

DRAFT

San Francisco Animal Advisory Council Meeting Minutes July 9, 2026

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Present: Chair Michael Angelo Torres; Vice Chair Irina Ozernoy; Councilmembers: Mikaila Garfinkel; Michael Reed

Absent: Councilmember: Dayna Sherwood; Department Representatives: Deputy Director Amy Corso, SF Animal Care and Control; 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

A community member shared that they recently found a bird stuck in a glue trap ban, expressing deep concern and a request to discuss the proposed glue trap ban.

A community member shared concern about an alleged live animal market and frustration over the lack of attendance from Dr. George Han (SF Department of Public Health). She also discussed concerns about fireworks in San Francisco and requested a discussion of the Miranda Rescue case.

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

The council put this agenda item on hold for a later meeting.

4. Chairperson's and councilmembers' reports [Discussion Item]

Councilmember Ozernoy shared that the Potrero STEM festival was occurring that week and there would be a segment on animal education.

Councilmember Garfinkel also shared that Direct Action Everywhere was hosting a panel discussion with the whistleblower from the Miranda Rescue case.

5. New Business

A. Commission Streamlining Task Force Recommendations [Discussion Item]

Councilmember Torres gave a brief update on recent changes, including:

- Official name change to the Animal Advisory Council
- Moved under the Administrative Code (previously was under Public Health)
- Term limits of 6 terms
- Updated seat qualifications for seat 7 (previously a veterinarian-only seat)
- Annual reporting

He also shared an update on upcoming seat appointments.

Public Comment

A community member suggested broader communication around the name change.

6. Old Business

A. Council Issues Follow-up

Councilmember Torres provided some brief updates on issues around artificial turf at Crocker Amazon Park, giant pandas at the San Francisco Zoo, and the mandatory spay and neuter legislation.

Updates include:

Artificial Turf in Crocker Amazon Park

- Supervisor Chen has been receptive to meeting with constituents about artificial turf concerns
- Keep Crocker Real has engaged in outreach and is planning a future protest.
- Recommendation issued against the use of artificial turf by the SF Youth Commission
- SF Environmental Commission is looking into this issue

Councilmember Garfinkel inquired if we could send a second recommendation.

Mandatory Spay and Neuter

- Currently paused due to a request for further research
- There was an update in the legislation to hold breeders accountable; councilmember Torres wants to continue to look into these requirements.

Giant Pandas at the San Francisco Zoo

- So far, no timelines or specifics on the pandas at the SF Zoo or how they will provide long-lasting revenue.
- Councilmember Torres proposed inviting the SF Zoo and having them come and join a meeting for a discussion.
- Councilmember Garfinkel also suggested having Panda Voices join the conversation too.

Public Comment

A community member expressed frustration about the delay in the mandatory spay and neuter legislation.

7. Items to be put on the agenda for future council meetings (Discussion Item)

SF ACC will be sharing their quarterly report.

Councilmember Torres suggested discussing some of the items discussed earlier in this meeting.

Councilmember Garfinkel requested a brief discussion about the glue trap ban due to the public comment.

Public Comment

A community member urged Council department representatives, such as Greg Sutherland, to join these meetings.

8. Adjournment - 6:21 PM PT