

PORTERVILLE ANIMAL CONTROL COMMISSION
May 13, 2019
Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 6:04 p.m.

Pledge of allegiance led by Lt. Josh Maniss

Roll Call:

Present: Chair Florenza Pizanis, Kathy Guinn, Jerry Hall, and Valerie Simonich.
Absent: None

Oral Communications:

No one came forward.

Reports:

Shelter stats for February, March, and April 2019. Jerry Hall noted that no animals escaped in the month of April. Chair Pizanis commended Community Service Officer Ryan Smalling for receiving City of Porterville's Employee of the Month. Valerie Smoinich said that she noticed a large population of stray cats at Veteran's Park. She asked where cats are picked up as part of the Trap-Neuter-Release program. Lt. Maniss said that the TNR program serves within the Porterville city limits. Mr. Hall asked when repairs will be made to the animal control truck unit that has rusted and aged. Lt. Maniss said that he is currently seeking quotes for cost-effective repairs. Kathy Guinn suggested that the commission reach out to animal control supervisor Augie Gonzalez about his contacts with the Walmart Distribution Center so a meeting could be set up to thank them and discuss future possibilities regarding donations. Mr. Hall said expressing appreciation to Walmart in the local newspaper may encourage others in the community to donate to the animal shelter. Ms. Guinn noted that between March and April the number of euthanized dogs decreased whereas the number of euthanized cats increased. She suggested that the shelter stats include a more detailed breakdown of why the animal was euthanized such as sick, injured, or other. Lt. Maniss said it would not be feasible to include in the end of month report. Chair Pizanis asked why there were fewer adoptions yet a higher dollar amount collected from adoptions throughout March and April. Lt. Maniss said that adoption fees may include spay and neuter, vaccines, and microchip costs.

Oral Communications from Public:

No one came forward.

Scheduled Matters

There were no scheduled matters.

Other Matters:

Ms. Simonich said that there would be more compliance if dog licensing applications were available online. Chair Pizanis said that the ability to pay licensing fees online would also be beneficial. Ms. Guinn praised the hard work and dedication of animal control

supervisor Augie Gonzalez as well as all the staff at animal control. She stated that she had witnessed firsthand the level of care and compassion of staff members within Porterville. Chair Pizanis welcomed Ms. Guinn to the commission and expressed her gratitude to have Ms. Guinn's many years of experience as an animal advocate. Chair Pizanis said that the title "Animal Control" can invoke a negative image of the dog catcher to those in the community. She proposed that a name change from animal control to something more inviting may encourage community morale. Mr. Hall said that it is not unreasonable for animal control to invoke a sense of authority and a name change will not guarantee a change in perception from the community. Ms. Simonich proposed a discussion on what the commission would like to report at the city council meetings each month. Mr. Hall suggested the commission include some of the positive stats from the month to encourage more trust and involvement from the community. Chair Pizanis said that upcoming adoption events should be included. Ms. Simonich wanted to highlight the number of adoptions from the month. The commission agreed on including adoption statistics, upcoming adoption events, praise for animal control staff, and any updates on the new animal shelter building on future powerpoints to be presented at city council meetings.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Tessa St Clair



Florenza Pizanis, Chair

