

DRAFT
San Francisco Animal Commission
Meeting Minutes
April 9, 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: 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

The Commission received 4 written comments: two comments expressed opposition to the upcoming spay & neuter legislation; a resident inquired about the lack of adoptable cats on the SF ACC website and expressed concern about cat euthanasia numbers; a community member expressed opposition for a glue trap ban.

A community member shared concerns around cat euthanasia under the SF Animal Care & Control.

A community member reminded the Commission that it was Earth Day that month.

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

Meeting minutes approved.

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

The SF ACC spay & neuter legislative changes will be heard by the Public Safety & Neighborhood Services Committee and Board of Supervisors in April. Commissioner Sherwood attended the meeting and shared that it may be delayed.

Commissioner Torres is hosting a screening of Dogspiracy at the Roxie Theater.

California Assemblymember Matt Haney introduced AB 2344, a bill to create the state's first public online Animal Abuse Registry. A hearing is being held in Sacramento in April.

Public Comment:

A community member was concerned that a leader from SF SPCA wasn't supporting the SF ACC in certain efforts; she also expressed support for spay and neuter legislation.

5. Commission Issues Follow-up [Discussion Item] [Commissioners Garfinkel and Torres]

The Commission items that were previously discussed or acted on issues: artificial grass at Crocker Amazon Park; mandatory spay and neuter legislation, giant pandas and the San

Francisco Zoo; and glue traps and rodenticides. The goal was to identify potential next steps and Commissioner interests and priorities.

Key updates discussed:

- **Glue trap ban:** the Commission receives written comments in support and in opposition of the ban. Several cities have enacted bans. No clear movement on the ban in San Francisco. Commissioner Reed suggested considering proposing an outside-only ban.
- **Rodenticide ban:** Commissioner Garfinkel suggested launching a media blitz highlighting the impact in San Francisco. Commissioner Ozernoy shared that there were many loopholes of the ban that made it feel ineffective.
- **Giant Pandas in the SF Zoo:** The zoo received an \$8.5M loan. Commissioner Torres highlighted the lack of accountability from the zoo. The giant pandas timeline is unclear. Commissioner Sherwood echoed the concerns around transparency and accountability while getting this loan. Commissioner Garfinkel felt the eco park suggestion to replace the zoo had too long of timeline.
- **Spay and neuter legislative changes:** Commissioner Sherwood shared that a recent meeting shared the legislative changes were on hold so that there could be additional research.
- **Artificial Turf at Crocker Amazon Park:** Commissioner Torres and Garfinkel discussed the Keep Crocker Real's outreach, media, and focus on public comment. Supervisor Chen of District 11 decided to host another community meeting on the topic due to the volume of public comment in opposition to the renovation plans.

Public Comment

A resident shared concern about how people view rodents negatively and that there are unmarked bait boxes.

A resident inquired about the potential to endorse candidates or general engagement with city decision makers and other commissions. She also suggested running Muni ads, pushing for speed limits on boats, and discussing avian flu.

6. A. Reporting from Animal Care & Control [Discussion/Action Item] [Commissioner Torres and Deputy Director Amy Corso]

Deputy Director Amy Corso shared that the SF ACC does some tracking of avian flu.

Key highlights from the January - March 2026 quarterly report and other updates:

- Updates on the volume of animals owners surrendered, euthanized, adopted, transferred and other actions.
- The successful relocation of the story of the mountain lion in San Francisco in collaboration with other city departments to safely relocate the animal
- Insights into investigations of animal cruelty and pursuit of criminal charges. There was a

- recent successful conviction in an animal cruelty case.
- The ACC team working on an out-of-state-transport to Idaho with volunteer pilots

Commissioner Torres requested information on the lack of available cats for adoption (as some community members brought up). Deputy Director Amy Corso shared the ACC often transfers animals to adoption partners due to capacity issues.

Commissioner Ozernoy inquired about custody cases that extend beyond the 14-day period. Deputy Director Amy Corso shared that the team tries to work with individuals as much as possible.

Public Comment

Two individuals 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 community member asked about the capacity for holding cats due to concerns around euthanasia.

A community member asked about the outcome of the dog in the recent animal cruelty case. The dogs were euthanized for behavior.

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

Commissioner Garfinkel proposed having an expert speak about ethical issues of selling animals in pet stores.

Public Comment

A community member discussed the potential lawsuit against the American Kennel Club from Peta.

A community member mentioned discussing primary candidates.

8. Adjournment - 6:58 PM PT