

DRAFT

San Francisco Animal Commission Meeting Minutes April 10, 2025

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Present: Chair Michael Angelo Torres; Vice Chair Irina Ozernoy; Commissioners: Michael Reed; Jane Tobin; Mikaila Garfinkel

Absent: Dr. Brian Van Horn, DMV, Commissioner; Lisa Fagundes, Commissioner; Department Representatives: Deputy Director Amy Corso, SF Animal Care and Control; 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

2. General Public Comment

No public comments were provided.

3. Approval of the draft meeting minutes from March 2025

The minutes were approved with corrections.

4. Chairperson and Commissioner reports

No chairperson and commissioner reports were provided. No public comments were provided.

5. Old Business

A. The Case Against Glue Traps: Perspectives from WildCare's Wildlife Hospital [Discussion Item] [Commissioner Ozernoy]

Alison Hermance, Director of Communications and Marketing at Wildcare, and Jakob Shaw, Manager of Strategic Initiatives at People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), discussed the current problems with glue traps for rodent control and recent legislation in the United States that bans glue traps.

Hermance introduced Wildcare's initiatives and statistics, including that over 80% of patients are admitted due to negative human interaction. She detailed how glue traps use marketing tactics to lure consumers, but they are very inhumane to both rodents and non-target wildlife. At Wildcare, 49 species have been treated as glue trap victims.

Hermance showed the inhumane nature of the traps by describing how the animals die from suffocation or a slow death; she showed a video of a rat being removed from a glue trap to show how traumatic they are, as well as other examples of non-target wildlife in glue traps. Hermance also walked through existing glue trap bans across the globe.

Hermance suggested humane methods for rodent control, including eliminating food and using trap-and-release traps.

Shaw discussed how human behavior is often the problem for rodent control. He stated that PETA operates a 24-hour animal hotline, and each year they get calls around glue traps (including from those who set them out); it's a very broad problem.

Shaw explained the cruelty involved in glue traps and the importance of contacting representatives regarding the bans. He shared that both W. Hollywood and Ojai passed bans unanimously. There's also concerns with human health and environmental health when it comes to glue traps.

Commissioner Torres asked how long it takes to release a rodent from a glue trap and how often they treat glue trap victims; Hermance answered at least 30 minutes with multiple people in the example from her presentation. They assist glue trap victims at Wildcare approximately one time every few weeks.

Commissioner Torres asked about advice to HOAs for rodent control. Hermance said the biggest factor is closed garbage containers and ensuring the area is clean, as well as cleaning up shrubs and plants. Hermance also said that rodent contraceptives are anecdotally beneficial. Shaw added the importance of exclusion.

Commissioner Ozernoy added that Yggdrasil is doing a pilot with Wisdom Good Works rodent contraceptives and collecting data.

Commissioner Garfinkel shared that there should be a societal mind shift around being concerned around rodents outside of homes. She also explained her support of glue trap bans, but anxiety around increased usage of rat poison as a result. Shaw added that he thinks snap traps are going to be more of a go-to for consumers than rodenticides and that the state of California is doing effective work on this front.

Commissioner Garfinkel asked about exemption from glue trap bans, as there are many exemptions for rodenticide bans. Shaw answered that recent glue trap bans do not have exemptions.

Commissioner Torres asked if the glue trap bans extend to insect glue traps, such as roach hotels. Hermance answered that Wildcare receives animals caught on all types of glue traps and advocates for a universal ban.

Commissioner Tobin asked about the advocacy plan and success around retailers committing to not selling glue traps. Shaw shared that PETA performs outreach to retailers with some success but still encounters resistance from certain big retailers.

Public Comment:

A commenter inquired about if the Commission has a plan around alternatives to glue traps, and shared that San Francisco allegedly uses Contrapest.

A commenter shared that their landlord is using glue traps and that the traps are very accessible, which is likely part of their appeal.

The Commission and guests discussed the points from public comment.

B. Commission Governance [Discussion Item] [Commissioners Torres] The Commission discussed Proposition E, the upcoming appointment hearing before the Board of Supervisors' Rules Committee, and changes within the Commission.

Commissioner Torres shared an update from the committee behind Proposition E and that the hearing for Commission appointments is on April 21st at 10:00 a.m.

Commissioner Torres announced that Commissioners Van Horn, Tobin and Fagundes were not applying for reappointment. He thanked them for their contributions.

6. Items to be included on the Agenda for Future Commission Meetings. The next meeting is Thursday, May 8th.

No public comments were provided.

8. Adjournment - 7:10 PM PT