



**STANISLAUS COUNTY ANIMAL ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES
AUGUST 7, 2009**

Regular Session

The meeting was called to order at 12:05 p.m. by Dave Cerutti

Board Members Present

Dave Cerutti, Chair	Nancy Smith, Vice Chairperson	Augusta Farley
Marlene Wilson	Catalina Elsasser	Patricia Hitch
Frankie Bonifacio, DVM	Virginia Jordan	Andrea Lotz

Board Members Absent

None

Staff

Annette Patton – SCAS	Doris Foster – CEO’s Office
Mavis Williamson – SCAS	Deirdre McGrath – County Counsel
Linda Ford – SCAS	Supervisor DeMartini – County Board of Supervisors

I. Roll Call:

All present

II. Presentation:

Mary Whetstone presents a \$1000 check to Nicole Montroy from Alley Cat Guardians to be used for spay or neuter. In thanking Mary, Nicole mentions their new building at 1430 Carpenter Road Suite B in Modesto, which will be open soon. The telephone number remains 209-567-3570. All cats spayed or neutered will be ear tipped. The 2009 Furball Soiree will be held on Thursday October 8, 2009 from 7:00 until 10:00 p.m. at Gallo Center for the Arts. Proceeds assist in spay and neuter efforts.

Rick Blackwell from Merced Animal Control gave an overview of their new building. Rick says the old building was built in 1965 and was literally ready to fall apart. No more band aids were going to help. With a human population of 285,000 the new building was paid for with cigarette tax and general fund money. Most cities don’t contract. It took 18 months to build and they moved into the new building in May 2009. The building is 24,000 square feet and houses 150 dogs and 170 cats in single cages. Staffing has yet to change. However, disease control is much better with virtually zero kennel cough unless an animal comes in with it. Merced now does pre-screening for adoptions in hopes of finding the right home for the right animal. Adoption returns are down 60%. All rooms have natural lighting, wards are isolated, 12 air exchanges an hour, no common air. The building has been described as “Disneyland without the rides” so you can see it is a positive thing for staff, animals and visitors. Merced invited UC

Davis (experts in the field) to audit and give advise on what they are doing well and areas needing improvement. Dr. Kate Hurley heads up the program at UC Davis. Merced Animal Control rescues are coordinated by Trails of Happy Tails. Merced Animal Control's new address is: 2150 Shuttle Dr. Atwater, CA 95301

III. Public Comment

Norine discusses issues she is having with a barking dog in the City limits of Modesto. Norine is advised to speak with Modesto City Animal Control at the Modesto Police Department for assistance.

IV. Consent Calendar

Action – Approval of Minutes for July 2009 meeting: Marlene Wilson moved to approve the minutes with a correction on page 2, section V, and number A – Change Marlene to Marlana. Pat Hitch asks that page 1, item II – be clarified, Nancy Smith seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

V. Discussion/Action Calendar

A. Animal Advisory Board Goals – Catalina Elsasser addressed each goal for the Board to adopt that was recommended by the Ad-Hoc Committee. The focus of the goals is to have the Animal Advisory Board be most useful to the Board of Supervisors and Animal Services. Dave Cerutti says he sees the goals as guidelines. Frankie Bonifacio moves to adopt the goals as a living document. Nancy Smith seconded, motion passed unanimously.

B. Offsite Adoptions – Karen Mosser says offsite adoptions are a next step. Karen says she has visited a number of stores, the Mall, Save Mart, etc. and they have shown an interest in having offsite adoptions at their locations. Those interested would like a letter of proposal and information on liability before they commit. Karen believes Animal Services should take animals to festivals, street fairs, etc. including Gay Pride Day on September 19th from 8:00 until 11:00 at Graceda Park. Karen states the low cost spay/neuter clinic needs to address those that are truly low income.

Supervisor De Martini says he checked with CEO Robinson regarding Karen's request (to bring animals to the Board meetings) and CEO Robinson said yes. One dog and one cat may be showcased at the first Board of Supervisor meeting of the month beginning in September. Karen asks that Modesto Bee be there too, and Supervisor De Martini assures her he will talk to the Bee.

Annette Patton and/or Deirdre McGrath will check with Risk Management regarding liability issues for off site adoptions and will come back next month with more information. Those driving animals to off site adoptions will need to have a background check run through DMV. Details still need to be worked out.

VI. Committee Reports

- A. Update on the New Shelter** – Annette says Animal Services was the headline in the Modesto Bee last Wednesday after the Board of Supervisors approved the next steps for the new facility. Groundbreaking is scheduled for late fall/early winter 2009. Move in should be about a year later.

VII. Information Only -News and Updates –

- A.** Annette Patton says some of Animal Services Strategic Goals are: Continued E-payment which began in January 2009. Revenue from e-payment is a little low right now, but you can purchase your license or make a donation to Animal Services on-line. Senate Bill 250 was pushed to this month. This is the mandatory Spay/Neuter bill for all animals. A letter of support was sent for penalties to be charged to those that choose not to comply. Andy is working on an Education Program which is slated to get off the ground this fall. Canvassing has improved. Citations are given for non-compliance of the law. Marlene Wilson asks if Animal Services is doing anything for National Homeless Animals Day which is August 16th - Annette says it is too late this year, but maybe next year. Annette was asked to share information on SAVED. SAVED is the non-profit veterinarian group that bid on the low income spay/neuter clinic to be housed in the new shelter. The team is Dr. O'Brien and Dr. Brooks. Those that come to use the low income spay/neuter clinic will be required to prove low income status. The SAVED fee schedule includes low income/ultra low income/feral cat and rescue fees.

- B. Monthly statistics** – Mavis Williamson provides Animal Services statistical reports to all in attendance today.

VIII. Board Members Forum

- A.** Augusta Farley mentions there will be a lunch meeting next Friday at noon at La Morenita re: Rescue Seminars.
- B.** Marlene Wilson wants to know what to do about getting support from the City of Modesto regarding feral cat colonies. Dave Cerutti suggests she attend a City Council meeting and speak during public comment.
- C.** Dave Cerutti reminds all Animal Advisory Board members that it is important to show support for the new facility at the Board of Supervisor meetings. He was saddened to see only two of nine members at the last meeting. The meetings are held on Tuesdays and are posted on the County website.
- D.** Nancy Smith reminds everyone to come prepared to serve on some of the upcoming ad-hoc committees.

IX. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m.