

**CITY OF PETALUMA  
ANIMAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES**

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**WEDNESDAY, January 7, 2009  
Petaluma Animal Shelter  
840 Hopper Street, Petaluma, CA 94952**

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**Committee Members:** John Cerini (Chair), Tim Christensen, Grant Garl, Eileen Hallock, Pamela Morris, June Gerron, Barbara Van Gennep, Jonathon Long, Jack Eliot, Jr.

**Councilmember Liaison:** None at this time

**Staff:** Nancee Tavares, Animal Services Manager

**Absent:** Nancy Manchester, Kathy Sousa

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- I. **Call to Order/Roll Call:** @ approximately 7:05 PM by John Cernini.
- II. **Approval of Draft Minutes:** Approved.
- III. **Public Comment (For items not on the agenda):** None. No public was present.
- IV. **Committee Comment:** \* As she lost her bid for reelection, Samantha Frietas is no longer our Council Liaison. A new one will be appointed at the Council Meeting in February after the newly elected Council members are sworn in. \* Committee Member Jack Eliot has a new phone number: 707-484-0187.
- V. **Shelter Report:** \* The last two dogs, a pair of Chihuahuas, were adopted from the shelter today. There are now no dogs up for adoption! We have offered to take some from Lake County if they have an overflow but so far there has been no response. There have been a lot of dog adoptions lately, which is very good. There are a few dogs in the wings being treated medically or temperament tested, mostly puppies. As of today, the Shelter has 4 dogs, 38 domestic cats, 3 feral cats, 9 rabbits, and 3 rats. 3 dogs and 7 cats are in foster homes. \* A large number of the domestic cats have upper respiratory infections, which is very time consuming due to the need for more frequent cage cleaning and dispensing of medication. \* Rabbits are rarely adopted out; most go to Rabbit Rescue. They may take two of our current ones. We no longer donate rabbits, or any pets, to schools as they usually end up back in the shelter at the end of the school year. \* Nancee introduced a new dog, Duffy; he is a 16 year old mixed breed whose owner is suffering from terminal cancer and could no longer care for him. He had to be shaved due to coat neglect, but has been well fed. He has hearing and vision loss, probably due to age, and much dental work that needs to be done. He is being put on eye medications for lack of tears. Nancee is going to contact the Argus Courier about possibly publishing Duffy's story, both to encourage adoptions and donations for his care. \* The Shelter had a ½ price adoption sale for cats in December, which resulted in a number of adoptions. \* Boulevard Theatre donated movie tickets to anyone adopting cats in December and plans to donate the same for dogs in January. \* Nancee and Pamela will be at the Theatre Saturday January 17<sup>th</sup> with adoption photos to promote the adoption donation and to sell raffle tickets for the Ireland trip. \* Nancee's supervisor is hoping to have the feral cat part of the City Code changes on Council Agenda for approval in February. \* It was noted that the 1<sup>st</sup> year cost for starting up a feral cat sanctuary on donated land is approximately \$440,000. Most other feral cat colonies researched are on donated land. The City of Petaluma does not have any land to donate at this time. The annual budget for the entire Shelter is \$661,000. The feral cat advocates have

made it clear that they would like the Shelter and the City to provide funding and do the work; they will not be forming a non-profit or doing the fundraising for a shelter themselves. A review of past cases indicates that most people do not want feral cats back on their property, even after being neutered and given shots. \* It was noted that across the street from Dempsey's on the bank of the Petaluma River there is a large feral cat population. Forgotten Felines is currently working with the Shelter on this colony to provide services for them. \* It was also noted that Kenilworth School has a colony that has not been reported. Eileen will get the address and give it to Nancee for investigation and service.

