

Pima County Animal Care Advisory Committee
Minutes
January 12, 2017
3950 S. Country Club Road
Tucson, Arizona 85714

Approved 2/9/2017

1. Call to Order

Mr. Gillaspie called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

A. Roll Call

Present:

Kristin Almquist
Tamara Barrick
Suzanne Droubie
Dan Eckstrom
Barry Gillaspie
Christy Holliger
Pat Hubbard
Jose Ocano (Non-Voting)
Erin O'Donnell
Rhonda Pina

Absent:

Andrew Squire
Gail Smith

B. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Gillaspie led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Adoption of January 12, 2017 Meeting Minutes

A motion made and seconded (Almquist/Barrick) that the January 12, 2017 meeting minutes adopted as written. The motion carried unanimously (9-0)

3. Call to Audience

There were no speakers at this call to the audience.

4. Old Business

A. Update on PACC

Dr. Wilcox, Director of Veterinary Services at PACC presented an update on the 2016 Fall Outbreak. She explained the difference between Distemper vs. Strep zoo and the effects they have on shelter dogs. Distemper is a virus that infects canids, has an incubation per of 1-3

weeks, affects the GI, respiratory, skin, eye and neurological functions, post recover shedding is weeks to months, very common in Arizona and there are vaccines for treatment. Strep zoo is a Bacterium most common in ruminants, has an incubation period of 2-5 days, affects respiration, first report in Arizona and there no current vaccines. In addition, three dogs were infected with both Distemper and Strep zoo.

Late October of 2016, the dog population at the time of the outbreak was 500, which is low/normal.

- The Distemper disease outcomes were as follows: 27 positive adults plus 10 puppies. Nine dogs became infected by kennelmates; six dogs were incubating the disease at intake and three more were pulled by rescue groups and euthanized for distemper. Of the 27 adults treated, 77% survived with eight dogs still in isolation for low level viral shedding and all puppies were euthanized due to severity of their illness.
- Strep zoo disease outcomes were as follows: Fifteen adults tested positive for Strep zoo; no puppies. Two dogs were infected by kennelmates; four died abruptly of hemorrhagic pneumonia and five dogs became clinically ill with Strep zoo after completing a prophylactic course of antibiotics. Of the eleven adults treated for known, active infection, 100% survived and one dog is still in isolation.
- The Coinfection Disease Outcomes are as follows: Three adults dogs were infected with both Distemper and Strep zoo. One dog was infected by a kennelmate. All three dogs were treated and survived with one dog still positive for CDV shedding and cleared of ringworm.

At this time, 12 kennels (5%) were allocated for isolation of Distemper/Strep zoo cases. All but nine animals were released for adoption.

Dr. Wilcox outlined what she feels went wrong within PACC that led to the outbreak:

- Gaps in disinfection protocols and animal Husbandry
- Soiled laundry
- Kennel cleaning challenges

Post-outbreak studies often find that some element of disease prevention by routine cleaning failed.

Dr. Wilcox outlined PACC's short term plans to fix the causes that led to the outbreak:

- Isolation, biosecurity, and halt non-emergent intake
- Inmates and custodians have posted rules, PACC training and more supervision by PACC staff and better communication from PACC staff
- Costly testing (\$54/test)
- All bedding thrown from isolation and using disposable dishes

The current costs of the outbreak is at \$75,000 with the greatest expense being staff

overtime, followed by medications and laboratory expenses.

Dr. Wilcox outlined PACC's long-term plan to fix the causes that led to the outbreak:

- The new facility will improved biosecurity, particularly during cleaning
- Continue strict separation of new intake animals from longer-term residents: walked in separate areas, cleaning staff separated and ordered, and reduced laundry use
- Plan for additional, intensive inmate monitoring
- Schedule intake animals days before actual intake for vaccination
- Targeted community vaccination

B. Presentation on procedures for ensuring animals are not left in vehicles

Adam Ricci presented a PowerPoint to the committee regarding the procedures PACC Field Services has put into place regarding the process of animal removal from the trucks and how PACC ensures how they account for the animals. He specifically pointed out to the committee the highlighted area #5 *Cleaning of Vehicles, Section A* which states *officers shall conduct a check of all kennel cages to ensure that no animals are left on the vehicles*. When an animal is loaded on to a vehicle, the officers show the Animal ID in the vehicle per the Kennel screen. The Officers update the kennel screen in Chameleon when the animal is unloaded and placed in a kennel or other area within PACC.

Adam also pointed out to the committee that under Other Policy Checks the Section-General Rules and Regulations that any *"abuse and/or inhumane treatment of animals in the care of Pima Animal Care Center will not be tolerated for any reason. Any employee found in violation of this policy will be subjected to disciplinary action up to and including termination"*. Under the Section General Field, it states that *"at no time will Field Officers knowingly subject any animal to inhumane treatment. Any Officer found to be in violation of this procedure will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination."* The Section on Animal intake Procedures are still in process. Finally, PACC Administration is reviewing and determining a code of ethics for all PACC staff whose purpose is to provide members and other interested persons with guidelines for making ethical choices in the conduct of their work.

Chairman Gillaspie asked how the new procedures actually correlate to the policies. He wanted to understand if there is an issue in the future how is there linkage in order to have sufficient authority for disciplinary actions. In answer to the question, Jose Ocano told the committee that they are in the process of revamping all of the policies and procedures so they follow best practices and comply with Merit System Rules. The Health Department's internal HR unit will be reviewing all new policies to ensure they comply with Merit System Rules. Once HR reviews them for compliance, PACC will correlate the new policies to trainings and have employee sign-off sheets in order to ensure staff has read and understand the policies.

