personally spent \$150,000 on feral cats.
- Urges pursuit of grants, taxes, nonprofit partnerships.

F. Tanya

- Dutch Hollow resident; conducts TNR with donated funds.
- Limited by one-cat-per-appointment policy; travels to Sacramento for services.
- Calls for mobile spay/neuter services.

G. Laura

- Lives near Maze/Nebraska; area sees frequent animal dumping.
- Cat colony grew from 9 to 21 quickly.
- Estimates 52 cats/week need sterilization; SASA only did 400 last year vs. Sacramento's 17,000.
- Suggests nonprofit involvement and new funding model.

H. Brandi Rollins

- Solo volunteer; trapped/neutered 300 cats and placed 70 kittens.
- Could surpass SASA's yearly numbers in months.
- Resources depleted; calls for outreach, pet food pantry, volunteer involvement, and more TNR funding.

I. Piper McNight

- Advisory Council member; says money is key.
- Suggests free or discounted veterinary services and partnerships with jail for dog housing.
- Commends reduced euthanasia rates.

J. Chris Ricci

- Modesto Council member; says doubling budget won't fix SASA.
- Calls for creative solutions, tech use, and possibly nonprofit takeover.
- Notes SASA underserves cats; Capacity for Care model not working.

K. Cathy Hall Boyer

- Longtime volunteer; thanks staff and volunteers.

- Calls for more spay/neuter options, second vet, and law allowing vet techs to neuter animals.

L. Nancy Klein

- 15-year volunteer; frustrated issues persist since 2017.
- Suggests Stockton model: city handles control, nonprofit handles programming.
- Notes shelter closed 3 weeks due to infection; need more spay/neuter and stop backyard breeders.

M. Mary Brown

- Oakdale resident; says robust spay/neuter program is key.
- Suggests vet school partnerships and outreach to high schools.
- Notes homeless people with large dogs pose safety risks.

N. Mark Demorre

- Concerned citizen; says system is broken.
- Spay/neuter appointments hard to get; website confusing.
- Willing to help reform system.

O. Theresa

- Rescued dog; shelter provided no help.
- Spent \$3,500 on pet care; supports nonprofit model.
- Notes dogs are terrified in shelter; euthanasia is inhumane.

P. Tina Amarosa

- Volunteer; has done 100 cats in TNR.
- Health issues; sees more dogs dumped daily.

Q. Vicki Bailey

- Questions leadership; says Lily Yap has not improved SASA despite positive impact on previous organizations.
- Suggests new Board rules to address discrepancy and surprise visits.

R. Kelly Seglio

- Receives pleas for help; tired of SASA crises.
- Notes 35 dogs/week on euthanasia list; calls for focus on vet care, staffing, and rescue partnerships.

S. Samantha Lopez

- Rescue volunteer; says SASA needs nonprofit management.
- Notes lack of transparency and zero spay/neuter happening.

T. Rosalinda Vierra

- Ceres Council member; citizens need spay/neuter and vaccines.
- Questions budget increase; calls for vet school partnerships and reopening clinics.

U. Glenda Campbell

- Reports roaming dogs at park; shelter unresponsive.
- Notes morale is low; too much red tape; shares story of rescuing abused dog.

V. Theresa Gamboa

- Dealing with dumped dogs daily; shelter says “don’t bring them.”
- Notes unsafe large cat colonies.

W. Sofia Erin

- Community mom; frustrated by lack of appointments.
- Says poverty should not prevent pet ownership; prevention services are critical.

5. Board Report out:

- A.** All Board members spoke about the Strategic Planning session findings and presentation noting the following:
- a. The presentation was very eye-opening and very helpful.
 - b. The shelter needs short- and long-term changes.
 - c. Board members noted surprise and concern by the staff morale data given.
 - d. Most Board members have rescued and adopted their own animals.
 - e. After the Strategic Planning session, we will go forward with ideas created here and have many new conversations.
 - f. The Board is open to creative new ways to move forward including strengthening partnerships and looking at different service models.
 - g. Will share next steps in a future meeting; anticipate an Ad Hoc committee will be formed to look at the community concerns and ideas that were discussed today.

6. Adjournment at 2:40 pm

Adjourned: 2:40 pm

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