- VI. **New Education Program:** \* Donna Forst, MA, recently moved here from Hawaii, and has already established an excellent educational program for both grades K – 5 and 6 – 8. She met with Nancee and shared the brochures and curriculum program she had taught in Hawaii and is currently promoting in Marin County. She has volunteered to start and run a highly sophisticated educational outreach program on animal care for Petaluma Schools. She is working towards having it meet the State Educational Curriculum. We will be sending out a letter to the Petaluma schools advertising the program and asking if they would like to participate. Tim has three dogs certified as Canine Good Citizens and he has volunteered to accompany Ms. Forst. In addition to the K – 5 and 6 – 8 curriculum, Ms. Forst also teaches scout troops, and may branch out into high school over the summer. She came highly recommended with a number of letters of praising her work. This is very good for Animal Services and Petaluma school children; it is not just a lecture series, but includes games, T-shirts, and prizes. This is an excellent gift to the City and its children. The Committee would like a copy of all the documents for review. We will keep our Educational Subcommittee intact but focus the resources on supporting Ms. Forst's work. She has not worked with bi-lingual students, which are the majority in Petaluma schools, but most schools have interpreters or bilingual teachers already in place.
- VII. **Subcommittee Reports:** Events: We have sold 109 raffle tickets for the trip to Ireland so far. Last year we sold over 600 tickets for the Greece trip, mostly over the holidays, so it appears sales may be considerably lagging. To clarify, the prize provides roundtrip airfare from SF to NY to Ireland, shuttles from airports to hotels and for all sightseeing trips, a full Irish breakfast every morning (6), two three course dinners and a farewell dinner, any fees for sightseeing trips and visits. There are 9 meals total, the winner will need to pay for lunches, 3 dinners, and meals eaten in transit from Sonoma County to Ireland. Everything else is already booked and paid for. The winner can upgrade hotels or flights, or go somewhere altogether different if they want, as the prize is basically a travel voucher for approximately \$4,000. They have a year to redeem the package. Right now the date for the drawing will be Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup> at the City Council meeting and the ticket will be picked by the Mayor Torliatt. The drawing will be televised and advertised. We need to focus on selling tickets; if at the February meeting we have not increased sales substantially we may need to extend the drawing date. \* Ideas for places to sell tickets include Rocky Dog Park, Petaluma Market, PetCo, Petfood Express, and the Cinema Theatres. Tim will check with Petaluma Market and June will check with PetCo. There will be an Adoption Day at PetFood Express on Saturday, January 24<sup>th</sup>. We will have tables at the Boulevard Theatre from 11:00 – 5 on Saturday, January 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> as well. Pamela will take volunteers and give them to John, who will create a schedule and email it to everyone. Rivertown Feed has said we can have a table there any time; Eileen will work there. Rivertown Feed has vaccine clinics on regular times and local pet owners are there then; it may be good to coordinate with those events. \* The Chamber of Commerce has an events calendar; we could time our sales with some on going events. These do not necessarily attract local people, but many events are geared towards pet owners. \* Nancee will take out an ad in the Marin Independent Journal, as this was very successful last year. Grant suggested the Press Democrat's website. They have a travel section and a pet section that might be good to advertise on. Barbara knows someone that does graphic ads and may be able to have one done for free. \* Nancee has a table, a banner and a board for the ticket sales and can print up more of everything as needed. Please let her know by Thursday for a weekend date so she can have everything ready for a Friday or Saturday pick up. Nancee can also have items dropped off at the location. \* Pamela and Tim will work at Rocky Dog Park. \* Other ideas are email lists and spouse's place of work. \* If people do not have cash or checks, the shelter can take credit cards over the phone and mail

the ticket stub. \* Remind people that the ticket price is tax deductible. \* Other Fundraising Subcommittee items: Jonathon needs to step down as Fundraising Committee Chair and this position is open. He will stay on the Subcommittee; we will vote a new Chair at the next Subcommittee meeting. \* Grant and Jon are talking about ways for people to include Animal Services in their estate planning. There is a new article in Animal Shelter Magazine about this that Nancee will send to both of them. \* The next Fundraising Subcommittee meeting will be 5:30 on Friday, January 16<sup>th</sup> at Grant's (Fit N Furry). \* Events: There was nothing to report. This subcommittee will touch base by phone as people have conflicting schedules. \* Education: There was nothing to report. This Subcommittee will stay together until it's transitioned to Ms. Forst. \* It was noted again the Legislative Subcommittee has been disbanded as its work was completed.

VIII. **Future Agenda Items:** \* Nancee will invite the Education volunteer, Donna Forst, the next Committee meeting. \* Nancee would like to have members come and see the day to day operations and help out. \* Ideas for rabbit adoption.

IX. **Adjourn:** @ approximately 8:10 PM.



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