Pat Hubbard suggested that under the General Field add the word abuse and/or humane treatment. Ms. Hubbard asked how PACC is going to define humane treatment. Mr. Ocano

answered that PACC would use the interpretation of the law. A discussion followed on how best to interpret the law.

C. Data Summary – Questions/Comments

Chairman Gillaspie asked why the Owner surrender numbers were 100% less in December 2016 as compared to 2015. Mr. Ocano informed the committee that PACC was not taking in owner surrender dogs in December and have just started taking appointments again on Monday. Chairman Gillaspie pointed out that there is an error in “Total intake” numbers as they are the same in both 2016 and 2015. Mr. Ocano said he would point it out to Josh and have him fix it. Chairman Gillaspie also questioned the “Enforcement” numbers citing that there needs to be more granularity in the future, such as knowing what kind of calls and what kind of issues. Mr. Ocano said they would look into the numbers in depth when they have the quarterly deep dives.

Pat Hubbard asked about the low “New Licenses” number. Mr. Ocano said he had noted the number and planned to talk to Josh about as it.

Ms. Holliger pointed out a clerical error under “Cruelty/Neglect Calls” citing the numbers look reversed. Mr. Ocano said he would have it fixed. Ms. Holliger asked about “Animals Returned” numbers, as these numbers have been lower the past few months. She stated that the adoptions versus returns amount is about 10% this year as opposed to 6.3% last year and wanted to note that as they has been having issues with adoptions. Ms. Hubbard stated that the national average is 11% so PACC is still doing a good job.

D. PCACAC Topics Subcommittee – Progress Updates

Chairman Gillaspie updated the committee on the progress the sub-committee made with a deep dive into Shelter Operations beginning with a look at the Organization Chart, current SOPs, and SOP priorities in 2017

5. New Business

A. PACC Topics – Shelter Operations Initial Reports:

- a. Organizational Structure, personnel by unit and description.

Mr. Ocano proceeded to take the committee through the organizational chart explaining how PACC’s operations are divided between Mr. Ocano and Mr. Gallick. Mr. Ocano oversees Shelter Operations and Justin Gallick oversees Community Engagement. Shelter Operations comprises Field Service, Medical Services, Shelter and Pet Support. Community Engagement comprises Operations (procurement and IT (Chameleon)), Licensing, Volunteer and Education, Live Release, Development and Behavior Program. Mr. Ocano walked the committee through every department and each position within that department. He asked the committee to look at the organization chart to determine what areas they would like to do a deep dive in such as Sheltering.

b. Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) – Alphabetical list with description and date

Due to the late hour, Chairman Gillaspie felt the best one to handle this agenda item is to have the committee review the SOPs that they received in their packets and have their questions ready for the next meeting

c. SOP Priorities in 2017 – Staff/PCACAC

Next meeting. Chairman Gillaspie would like to go through the SOP priorities for 2017.

6. Announcements

A. Chair

Chairman Gillaspie announced that there is a PACC fundraiser currently going on at Thunder Canyon Brewery and it is important that the committee support them.

B. Committee

None

C. Volunteer Representative

Ms. Holliger informed the committee that they are still struggling with bringing back the volunteers that left due to the disease outbreak. She feels that at this point they probably have seen all the volunteers back that are coming back and the rest have gone on to other things. Gina has been actively recruiting for new volunteers and holding training classes so there are new volunteers at PACC. Some of the volunteers are working closely with the new adoption coordinator to address the issues that are keeping the adoption numbers low. They are also addressing their concerns over low adoption numbers with PACC leadership.

Ms. Holliger informed the committee of the new “Real Life Room” at PACC that was built by volunteers. Animals can come there to get away from the shelter stress. It is very calming and quiet atmosphere for the animals. The room has already shown many positive results.

D. Management Report

Mr. Ocano let the committee know that PACC administration is working with the volunteers on communication issues. The volunteers and staff were issued radios to promote better communication on the floor; this gives the volunteers a tool to use now to reach staff.

Mr. Ocano feels that 2017 will be a standout year with the new building and all of the lifesaving programs, which have been instituted. He said 2014 was one of those years.

a. Construction update

The Pima County Board of Supervisor will be voting on the construction project at their next meeting. Once approved, there will be more activity at PACC as the construction work begins.

7. Future Agenda Items

Chairman Gillaspie said that the SOP's would be on the agenda.

8. Call to Audience

Jane Schwerin, President of People for Animals in the Prevention of Cruelty and Neglect spoke to the committee. She hopes the committee will deep dive into a subject that she feels is very important regarding what happens to animals when the officers go out on cruelty and neglect calls. She feels the committee should be concerned as to what then happens to those animals. She informed the committee that when she sat on the old committee, she continually tried to get PACC to take more animals away from their owners. Every month the old committee would get full reports on 10 of those cases, which they looked at very carefully. She wished that the new committee would ask to get some of those reports to look at delve into what happens to those the animals. Chairman Gillaspie said that he would like to take a deeper look at these reports.

Jason Ground, PC Communications Office informed the committee that the Communications Office would launch a new bi-weekly newsletter to include a "Citizen Government" feature. The PCFYI newsletter focused on volunteer's that serve on the many volunteer boards and committees in Pima County. He would like to interview committee members regarding their service to the community. He asked if any of the committee members are willing to stay a few minutes longer after the meeting as he has a few questions and would like to get some quotes for the article.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:07 p.m.