



# TULARE COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

**THURSDAY, OCT 8, 2020  
ZOOM MEETING**

<b>Meeting Called to Order:</b>	1:05 pm by Kim Gisler
---------------------------------	-----------------------

<b>ATTENDANCE</b>
-------------------

<b>PRESENT:</b> Amy Shuklian, BJ Motko, Bridgette Davis, Damaris Menchaca, Donna Grigsby, Ivy Ruiz, Donna Sims, Kim Gisler, Laurie Eberle, Mary Dieterle, Oma Mansfield, Patrick Hamblin
--

<b>ALTERNATES PRESENT:</b>
----------------------------

<b>EXCUSED ABSENCE:</b>
-------------------------

<b>UNEXCUSED ABSENCE:</b> Augie Gonzalez, Bonnie Heasley
--

<b>GUESTS PRESENT:</b> Mary Jungwirth, Cassie Heffington, Marit Erickson
--

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>AGENDA /</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>DISCUSSION: Approve the minutes for September 10, 2020</b>
--

<b>Discussion:</b> None
-------------------------

<b>Motion:</b>	<b>Approve the minutes of the Advisory Committee meeting of September 10, 2020</b>
----------------	--

<b>1<sup>st</sup>:</b>	Patrick Hamblin	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> :</b>	Laurie Eberle
------------------------	-----------------	-------------------------	---------------

<b>Vote</b>	<b>Yes:</b>	Unanimous	<b>No:</b>	
-------------	-------------	-----------	------------	--

<b>PUBLIC COMMENT</b>
-----------------------

None
------

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>AGENDA /</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>DISCUSSION ITEM: New Business</b>
---

**Disposal of Animals:** Damaris talked about her experiences in the Cutler/Orosi area. In her area, there is no local disposal of animals. Pretty common out there. Any suggestions? Resources? Maybe you can educate people to proper alternatives. Pena's does not receive dead dogs. Only option is to take the animal to the county and some people do not have the resources to do that. Cassie said if they are on the roadway, RMA does pick up in the road. Animal Services is not allowed to put dead animals with live animals on their trucks because the live animals would be able to smell the dead animals. Will be working with the Ag Commissioners office to pick up large animal carcasses as well. People dump couches also. Working on potential solutions. Can only control what her officers can and can't do. Animal Services does not have a state or local mandate or ordinance that deals with deceased animals. It only demands that they deal with live ones. So those are our priority calls. Agree that it is a problem that needs a solution. Kim thinks that a lot of times it is easier for people to just dump them on the side of the road instead of driving them somewhere. Had a cow and calf dumped this weekend. Luckily, it was across the street from the ranch and was on the road. The road yard came and picked the animals up. Bakers will pick up cow carcasses. They won't pick up anything else. No horses. Donna G asked who did it before. Did anyone ever pick them up? Bakers used to pick up all kinds of dead animals.

Road yard in Tulare County. Water board issues with burying them. Emergency order right now. Have people check with the Water board agency to bury on the side of the road. Road department is supposed to pick them up and bring them to the shelter for disposal. Cal Trans does the same on the highways. Damaris asked about the cost for the owner to bring in. Cassie said \$20. No charge for strays. Education to let people know of alternatives. Would probably come under education. How to spread this information out to people. Cassie said people come from the cities and dump in the county. Laurie asked about a future committee. Make a public announcement? Infomercial? Donna G said after COVID maybe a town hall meeting. Damaris goes to the local community meetings. She can take info there. Any penalty for dumping animals? Have to be caught in the act. Sheriff office citable offense.



# TULARE COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

AGENDA /  DISCUSSION ITEM: **Update from Animal Services**

Cassie talked about evacuation orders in the Three Rivers and Springville areas. Animal control officers were working with Cal Fire to shelter animals in place. Used Porterville Fairgrounds and Woodlake Rodeo for large animals. Shelter for dogs, cats, chickens and one tortoise. Rescues pulled most animals. At one point at the peak of our operation, we had 280 animals spread between the three locations with our staff working 12-14 hour days. Seven days a week for about three weeks time during this period. Our staff was absolute rock stars during this whole thing. Our officers went up into the hills into the fray without a question and worked with Cal Fire very well. She feels that their communication with other agencies was excellent. They received several donations from some of the owners, whose animals we housed, which of course they did not ask for, but they were very pleased with our services and with what we did with those evacuations on short notice. This was her first fire and the first time Tulare County ever had done something of this magnitude. She is very pleased with their staff and everything they did.

Board Agenda Item for Oct. 27th for the proposal for the spay/neuter clinic. They have been working hard on that as well. This will be a huge game changer. Not only with our ability to care for animals at the shelter, but also our ability to care for the animals out in the community and to provide services that are going to make a lasting impact. If we are able to provide some low cost services and some vaccinations, these basic things will save animal lives. Spay and neuter services will allow for less animals roaming the streets looking of partners. This is the next step and what we need to do to be able to provide for the community, what we need to make lasting problem solving efforts. We've been doing the same catch and shelter model for 100 years and it does not work. This is the next step. Getting out into the community and using this as an education tool and providing people with the ability to fix their pet. Make appointments and get grants. Can pick them up and bring them back. That is the future of what she sees us doing. Low cost cat rabies, vaccinations and licensing. Get rabies vaccination and then walk across the parking lot and get your license.

