

**ANIMAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES**  
**October 5, 2017**

**Regular Session**

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Kavishti Kokaram, Chair

**Roll Call:**

Kavishti Kokaram, DVM  
Kathryn Burns, Modesto  
Ann Taylor, Patterson

Renee Rhoy, Ceres  
Nina Ellison, Stanislaus County

**Absent:**

**Unfilled Positions:**

Hughson and Waterford

**Staff in attendance:**

Annette Patton, Executive Director  
Patrice Dietrich, CEO's Office

Linda Ford, Confidential Asst.

**Dignitaries and Guests:**

**Meeting Minutes**

1. Public Comment – None
2. Approved the Minutes of August 3, 2017 (Burns/Rhoy 5/0).
3. Discussion of Education Opportunities:

A. Community Events to Promote Community Education - Augusta Farley provided a proposal on a Program for Pet Intervention that she and Monica Barker are interested in piloting with SASA. The program prevents shelter inflow by helping owners keep their pets at home. The program, utilizes grants and non-profit organizations to assist in rent assistance, fence repair, adding dog runs and housing for people with pets. This being a work in progress, we will be hearing more in the future.

B. Utilizing Adoption Events for Community Outreach - Volunteers are needed to work off-site adoption events while providing educational information.

Annette shared information regarding Best Friends Animal League and the grant they invited us to submit. Shelly, from Best Friends was here for two days and visited area colonies. She had praise for the Fox Grove colony, stating it is what

a colony should look like. She reported Tuolumne River Regional Park colony is in need of help. An additional 3,000 spay/neuter surgeries, per year, over a three year period, are needed to assist SASA in continuing to reduce their intake and euthanasia rates. Should SASA be awarded the grant, this program includes a vehicle, a cat coordinator, a trapper and community education. SASA will supply the spay/neuter surgeries and will utilize local veterinarians that are willing to participate.

Annette would like to get more information on a volunteer program for pre-weens run by Front Street Animal Shelter in Sacramento.

We have a need for volunteers to assist in Education opportunities because staff is maxed out on what/where we can participate. In October staff is committed to: The Wellness Fair, Community Hospice, Boot Barn expos, PetCo on weekends, Cultural Diversity and Patterson WAG, just to mention just a few. We had to postpone Dog is my Co-Pilot, now scheduled for November 1<sup>st</sup>, with the Modesto Bee present to do a story. Stanislaus Community magazine is also interested in a story on the Dog is my Co-Pilot program. This program, which began in July, sends close to 100 animals, each trip, to Idaho, Washington and Oregon, to find new homes. The day starts at 4:30 a.m. with staff and volunteers loading animals to take to the airport by 5:30 a.m. Facebook and Facebook Live helps market this program on both ends.

Offsite event volunteers are provided information for educational purposes. We will look into structuring some training based on program, and/or add some on-line training. Those willing to assist, or mentor volunteers, are welcome.

4. Discussion of Vets for Pets Program: Ann Taylor discussed Paws and Stripes and the fact that Palo Alto VA supports a shelter in Fremont. She plans to coordinate a site visit, with Kathryn Burns, at a later date. The program is an 18 month program for each veteran utilizing shelter dogs. Dr. Kokaram said there is a need for SASA to have a veteran support program, like VFW members as volunteers or discount adoptions, to get veterans to support these programs. SASA welcomes shared information from other counties or agencies and how their veteran programs started.
5. Discussion of Breed Labels: Annette shared that this was a big topic at the CEO Forum she recently attended in Southern California, and suggested we wait and see how it works for L.A. City Animal Services.
6. Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

**Next meeting: Thursday, November 2, 2017 at 6 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Stanislaus Animal Services Agency.**

Note: Those unable to attend, call Linda Ford at 209-342-1742