

City of San Antonio



Animal Care Services Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 18, 2023, 5:55 PM
4710 State Hwy 151, San Antonio, Texas, 78227

I. Call to Order:

Board Chair Braeutigam called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

II. Roll Call:

Present: Lorena Havill (Dist. 2), George Garcia (Dist. 3), Rita Braeutigam - Chair (Dist. 4), Karen Speer - Secretary (Dist. 5), Kathleen Davis (Dist. 6), Valerie Moore (Dist. 7), Katie Jarl (Dist. 8), Susan Beldon - Vice Chair (Dist. 9), Sallie Scott (District 10)

Ex-Officio Member: David McCary, Shannon Sims

Absent: Cynthia Cox (Dist. 1), Amin Tohmaz (Mayor)

Ex-Officio Members: Dr. Marilyn Gotbeter

III. Chair's Statement

Board Member Cox (Dist. 1) arrives at 6:05pm.

IV. Director's Report

ACS Director Shannon Sims provided an overview of animal welfare nationwide and the national trends of high intake and decreased live release outcomes. He stated that ACS reviewed existing policies and procedures to make adjustments and that initial results show good progress is being made.

Director Sims provided updates on the following items:

1. ACS hired two veterinarians
2. Mass vaccine clinic with Petco Love (over 5,000 vaccines anticipated) will be held March 25-26, 2023
3. Animal Defense League vaccination clinics are doing well
4. Big Fix event will be held in District 3 on April 15, 2023

V. Consent Agenda:

1. Approval of the Minutes from the ACS Advisory Board Meeting on November 17,

2022.

2. Approval of the ACS Advisory Board Statistical Reports for December 2022
3. Approval of the ACS Advisory Board Contracts Performance Report
4. Approval of the ACS Advisory Board FY 2023 First Quarter Report
5. Approval of the ACS Advisory Board Facility Inspections
6. Approval of the Revised Fiscal Year 2023 Facility Inspection Schedule

Board Member Davis pulled item number 1, Approval of the Minutes from the ACS Advisory Board Meeting on November 17, 2022.

Motion: Board Member Moore moved to approve the Consent Agenda.
Board Member Garcia seconded the motion.

Vote: Ayes: Havill, Garcia, Braeutigam, Speer, Davis, Moore, Jarl,
Beldon, Scott

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Tohmaz

Action: **MOTION PASSED WITH 9 AYES, 0 NAY, 0 ABSTAIN, AND 1
ABSENT.**

VI. Items for Individual Consideration

Item 1 of the Consent Agenda, Minutes from the ACS Advisory Board Meeting on November 17, 2022, was pulled for individual discussion. Board Member Davis requested the amendment of the minutes to notate that Board Member Cox arrived late for the meeting and was not absent for its entirety.

Motion: Board Member Moore moved to approve the amendment to the Minutes from the ACS Advisory Board Meeting on November 17, 2022.
Board Member Cox seconded the motion.

Vote: Ayes: Havill, Garcia, Braeutigam, Speer, Davis, Moore, Jarl,
Beldon, Scott

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Tohmaz

Action: **MOTION PASSED WITH 9 AYES, 0 NAY, 0 ABSTAIN, AND 1
ABSENT.**

7. A Briefing on the Spay Neuter Network (Virtual).

Executive Director of the Spay Neuter Network (SNN), Jordan Craig, provided a virtual briefing and overview of SNN, their Mission and Vision, and Brackenridge Clinic timeline.

Jordan Craig and Board Members discussed availability of flyers and advertisement as well as overview of SNN transport program.

Jordan Craig and Board Members discussed the donation of towels/blankets/comforters and Craig stated they are accepting donations. Staff is onsite Tuesday through Friday from 8:00am-4:00pm.

8. A Briefing on the Development of the New ACS Strategic Plan.

Assistant to the Director, Shannon Oster-Gabrielson, started the briefing by providing the progression of the Strategic Plan up to current day. Director Sims continued the presentation and discussed the current feedback and development which included more staff input, individual City Council member meetings, and the current Focus Areas and Goals of the new Strategic Plan.

9. A Briefing on ACS Operations

Director Sims provided an update on new processes implemented to help with live release outcomes such as enhanced Return-to-Owner (RTO) efforts, neighborhood canvassing, and microchips.

