



El Paso Animal Services

MAYOR

Renard U. Johnson

Animal Shelter Advisory Committee Minutes

June 11, 2025

CITY COUNCIL

District 1

Alejandra Chávez

District 2

Dr. Josh Acevedo

District 3

Deanna M. Rocha

District 4

Cynthia Boyar Trejo

District 5

Ivan Niño

District 6

Art Fierro

District 7

Lily Limón

District 8

Chris Canales

CITY MANAGER

Dionne Mack

Call to Order- Establish Quorum

A meeting of the Animal Shelter Advisory Committee was held virtually. The meeting was called to order by Chair Chris Canales at 6:01 PM.

Board Members	Present	Absent
Laura Sánchez	X	
Silvia Serna	X	
Sandra DiFrancesco	X	
Celinda Crews	X	
Alejandra Valdez		X
Barbara Candelaria		X
Mary Bardouche	X	
Elvira Stephanie Frias	X	
Raquel Ellis		X
Tess Passero	X	
Chris Canales	X	

Animal Services staff present: Terry Kebschull, Adan Parra, Maria Arciniega, Michele Anderson, Julieanne Newbold, Gina Ramirez, Veronica Frescas, Adriana Armendariz, Grace Ariola, Jose Cortez, Wesley Walker,

1. Approval of Minutes

Discussion and action on approval of minutes for May 14, 2025

Mary Bardouche motioned to approve the May 14, 2025 minutes; Silvia Serna seconded; all members voted in favor; none opposed and motion passed unanimously

2. Reports of Officers, Staff and Subcommittees.

A. Chair Report

Chris Canales gave a brief update on the continuing progress of the construction of the Westside Adoption Center. Also, a customary update on pet pantries program partnership between the City's, El Paso Public Libraries and the El Paso Community Foundation's Borderland Rescue Fund. The pantries have

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been assembled and delivered to 12 of the 14 library locations, with the rest coming soon.

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B. El Paso Animal Services May update and statistics.

Terry Kebschull presented the May statistics. Report is attached.

Sandy DiFrancesco inquired on agency euthanasia requests. Terry explained other agencies have the animal welfare but not the euthanasia equipment, so after evaluation, an animal is euthanized similar to owner surrender but from a different agency. Sandy inquired if they were aggression related or had any breakdown of reasons. Terry confirmed some of the are aggression.

Celinda inquired why on the intake by age, there is a category for unknown. Terry explained its an age group that can't be determined if they are juvenile or adult. Celinda inquired if intake is increasing because of the kitten season. Terry confirmed. Celinda inquired about the lost category in outcome by type. Terry explained those will happen if they are in EPAS care or with fosters and they escape. Celinda inquired about the live rate term. Terry explained it was the percentage of live release.

Laura Sanchez inquired about the consequence on a cruelty case that was shared widely. Was the alleged perpetrator charged? Also, being military, was any action taken on the military side? What is the overall outcome? Terry explained it's a cruelty incident that is transferred over to the El Paso Police Department because it's a crime. Animal Service deals with Class C Misdemeanors, but does provide any evidence to EPPD. Terry believed he hasn't been punished at this time; "innocent until proven guilty". He has been charged but not found guilty. SGT Serna with EPPD Animal Cruelty Unit elaborated; a \$30,000 bond was set by Judge Ray Duke, pending trial. As far as the Army, they usually wait after the trail to determine more punishment on their side.

Mary Bardouche brought up her concern on the high number of the euthanasia rate since we're working toward no kill, inquiring if there is an outside source that can come in a regulate what's going on. Mary praised all the amazing and hard work everyone is doing at EPAS. Assistant City Attorney Mona Heydarian advised that the Animal Shelter Advisory Committee is not a legal entity, and it's related to all animal shelters, not just the El Paso Animal Service Department. By all means, this committee could reach out to other local shelters as well and see what is happening with those. Chris Canales elaborated that the ASAC is a policy advisory committee, and not set up for an operational oversight. Also, in the upcoming agenda item, the committee

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going to be talking about the Comprehensive Animal Shelter assessment by a third party. Chris also pointed out that when the shelter is over capacity, we see an increase in infectious disease. Terry confirmed over 906 cases.

Sandy DiFrancesco inquired on the 4th of July communication to the community to express how important it is to make sure animals are microchipped and what needs to be done to get their animal back home. Terry advised that there are billboards to talk about microchips, and keeping information up to date. This helps an increase in RTOs; the main goal is to keep animals in their homes.

3. Regular Agenda

A. Presentation and discussion of the City of El Paso's planned Comprehensive Animal Shelter Assessment. -Terry Kebschull

Terry Kebschull presented that the City has hired the external consultant to evaluate the shelters operations.

Mary Bardouche and Chris asked Carrie Ducote from external consultant Shelter Savvy to speak and present to the committee the final report.

B. Discussion on the role of the Animal Shelter Advisory in the upcoming "Comprehensive Animal Shelter Assessment". - Celina Crews

No discussion since this duplicated the previous item.

C. Discussion on whether there is a specific problem with transferring military members "dumping pets," or if the problem is citywide. - Celinda Crews

Celina Crews inquire if there is an arrangement with Fort Bliss, as well as if there was a high rate of dumping among military personnel, or is this a myth. Chris explained that EPAS doesn't track if owners are active service members or not, so we can't conclude if it's a myth or not based on the data collected. Terry elaborated we are the only public shelter facility in El Paso County to include Fort Bliss. EPAS does assist a lot of military people who are going to be re-stationed, or based on the restrictions Fort Bliss has. It would be ideal for them to foster rather than adopt, but he is working with the liaison from the base to

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schedule a meeting to talk about not only resources, but also about cruelty. EPAS will discuss some kind of education material for the Fort Bliss soldiers as they're coming into town to explain what's expected, especially when it comes to animal cruelty and the laws. Fort Bliss animal control is done by the Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo, and they have a civilian unit that contracts them. Chris added that we have a formalized relationship through an intergovernmental support agreement with Fort Bliss for the City to provide them additional animal services. They contract the animal control function out separately with Pueblo. The agreement was Council-approved last year in May and runs for a period of 10 years.

D. Presentation and discussion about the Borderland rescue Funds and its activities including the rescue Pantry, Grant Program, Medical Reserve Fund, and Pet Supply Pantries in collaboration with El Paso Libraries - Tess Passero.

Tess Passero presented.

Laura Sanchez inquired on how to volunteer and help share to gather community volunteers outreach help. Tess explained this is still in the process, and will be discussing details in the next few weeks with the City and, Foundation. Tess hopes that in the next week there will be a more concrete timeline for the actual marketing portion of it, and she will be happy to share it.

Silvia Serna expressed her excitement and inquired if anyone had reached out to the Sheriff's Department as mentioned previous administration paid for adoptions. Also, the previous District Attorney's office would hold pet food drives; they also had "adopt a pet, or bring a bag of food," something that hasn't been done. Chris advised he informed them, although it was early in the process. Chris believes County is ready to help promote once we're ready to go on the pantries.

4. Call to the Public

None

5. Future Agenda Item

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A. ASAC legal responsibilities refresher from the City Attorney's Office -
Mona Heydarian

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6. Adjournment

Stephanie Frias motioned to adjourn; Mary Bardouche seconded, all members voted in favor; none opposed, and motion passed unanimously; the meeting adjourned at 7:36PM.

Prepared by: Maribel Karisch & Maria Arciniega

Approved by A.S.A.C Chair:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, likely belonging to the A.S.A.C Chair, written over a horizontal line.

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