

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

Regular Meeting

Thursday

December 17, 2020

Members Present:

Tom Westbrook, City of Ceres, Chair
Jody Hayes, Stanislaus County - Absent
Joe Lopez, City of Modesto
Merry Mayhew, City of Hughson
Michael Pitcock, City of Waterford
Ken Irwin, City of Patterson, Co-Chair

Staff Present:

Annette Patton, Executive Director
Dennis Cordova, Operations Manager
Sweena Pannu, Deputy County Counsel

Jewel Warr, - Stanislaus Co. Alt
Adrienne Rios, Confidential
Monica Aleman, Business Mgr.

Guests and Dignitaries:

1. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman, Tom Westbrook.
2. **Roll call:** See above
3. **Public Comment:**

Michael Christian: Recommended changes to the shelter's complaint process with more oversight from the JPA Board. Mr. Christian requested to Board to form a special committee to audit and address the agency's complaint process. He also recommended increasing Board oversight in areas such as updating the JPA Bylaws, regular audits, community accessibility to public resources. Requested all agency forms and documents be made available in Spanish and have the capability to be submitted electronically.

Barb Hedberg: Discussed her letter sent to the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors and Animal Services' JPA Board regarding Turbo. Stated her concerns with the lack of agency accountability and necessary policy and procedure revisions when complaints involving management staff are submitted. Received a response from Annette on December 11, 2020, which allegedly did not address her questions and concerns. Ms. Hedberg will send a new letter and requested a response from the JPA Board.

Samantha Lopez: Follow up request for policy and procedure regarding the agency's color-coding system for animal intake. Shared photos and short video of a dog named Coco who was rescued from the shelter. Policy regarding large breed dogs and how they are supported to find placement. Rescue support team is needed for harder to place dogs.

Angela Garcia: Requested information on who receives and reviews complaints and where to send follow up requests. Ms. Garcia also requested to know if the agency plans to budget for an assessment team and the process for rescues to access dogs placed in 700 block of kennel runs. A dog named Dulce, A43111042, posted on the shelter's website is a good example of the critical need for proper behavior assessments.

Jane Gagnier: Developing assessment rehabilitation team for dogs that have the potential of rehabilitation.

Nadia Borisova: Discussed impact of new hours of dog assessment/evaluations. New Tuesday hours presents a challenge for volunteers who work during regular business hours and requested weekend hours. Requested agency prioritize and budget for an assessment team and re-evaluate animal intake color coding system. Automate the complaint submittal process.

Nancy Klein: Thanked shelter staff for disbursing donated Kuranda beds into kennels and recognized Rescue Coordinator, Jaime Heilman for her work with a few behavioral challenging dogs. Update on Taz, 14-year-old Rottweiler who was owner surrendered for euthanasia. Two rescues were interested in assisting the dog; however, was ultimately euthanized. Expressed concerns with recent change of hours for rescues to perform dog evaluations. Ms. Klein read a letter from, Katie Billiet, requesting to re-evaluate offering weekend hours for evaluations. Requested JPA Board meeting time is changed to 6 p.m. for public participation. Requested more detail in the daily kennel census report that includes intake and outcomes.

Claudia: Adopted a Pitty from the shelter that has a few injuries in which the allegedly the shelter did not disclose. Important to gain and disclose all pertinent animal information to potential adopters.

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting:

- A. Approved the Agency Board Meeting Minutes of November 19, 2020. (Modesto/Waterford; 6/0)

5. Correspondence: None received.

6. New Business:

- A. Approve and Adopt the Revised Bylaws, Delegating the Authority to the Executive Director to Make and Execute Contracts up to \$50,000. (Patterson/Modesto; 6/0).

7. Committee Reports: None

8. Informational:

- A. Operations update: Dennis provided an update on November's operational report. Specifically pointed to the shelter's 3-year increase on live release rates.
- B. Executive Director Report: Monthly summary report will be posted on the agency's website in the near future. Planning a rescue volunteer team meeting to take place in the beginning of January. Pandemic is impacting the shelter's ability to meet the community's need for services on Saturdays and several programs the shelter normally participates in are on hold. The shelter is in the process of improving the agency's phone tree to route calls more efficiently. Working on updating website with pet reclaim information both in English and in Spanish. Best Friends program is coming to an end and staff is working on transitioning program duties to shelter staff.

9. Member Referrals: None

Adjourned Regular Meeting at 10:04 a.m.

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