

San José Animal Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes—July 5, 2007

Attendees: Judy Jones
Loree Levy
Marthina McClay
Janet Alexander Thompson
Trish Watson

Staff: Jon Cicirelli
Julie St. Gregory
Leslie Tisdale

Guest: Jamie Himmelstein

1. Public comment: Jamie Himmelstein attended the meeting to relay a story of her experience at the shelter. She rescued a Pekinese dog, matted, filthy and traumatized. After trying to find his family unsuccessfully, she contacted the Humane Society, who counseled her to call SJACS. She called and could not get through for some time, which was very frustrating. Finally, she was able to get through and filled out a found report via phone. Next she was told to leave a message for Kelly Trevillian because she mentioned that she does independent rescue.

Jamie's call to Kelly went unreturned. She went to the shelter a day later and got the dog scanned. He had no chip and was not neutered. At the shelter she was told there were no lost binders, just lost posters that people leave. She was able to talk to Kelly in person while at the shelter and was told that because she was not a 501c3 the shelter could not work with her in a rescue capacity. She felt very put off by the conversation and did not have a good feeling about leaving the dog, so left with it.

Jon stated that the shelter works with 40 – 45 nonprofit groups. It is SJACS policy to only work with nonprofits, and not the public for rescued animals.

Julie showed Jamie the Lost Dog Binder and explained how it is used.

Animals are considered legal “property.” SJACS does not have the capability to institute a ‘call before euthanasia’ as the Humane Society does at this time.

The group gave Jamie some tips on who she could contact to help get the dog rescued and rehomed.

2. May minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Shelter Director's Report

- Still looking for Shelter Operations Supervisor. Try one more recruitment. Mailing to shelter managers across state and humane associations. 5th recruitment.
- All Title 7 changes passed on June 19 and 26. Become effective August 1. Offsite adoptions are to be allowed. Only two dissenting votes by council. Oliverio and Cortese dissented. Owner/Guardian language is in.
- 4th of July: 77 dogs taken in from July 3 – 5. RTO: 43 as of today.
- The staff played harp music to soothe the dogs.
- Shelter Statistics:
 - 1913 animals, 1275 cats, fewer than last year. 4% less than 06. In May took in more cats than last year. Hopefully, the beginning of trend. Adoptions up. 293 in June. LRR: 74% dogs, 34% cats. Better than last year. LRR: 42% overall last year. Less euthanasia. Down 18% compared to last year. Overall LRR: 48% May? (First in six months). 867 cats euthanized. 45% euthanized for too young. 33% behavior, 8% URI. 485 dogs received, 66 puppies.
 - 56% of euthanized dogs for behavior.
 - Nancy Orr was hired as PT Recreation Leader.

4. What can ACC members do to help the operations of the shelter and director?

- Big part of project for past three years has been: feral cats, TNR, how we support, how we network to reduce populations.
- Value policy issues. What services should be offered? What is the shelter capable of? Need to find resources.
- What is valuable to public – to animal community? Start with basics, and build from blocks. Tricky process to manage.

5. Future Projects for AAC

- Sounding board/think tank. Discuss processes.
- How we disperse information, how we get the word out about the shelter.

6. Discussion of Frequency of meetings as reported in May minutes.

- Every other month – unanimous. 4 of 6 meetings per year must be attended by members.

Mission statement: To develop a humane community for the benefit of animals and people through service and education.

Next meeting Thursday, September 6, 2007.