VII. Public Comment

- a. Frances Ely of District 2 recommended having Petco grooming students work on ACS pets. She suggested using an emergency phone dedicated to Urgent List potential adopters. Ely suggested a volunteer program to help residents with lack of resources. Ely ended with the recommendation of having a large transport vehicle to take dogs North.
- b. Pam Gould of District 7 recommended more school district partnerships to help raise the standard level of care for pets as well as career day opportunities.
- c. John Atwood of District 6 discussed resources and spay & neuter. Atwood mentioned the frequency of dog fighting, dog breeding, and dog abandonment in San Antonio. He stated the Mayor needs to give more resources to ACS and that everyone should report issues and cast their votes.
- d. Robert DeLeon of District 6 discussed personal experience with the TNR Program. DeLeon stated he felt lost in figuring out what to do and the difficulties connecting with staff on the phone. DeLeon ended with the obstacles in scheduling appointments and getting cages.

- e. Emily Casso of District 3 discussed difficulties getting in touch with her Councilwoman. Casso continued with South-East side of town being a major dumping ground for pets. She stated the community is not learning despite resources to educate and that San Antonio needs to have a new plan.
- f. Maryanne Rivas of District 5 stated that the community needs to do something and stop blaming. She recommended fixing confusion, communications, and lack of info for fosters. Rivas said to fix policies, procedures, timeframes, misinformation, and not answer e-mails.
- g. Damon Jackson of District 6 gave speaking time to Jenna Loos.
- h. Amy Bagley gave speaking time to Vicki Steerman.
- i. Jenna Loos of District 10 stated she met with a group about banning horse carriages in San Antonio. Loos stated her personal experiences with rescue organizations seems like there is an ACS versus Rescue mentality, and that there needs to be more working together and better communication. She stated that there should be an open forum opportunity with the ACS Advisory Board. Loos recommended improvements to Do Not Adopt/Foster listing to help with animals returning to ACS. She addressed that SAPA! was no longer posting at risk pets. Loos ended with recommending more spay & neuter events and microchip events.
- j. Jen Brown of District 1 said to lead by example through fostering pets. Brown discussed doing Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) for dogs and existing dog TNR programs in Puerto Rico. She continued with recommending a contact phone line to report backyard breeders instead of calling 3-1-1. Brown recommended collaborations with Neighborhood Associations. She stated she hopes ACS takes a stance against horse carriages.
- k. Cecilia Garza asked questions about internships and recommended internships for students to work at ACS. She requested marketing on transportation options and asked questions about volunteers transporting pets to-and-from drop off sites. She recommended advertising on VIA buses, trans-guide, and at the Department of Motor Vehicles. Garza expressed concerns over RTO being the right option and asked about follow-up on RTO's where owners have repeat issues. She ended with barriers to fostering.
- l. John Bachman discussed spay & neuter to get to zero population growth and the need to do an initial survey. Bachman discussed the spay & neuter target numbers for ACS contracts. Bachman recommended putting more pressure on spay & neuter for dogs and less pressure on cats. He stated more high-volume spay & neuter options are needed. Bachman ended with a recommendation for an open forum meeting.
- m. Vicki Steerman of District 7 asked about a replacement for SAPA! Urgents and Adoptables List. Steerman discussed the dumping of pets and over-capacity issue

rescues. She discussed stray and roaming concerns as well as having more spay & neuter opportunities available. Steerman encouraged good pet ownership through power peers and stated that citizens need to get involved and show up to City Council meetings.

VIII. Determination of Next Meeting Date

Motion: Board Member Jarl moved to change the next Advisory Board meeting date from March 15, 2023 to March 22, 2023. Board Member Moore seconded the motion.

Vote: Ayes: Havill, Garcia, Braeutigam, Speer, Davis, Moore, Jarl, Beldon, Scott

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Tohmaz

Action: MOTION PASSED WITH 9 AYES, 0 NAY, 0 ABSTAIN, AND 1 ABSENT.

The next ACS Advisory Board meeting was scheduled for March 22, 2023.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

APPROVED

Rita Braeutigam, Chair
Animal Care Services Advisory Board
City of San Antonio