



CLALLAM COUNTY ANIMAL SOLUTIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES of January 7, 2025

MEETING OF THE ANIMAL SOLUTIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ASAC)

Sheriff's Office representative Elizabeth Waknitz called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m., January 7, 2025 in the Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

Present were:

Mike Hill	Lisa Hopper	Linda Allen	Jason Viada	Susan Sanders
Ed Bauck	Mark Ozias	Barbara Brabant	Mel Marshall	Danielle Hursh
Martha Ireland	Meagan Karnes	Shayna Robnett	Danette Grady	

Absent were:

John Southard	Dave Campbell	Amy Bundy	Suzanne Hadley
Randy Johnson	Kimberlie Kitts	Brian Smith	

MEETING AGENDA

No revisions were sought.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the 12/3/24 meeting were unanimously approved following the requested correction to the last sentence of business item b.

BUSINESS ITEMS

- 1) Update on shelter services
 - 1) OPHS – All employees are cross-training and working at both the Bark House and Kitty City. They are at the Bark House on Wed and Fri and have been making a lot of improvements to that site.
 - 2) WAG – They're at capacity. In the last month they had 46 requests to surrender, and requests to house 11 strays.
 - 3) RISE – They're at capacity. In the last month they had 102 requests to surrender and could only take 1.
 - 4) Is there a predominant reason organizations are noting that cause people to request pet surrender?
 - a. All groups agree primary reason is behavior problems – chewing, biting, reactivity
 - b. Other reason noted is housing difficulty, such as moving to a new rental that won't allow pets
 - c. It is also noted that the majority of animals needing to be surrendered are not fixed, and this is a deliberate choice by the owner as opposed to a lack of funding or opportunity.
 - 5) Lily's Safe Haven – In the past month they've had 25 requests to surrender roosters or bunnies.
 - a. A lot of the community has noticed an increasing loose bunny problem: Bunnies are very difficult to fix as they're quite fragile and don't handle anesthesia well. Many vets won't fix them.
 - b. Since farm animals can be expensive to feed, they encounter people forced to surrender animals due to cost. Could they create a farm animal food pantry type resource? The regular food banks include pet food, potentially they could refer people needing assistance with farm animal feed.

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- 2) Update on event planning/organization.
 - 1) The clinic scheduled for January 25 has a full line up of spays/neuters that were selected by WAG. To create the list being spayed/neutered, WAG keeps notes on animals they notice need to be fixed, and do follow-up outreach with owners. There are microchips/vaccines available for walk-in public at the clinic.
- 3) Review of marketing material for clinic
 - 1) Danielle worked on a draft poster for the Jan 25 clinic. She'll coordinate with WAG to include their logo and QR code for people to donate towards costs for a final version that can be posted to social media.
- 4) Other Items
 - 1) Nobody has directly identified grants or people to assist
 - 2) WAG has been called to help scan microchipped pets for PAPD, could they loan them a scanner/train them to alleviate the time/travel spent?
 - 3) PAIR is holding a spay/neuter clinic on 1/18-1/19. It will be reduced cost but not free, and held at Fox Bell. They would potentially welcome volunteers if anybody is interested.
 - 4) Shayna would like public messaging about the dangers of bird flu, both for poultry and cats since there's evidence of transmission. If other agencies are posting, we could share their info? Mike Hill shared that Dept of Agriculture has info posted.
 - 5) Meagan would like to offer free dog training opportunities to the community, this might alleviate behavior problems causing owners to have to surrender pets.
 - a. Mark thinks 4H may be a helpful partner for educating people
 - b. Mike thinks City of Sequim may be able to waive use fees on space to host trainings
 - c. Danielle offered to help find/reserve space
 - 6) Since people have noted that many homeless individuals have pets, should we reach out to them about pet care resources? We could create reference material for community service providers to pass out?
 - 7) Lisa had connected with Pet Posse, they're not up and running yet, but hope to be within about a month. They're working on increasing their volunteers.
 - 8) Is there a comprehensive resource list for animal sheltering? Elizabeth can send out what CCSO has.
 - 9) Mark will look into how other counties fund county-run animal shelters
 - 10) Should we consider how to restrict animal sales by private parties? Recommend an ordinance?
 - a. Should look at other communities or MRSC for models
 - b. Generally occurs in private parking lots, would be up to individual businesses to allow/disallow

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Organization of events such as spay/neuter or microchip clinics
- Presentation on Animal Disaster Planning from Emergency Management
- Follow-up from research intended, listed above

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Public participation was encouraged throughout the discussion.

NEXT MEETING – February 4, 2025 at 2:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting concluded at 3:28 p.m.

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