

San Francisco Animal Commission
Meeting Minutes
January 8, 2026

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Present: Chair Michael Angelo Torres; Vice Chair Irina Ozernoy; Commissioners: Mikaila Garfinkel; Michael Reed; Dayna Sherwood; Deputy Director Amy Corso, SF Animal Care and Control

Absent: Commissioner Nick Chapman; Department Representatives: Department Representatives: Natural Resources Manager Christopher Campbell, SF Recreation and Parks; Officer Greg Sutherland, SF Police Department; Dr. George Han, SF Department of Public Health

Note: There was a brief discussion regarding unexcused absences from commissioners.

2. General Public Comment

Two written public comments were shared prior to the meeting. One discussed the issue of lobsters being boiled alive for food and another discussed proposed Spay/Neuter legislation amendments.

A member of the public paid tribute to Claude, the recently deceased alligator at Academy of Sciences, and Bridgette Bardot for her animal advocacy.

A member of the public shared updates on the upcoming Sentience Futures Summit, which blends animal and AI advocacy communities; the Streamline Task Force Committee's new proposed name for the Commission could potentially be confused with SF ACC; NY Fashion Week and Poland recent stances against fur; and new reports show the decline of bird populations in the Bay Area.

3. Approval of draft minutes from the October 2025 and November 2025 meetings [Discussion/Action Item]

Meeting minutes approved.

4. Chairperson and Commissioner reports

Commissioner Torres discussed the Streamlining Task Force Committee's Commission name change recommendation.

Commissioner Garfinkel shared that she recently saw a poison rat bait box in Golden Gate Park and inquired about setting up a call with city park officials. Commissioner Ozernoy expressed concern on the topic and shared that California may roll back regulations for anticoagulant rodenticides.

Public Comment

A member of the public suggested that the bait box could potentially host a snap trap.

5. New Business

A. Animal Care & Control Proposed Spay/Neuter Legislation [Discussion/Action Item] [Commissioner Torres and Deputy Director Amy Corso]

Deputy Director Amy Corso gave a brief summary of the proposal, which requires the spay/neuter of dogs in San Francisco with multiple exemptions.

Commissioner Garfinkel inquired if Los Angeles experienced a measurable impact after implementing a similar ban; Corso confirmed that they had a 30% decrease in intake.

Commissioner Torres inquired about why it would not apply to cat populations. Corso shared that the biggest challenges at the SF ACC were volume of dog intake and that they were looking to propose an amendment that was likely to get passed.

Commissioner Reed asked about the enforcement tactics. Corso clarified that enforcement would be focused on complaints and if an animal comes into the shelter.

Commissioners voted unanimously on a letter of support for the legislation.

Public Comment

Two members of the public asked questions about the amendment, including what the potential backlash to the proposal could be.

6. Items to be included on the Agenda for Future Commission Meetings. The next meeting is Thursday, February 12th.

Commissioner Garfinkel revisited the proposal of having a discussion on the main issues to focus on for the year.

Commissioner Ozernoy suggested having Raptors Are The Solution or another expert group share updates on California rodenticide regulations.

Public Comment

A member of the public brought attention to an activist who is focused on rodeos and suggested it as a potential discussion topic.

8. Adjournment - 6:05 PM PT