

DRAFT

San Francisco Animal Commission Meeting Minutes November 13, 2025

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

2. General Public Comment

One written comment inquired about bird sales in San Francisco pet shops.

A community member shared a tribute to Kit Kat (a cat that was killed by a Waymo); and shared information on rodent contraceptives and an article that discussed wolves and cattle ranchers.

3. Approval of the draft meeting minutes from October 2025

The meeting minutes will be voted on in the January 2025 meeting due to delay in getting a draft to commissioners.

4. Chairperson and Commissioner reports

Commissioner Ozernoy shared that Yggdrasil Wildlife Rescue, a San Francisco based organization, was hosting a local fundraiser. She also shared that Culver City passed a glue trap ban.

Public Comment

A community member expressed support for a trap ban.

5. Old Business

A. Proposition E and the Commission Streamlining Task Force [Discussion Item] [Commissioner Torres]

Commissioners briefed on the Commission Streamlining Task Force's unanimous vote to recommend keeping the Commission of Animal Control and Welfare. This was a reversal of their previous decision.

Summary of discussion:

- Over 160 public comments in support were provided prior to the meeting
- The Task Force made suggested changes to the Commission (such as moving the Commission under an administrative code, enacting term limits, renaming the commission, and revising certain requirements for Commissioner seats).

- Part of the Commission's power is providing a platform for the community to bring relevant animal issues to the forefront.

Public Comment:

- A community member shared how impressed they were with the public support and certain letters that were particularly powerful.
- A community member highlighted how people were mobilized for the Task Force hearing but would have loved to see more engagement for other issues (like the proposed glue trap ban).

B. Commission Governance [Discussion/Action Item] [Commissioner Torres]

The Commission unanimously voted on the following appointments:

Chair: Michael Angelos Torres

Vice Chair: Irina Ozernoy

Secretary: Mikaila Garfinkel

C. Reporting from Animal Care & Control [Discussion Item] [Commissioner Torres and Deputy Director Amy Corso]

Deputy Director Amy Corso shared the quarterly report. Key highlights and themes:

- The ACC remains at capacity; adoptions have decreased as intake has increased
- There was a cat that was brought to SF ACC that came all the way from Idaho and was reunited with their guardians.
- The ACC is pushing to amend the Health Code requirement for all dogs in San Francisco to be spayed and neutered. This would come with some exceptions, such as show dogs.
 - Commissioners discussed ways to support this Health Code change, such as voting on it in a future meeting.
- Currently there are no requirements for cats to be spayed and neutered.
- Commissioners inquired if during "clear the shelter months" or if after the holidays, there is an increase in intake. Corso shared she is not aware of any intake increases around this time.

Public Comment

Two community members expressed support for the health code change and shared a few follow-up questions.

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

Commissioner Torres requested an update on the Health Code requirement change discussed.

Commissioner Garfinkel suggested including an agenda item on 2026 planning and the key issues the Commission wants to focus on.

Public Comment

A community member shared support for this proposed agenda item as a public comment.

A community resident shared information about a conference around the AI and Animal Rights intersection and concerns around certain actions from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife department.

8. Adjournment - 6:37 PM PT