

Monterey County Animal Advisory Board

Monterey County Animal Services Center

Meeting Date: April 21, 2010 Time: 3:30 p.m.

MINUTES

Members Present:

District 3	Basil Smith
District 4	Darlene Drain
District 5	Susan O'Brien
Member-At-Large	Barbara DeGroot, Chair
Member-At-Large	Beth Winters

Members Absent:

District 1	Tom Collier
District 2	Joy Rosales
Member-At-Large	Shirely Jorgensen
Member-At-Large	Tom Bailey

Ex-Officio Representatives Present:

Lisa Hoefler, SPCA of Monterey County

Staff:

Kathy Prew, Director of Animal Services

Nancy Ratto, Animal Services Supervisor

The minutes of the meeting of January 27, 2010 were reviewed and approved.

Beth Winters reported on the second South County Spay/Neuter Clinic, which was held March 16-19, 2010 at Lockwood Community Center. It was a resounding success, staffed by 6 employees of the HSUS Veterinary Medical Association and students from veterinary programs throughout the country who volunteered for the training and school credit for performing the surgeries. Approximately 140 animals were altered, received vaccinations and microchips, and dogs were licensed by Monterey County Animal Services. Beth and Kathy and local residents fed the staff and volunteers.

Kathy Prew described the Internship Program through the County of Monterey. Kathy discussed a new intern, Melissa Wolf, who has started working at Animal Services as an unpaid Education Intern, although her personal emphasis is on humane education. She is meeting with the SPCA Educator and Lisa Hoefler to see what collaborative efforts can be made with the SPCA's humane education program.

Kathy also told the miraculous story of Gabe, the blind and deaf Australian Shepherd mix, which had been picked up as a stray from Castroville. Through the efforts of local rescue groups, Gabe was accepted and transferred to a specialized rescue group in Montana, Rolling Dog Ranch, where he was successfully treated for cancer. Gabe was featured on the front page of their spring newsletter, which Kathy showed the Board.

Stacy Saetta, County Counsel attorney for Animal Services, has promised the Board that she will be devoting time to the proposed Title 8 changes.

Barbara De Groot mentioned that the Watsonville shelter is proposing cutting hours to the public, with a 5-10% cut in services. The City Council is also proposing that felons may not own dogs weighing more than 20 pounds, and fines for those exceeding the weight.

Kathy stated that many rumors abound on budget cuts that might occur at the beginning of the next fiscal year, beginning July 1st. She stated that it is nearly assured that Animal Services will lose staff during this budget cutting process. Kathy stated that she may ask members of the Advisory Board to speak before the Board of Supervisors during budget

hearings, to try to help save Animal Services positions. Advisory Board members discussed possible approaches to take within the community and with the Board of Supervisors to present arguments in Animal Services favor during the budget processes.

Also, Kathy reported on a court case that in Contra Costa County which resulted in a ruling from the California Court of Appeals that neither Saturdays may not be considered as a business day, when counting stray hold days for animals in shelters. Therefore, neither Saturdays, Sundays nor holidays can be counted as stray days. Animal Services has started implementing this opinion, as has the City of Salinas. However, Kathy said that she feared that it will result in overcrowding and increased euthanasias in shelters.

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting is scheduled for July 15, 2010.