

Monterey County Animal Advisory Board
Monterey County Animal Services Center
Meeting Date January 18, 2005 Time: 3:30 p.m.

MINUTES

Members Present: District 1 Tom Collier
District 3 Cookie Johnson
District 4 Darlene Drain
District 5 Susan O'Brien
Member-At-Large Barbara DeGrootd, Chair
Member-At-Large Tom Bailey
Member-At-Large Shirely Jorgenson

Members Absent: District 2 Joy Rosales
Member-At-Large Vacant

Ex-Officio Representatives Present:
Gary Tiscornia, SPCA of Monterey County
Lisa Hoefler, SPCA of Monterey County

Staff:
Kathy Prew, Director of Animal Services
Nancy Ratto, Supervising Animal Control Officer

The meeting of the Monterey County Animal Advisory Board was called to order at 3:30 p.m.

The minutes of the meeting of October 19, 2005 were reviewed and approved.

Darlene Wright was introduced to the Board as a visitor who is considering an appointment to fill a vacancy as a Member-At-Large.

Kathy Prew gave the Director's Report. She informed the Board that shortfalls in the Natividad Hospital budget have, once again, placed other county departments at risk for budget cuts in order to balance the County's budget. The CAO's office has asked all departments to prepare scenarios of reductions of 40% of Net County Cost. This is similar to the drastic budget cuts experienced two years ago, when Animal Services was cut by 5 staff positions. Of course, everyone is hopeful that other means will be found to make up for the approximate \$40 million Natividad Hospital deficit.

Monterey County hosted a Rabies Vaccination/Licensing/Microchip Clinic in the sally port of the Animal Services Center on November 18, 2005 from 11:00-3:00. It was well attended.

Many workshops and planning sessions are in progress surrounding the expected threat that avian flu will be spread worldwide and to the U.S. The greatest fear is that the virus, which has been transmitted from bird to human causing deaths in several Far Eastern countries, will mutate to be transferable from human to human. The world's health organizations have no vaccine, and are inadequately prepared to intensively treat the numbers of people that may be affected in a pandemic. As well as trying to plan for the general public, the Health Department is looking at options for employee coverage of the most vital positions, should large numbers of the work force become sick and incapacitated.

Barbara DeGrootd gave an update on Friends of County Animal Services (FoCAS), and the projects it is funding for the shelter. She also reported on the Coalition for Companion Animals (CCA), and the current focus on disaster planning; and the mutual aid types of services the animal agencies in Monterey County could provide the public in case of disaster.

A revised Animal Services Fee Schedule was approved by the Board of Supervisors in December, 2005, and is currently in effect. Copies were made available to all Board members.

Kathy Prew informed the Board about a new bill that has become law in the State of California (SB 914), which makes it illegal to sell puppies under eight weeks of age. Punishment is an infraction or misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to \$250.

A discussion was held about a proposal to place into language in Title 8 the requirement for mandatory spay or neuter after the third impound. Currently, the mandatory alter is mentioned only in the fee schedule, but needs to be added in the text of the ordinance to be considered enforceable. The Board supported that plan, and Kathy Prew will draft some tentative language for consideration at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting is scheduled for April 19, 2006.