

DRAFT

San Francisco Animal Commission Meeting Minutes May 8, 2025

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Present: Chair Michael Angelo Torres; Vice Chair Irina Ozernoy; Commissioners: Mikaila Garfinkel; Michael Reed; Nick Chapman; Dayna Sherwood

Absent: 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

Commissioner Torres shared two written public comments that supported the Commission's work toward a glue trap ban.

A community member shared that San Francisco is in the process of updating its Climate Action Plan and proposed that the Commission provide recommendations regarding the inclusion of animal agriculture in the revised plan.

3. Chairperson and Commissioner reports

Commissioner Reed requested a Commission-specific email address after experiencing challenges obtaining a FOIA request regarding live animal markets.

4. Approval of the draft meeting minutes from May 2025.

Draft minutes were approved. No public comments were provided.

5. New Business

A. Welcoming New Commissioners [Discussion Item] [Commissioner Torres]

Commissioner Torres welcomed new Commissioners Nick Chapman and Dayna Sherwood, who introduced themselves, their experience, and excitement around serving on the Commission.

6. Old Business

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

Deputy Director Amy Corso shared the Q1 2025 report, which included stats on animal intakes, transfers, adoptions and euthanizations. She also shared upcoming community events, such as the Full Belly Bus and low-cost vaccination and microchip clinic for dogs.

Commissioner Garfinkel inquired about the increase in dog intakes. Deputy Director Amy Corso responded that a major factor is custody cases.

Commissioner Chapman asked if the dog intake increase was related to the surrendering of animals adopted during the pandemic. Deputy Director Amy Corso responded that SF ACC is seeing more so an increase in animal surrenders due to landlord issues and economic circumstances.

7. Items to be included on the Agenda for Future Commission Meetings. The next meeting is Thursday, June 12th.

Commissioner Garfinkel suggested a discussion or vote to recommend the inclusion of plant-based diets in the city's 2025 Climate Action Plan. She offered to collaborate with Commissioners and community members.

Commissioner Ozernoy requested an update on the pandas and the San Francisco Zoo.

One public comment was made offering to provide help and resources crafting a letter regarding the 2025 Climate Action Plan. Another public comment suggested that the Commission consider recommending grants for alternative protein innovation in San Francisco.

8. Adjournment - 5:58 PM PT