Patrick said one of the biggest challenges that he has seen Animal Services face over the course of this pandemic is the fact that people are unable to get rabies vaccinations and are unable to complete the licensing which then triggers a whole public health issue in of itself. Animals running around with the fires and wildlife that is coming down to seek shelter, which then could carry rabies. He is looking forward to getting this agenda item before the Board and moving forward with this.

Cassie spoke to the donor earlier this week and she has been absolutely amazing. She believes in us and what we are doing. She is putting \$200,000 on the line for this. She is very much on board and she has never met us in person. It is awesome that she is still on board. Kim mentioned that at the last meeting Cassie had talked about the award they were given from Best Friends and being the only one in California. Was that put out to the public anywhere or shared? Supervisor Shuklian mentioned this at the last Board meeting. Will do a write up through HHSA. Had every intention of doing that and then the SQF Complex took place. Their intent is to put it out when they go to the Board to accept the donation of the spay/neuter building and approve the new veterinary job description and the fees. Trying to pull it all together. Their goal was to have this done in September. But with the pandemic things got delayed and then in October, the fire. Have every intent to put out a press release.

AGENDA /  DISCUSSION ITEM AND POSSIBLE ACTION: **Update from Ad-Hoc Committees**

**Education and Outreach:** None

**Volunteer:** None

**Membership:** Met yesterday. Discussed applicants. One is a current staff member of Animals Services and is disqualified. Because when they initially formed the advisory committee, they were not allowed as employees of Animal Services to apply for or be a part of the committee when you are actively

## TULARE COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

working there. That was an internal policy. And then another individual submitted an application that had really no information and they just simply said they were looking for a job in the Animal Services field. Looked at those who submitted very robust applications. For District 1 they recommend Tricia Stever Battler who is the executive director of the Farm Bureau. She was very active overseeing the Woodlake operation. She has been a long time supporter and has a huge background. Two are At Large positions and have three applicants, each with strong and very unique qualifications of their own or backgrounds. Michael Cortez, Kathy Guinn and Michelle Hart. Recommend to submit these 4 names – 1 for District 1 and the other 3 for the 2 At Large vacancies. Kim asked if they have to vote on this. Patrick said that is a Marit question. He doesn't believe they do since they were formed as a committee. Marit will look at the bylaws. Donna G said they had six applications and were submitting four. Marit said the recommendations go straight to the Board. Ad hoc committees are temporary. Recommend disbanding if no longer needed.

**New Committees:** None

AGENDA /  DISCUSSION ITEM AND POSSIBLE ACTION: **Approval of Committee Alternates**

**Discussion:** None

AGENDA /  DISCUSSION ITEM: **Announcements and Correspondence**

**Discussion:** Amy said that staff is as good as their leader. This is the first time they have ever had to do such a large scale evacuation. She wants to thank Cassie and Patrick and everybody for their leadership in order so that staff could do what they need to do. She is working on initiating a pet of the week at our Board member meetings. Might not be every week starting off. Have Cassie or her great staff bring in an animal, a puppy or a kitten she can show off. No horses yet. Potbelly pigs are possible. Mini donkey maybe. Tricia from the Farm Bureau worked every day and the Woodlake Lions Club. Ran Woodlake mostly on their own. Recognition at a Board meeting. Patrick and Cassie are working on a list. People with trucks and trailers. Will try and do a recognition at the Board of Supervisors. Amy said that these people are doing the same thing at the Creek Fire. Several comments from people who helped. Others said we were the most organized and best set up. Everyone was complimentary. Pleased with the care that their animals were receiving. Board meetings are audio streamed and are working on video. People can call in to make a comment.

AGENDA /  DISCUSSION ITEM: **Additional Member Comments**

**Discussion:** Damaris got a kitten fixed through Animal Services and another two with the Visalia Feral Cat Coalition. All of these resources really help out. Many feral cats in her neighborhood and she appreciates the help. Donna G sees people ask for prices to fix cats. At Simi Valley, all cats are \$40. Open Saturday too. Been pretty busy. The Visalia Feral Cat Coalition is \$30 with a voucher. Cassie said that Hope left a few appointments open each day for feral cats. Laurie said that their organization has 3 fosters who apply for the vouchers so they always have one ready when they trap. This gives them coverage all the time.

AGENDA /  DISCUSSION ITEM: **2021 Schedule of Meetings**

**Discussion:** Patrick made a recommendation to continue moving forward as they have been with every other month meeting.

**Motion:** *Continue with 2021 calendar with meetings every other month*

<b>1<sup>st</sup>:</b>	Patrick Hamblin	<b>2<sup>nd</sup>:</b>	Laurie Eberle
------------------------	-----------------	------------------------	---------------

<b>Vote</b>	<b>Yes:</b> Unanimous	<b>No:</b>	
-------------	-----------------------	------------	--

AGENDA /  DISCUSSION ITEM: **Suggestions for Future Agenda Items**

**Discussion:** Laurie mentioned closing down the ad hoc committees that are not being used.



## TULARE COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGENDA / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISCUSSION ITEM: Adjourn meeting			
<b>Motion:</b>	<i>Adjourn Meeting @ 1:47 pm by Kim Gisler</i>		
<b>1<sup>st</sup>:</b>	Laurie Eberle	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> :</b>	Patrick Hamblin
<b>Vote</b>	<b>Yes:</b> Unanimous	<b>No:</b>	