

San Francisco Animal Commission
Meeting Minutes
March 12, 2026

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

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

Absent: Commissioner Mikaila Garfinkel; Department Representatives: Deputy Director Amy Corso, SF Animal Care and Control Department; Natural Resources Manager Christopher Campbell, SF Recreation and Parks; Officer Greg Sutherland, SF Police Department; Dr. George Han, SF Department of Public Health

2. General Public Comment

The Commission received two written public comments:

- One from a group of entomologists and public health professionals concerned about the Commission's recommendation to ban insect sticky traps.
- One from an individual concerned about the Commission's recommendation to ban insect sticky traps.

An in-person community member expressed disapproval of the entomologists who advocated against the glue trap ban.

3. Approval of draft minutes from the February 2026 meeting [Discussion/Action Item]

Meeting minutes approved.

4. Chairperson and Commissioner reports

Commissioner Torres shared that Nicholas Chapman's term on the Commission had expired by operation of law. The seat is now vacant. He also shared that the SF ACC's legislative changes to the spay and neuter policy will be heard by the Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee in April.

Public Comment

A member inquired about the city commissioner's requirements for missing meetings.

5. A. Rodenticides in California [Discussion Item] [Commissioner Ozernoy]

Dr. Rebecca Gooley, animal advocate and scientist, and Rebecca Dmytryk, CEO of Humane Wildlife Control, Inc., presented and discussed the impact of rodenticides on wildlife and current statewide legislation related to rodenticide use.

Key takeaways:

- Dr. Gooley introduced that there's a moratorium in California on usage of first and second generation anticoagulant rodenticides (ARs).
- One study revealed that 82% of bald eagles tested positive for 1 ARs, but necropsies showed only 4% died from internal bleeding. Sublethal exposure can still cause weakened immune system challenges and death.
- Dr. Gooley shared research on the impacts of sublethal exposure on wild foxes and red tail hawks, as well as in utero exposure in bobcats and mountain lions.
- Studies suggest that legislation has reduced exposure to secondary exposure to ARs. Simultaneously, rat complaints in multiple counties across California have not increased with the new restrictions on ARs. Data gathered from available counties and cities data.
- Dmytryk shared that the use of ARs is still prevalent and discussed ethical and more effective rodent control methods, such as exclusion.
 - She shared studies that reveal that continuous removal of wildlife can increase pathogens in those areas.
 - She discussed potential motivations of proponents of ARs.
 - Dmytryk also shared concerns around the use of contraceptives both in terms of impact and sustainability.
- Dmytryk advised Commissioners on how to report illegally and improperly labeled bait boxes. She also suggested that the Commission could run local surveys on reporting bait boxes.
- Commissioner Ozernoy shared personal experience that she believes a local strip mall is illegally using SGARs.
- Dr. Gooley, Dmytryk and Commissioners discussed potential opportunities to study the prevalence of rodenticides in cat populations.
- Commissioner Reed also brought up the impact of rodenticides on local parrot populations.
- Dr. Gooley and Dmytryk discussed the recent rollbacks of AR restrictions being introduced in California, which are expected to be determined this year.

Public Comment

A community member asked multiple questions to the panel, including the process and cost of rodenticide testing, the impact of ARs on human health, and legislation.

A community member brought up the concern of illegal dumping and inadequate trash cans in relation to rodent populations.

6. Items to be included on the Agenda for Future Commission Meetings. The next meeting is Thursday, April 9th.

Tentative discussion item on Commission strategies and focus areas.

Public Comment:

A community member expressed concern about the coyote population and mange and proposed this as an agenda item.

8. Adjournment - 6:45 PM PT