

San Jose Animal Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 4, 2008
SJACS, 2750 Monterey Hwy, San Jose, CA 95111

Attendees: Trish Watson
Jerry Burge
Janet Alexander Thompson
Ann Wondolowski
Absent: Marthina McClay (ill)
SJACS Staff: Jon Cicirelli
Julie St. Gregory

1. Meeting called to order 5:20 pm
2. Minutes of the June 19, 2008 meeting approved
3. Public Comments: no members of the public in attendance
4. New Business
 - a. Chairperson Loree Levy-Schwartz notified the committee of her resignation from the Animal Advisory Committee; Vice Chair Patricia Watson has taken over as Chairperson. One member, Marthina McClay was absent due to illness. The Paws representative was not present; all other members Janet Alexander Thompson, Jerry Burge, Ann Wondolowski were present. The shelter director John Cicirelli was present as was shelter administrator Julie St. Gregory.
 - b. PAWS Report- The PAWS representative was not present at this meeting so no PAWS report
 - c. Shelter Director's Report:
 - i. The Shelter will be searching for a new shelter manager. The recently hired shelter manager did not work out. The job is in the process of being reposted.
 - ii. There has been a significant increase in shelter counts of dogs for the months of July and August. In July this year it is a new record. For July the numbers are 648 dogs, in August 601 dogs. Cat numbers are up, 1300 cats came in during July and August. Mr. Cicirelli pointed out that an uptick in dog strays in July is usual due to July 4 holiday but this year the numbers continued to be up after the holiday. Committee members inquired as to whether the bad economy and home foreclosures were affecting the numbers. Mr. Cicirelli felt that was a possibility but they had no way to track and correlate that data.
 - iii. Members inquired about the foreclosure surrender law in the works on the state level. Mr. Cicirelli explained the law would allow them to take custody of abandoned animals in foreclosed homes more easily but it had not yet passed and would not really affect the numbers of shelter intakes. Mr. Cicirelli and the members discussed the bad economy and noted that could be a factor in the numbers of strays and other numbers on the increase.

- iv. Adoptions are up 20%, Shelter surrenders are up 29%, Euthanasia up 14%. That number includes dogs, cats and other animals.
- v. Mr Cicirelli pointed out the shelter is still “dealing with “the rise of the Chihuahua”. The shelter staff is worried about the effect on the shelter intakes from the upcoming Chihuahua movie. The shelter has sent letters to both the movie company and the stars of the film asking that PSA’s be included with the film asking the public not rush out to obtain Chihuahuas. Committee members suggested with the ongoing Chihuahua population issues at the Shelter, perhaps the local television pages that advertise the shelter could mention the shelter has Chihuahuas and is a good place to obtain one. Julie St. Gregory said they would consider that option.

5. Old Business

- a. The committee discussed meeting frequency and whether to become an Ad hoc committee. Members had suggested before the start of the meeting whether to go completely Ad hoc or become a bi-annual meeting. The advantage of the bi-annual meeting would be that the committee could still receive and review the shelter director’s reports, and be prepared as a committee if shelter issues needed to be addressed. Another advantage would be the committee would be able to quickly arrange public meetings and discussions on any upcoming legislation for the city council that might require more formal reviews. Shelter Director Cicirelli felt that would dovetail nicely with the bi-annual report. He suggested he email the report to members in advance of the meetings so members could review and familiarize themselves with the report in case of questions. The committee agreed and motioned, seconded and approved the bi-annual meeting to meet one month after the report becomes available on the last Thursday of January and July. The reason for meeting at the end of January and July instead of December and June is to avoid schedule conflicts with the December and June/July holiday and vacation seasons. The next meetings will be held at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday Jan 29, 2009 and Thursday July 30, 2009.
- b. The chairperson noted that the 5:00 p.m. meeting time made it difficult for members to attend and start meetings on time. She asked the committee if the meeting time could be moved to 5:30 or 6:00 to allow members to get through traffic and start meetings on time. Most members felt 5:30 was a better time to start the meetings. Motion on the meeting time was made, seconded and passed. The new start time for the meetings will be 5:30 p.m.
- c. Meeting adjourned 6:30 pm.

Next meeting: Thursday, January 29, 2009, at 5:30 pm at the SJACS

Respectfully submitted, Patricia Watson, Committee Chair