The meeting of the Monterey County Animal Advisory Board was called to order at 3:30 p.m. The minutes of the meeting of January 19, 2005 were reviewed. The minutes were approved.

Kathy Prew reported that two animal control officers have been hired, and two hired as animal care technicians. The division is recruiting for both a veterinarian and registered vet tech, also. Also, the second Pawsitive Focas program has been filmed for public access TV on the subject of Spaying or Neutering Your Pet.

Barbara DeGroodt reported that the Citation Diversion class, which has been operational since October, 2003, has had 227 attendees, and has generated over $11,000 for the shelter budget. Recidivism has been 4% for attendees, and feedback from participants has been very favorable.

County Counsel has advised that the Advisory Board’s recommendations for changes to Title 8 have been reviewed, but need to be checked against the State Code to determine whether they are lawful. So, once checked, they will put them into ordinance format before presentation to the Board of Supervisors.

A local trainer for Guide Dogs for the Blind has asked that the Board consider their proposal to have their training dog’s licensed at a reduced fee or have the fee waived completely. The agency does not alter the dogs until after the training is completed, and the trainers believe that paying the unlicensed fee is too steep an expectation for them to pay out of their pocket. The policy of the club is that trainers are expected to license the dogs within the jurisdiction in which they live. Discussion centered around the fact that many other service agencies would also expect and deserve similar consideration for fees. The Board reiterated that fees pay for animal services in the community, which would also include a dog in training, if it should become lost. At this time, he Board decided not to make a recommendation for change of fees for trainers for Guide Dogs for the Blind.

The Board reviewed the purpose of the Advisory Board in the By-Laws, and the new San Francisco ordinance legislating appropriate shelter, nutrition, exercise, etc.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be held the 3rd Wednesday of October, July 2005.