

City of Sacramento  
**Animal Wellbeing Commission Report**  
915 I Street Sacramento, CA 95814  
www.cityofsacramento.org

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**File ID:** 2026-00192

2/11/2026

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## **Animal Wellbeing Commission Follow-Up Log**

File ID: 2026-00192

**Location:** Citywide

**Recommendation:** Pass a **Motion** adopting the Animal Wellbeing Commission Follow-Up Log as developed by proposals and discussion from the commission.

**Contact:** Ryan Hinderman, Communications and Customer Service Manager, (916) 808-7911, rhinderman@cityofsacramento.org, Community Development Department

**Presenter:** None

### **Attachments:**

1-Description/Analysis

2-Animal Wellbeing Commission Follow-Up Log

### **Description/Analysis**

**Issue Detail:** The Follow-Up Log is a resource managed by City staff. It is a running list consisting of items of interest for which the Animal Wellbeing Commission would like to be agendized. To place an item on the Follow-Up Log for a future agenda members may make a request during "Commission Ideas - Comments and Questions".

At future meetings, Commissioners will continue to be able to add items to the log by introducing the suggestion during Commissioner Comments-Ideas and Questions. The committee will then approve those additions by approving a Consent Calendar item at the following meeting.

**Policy Considerations:** None.

**Economic Impacts:** None.

**Environmental Considerations:** None.

**Sustainability:** None.

**Commission/Committee Action:** None.

**Rationale for Recommendation:** By developing and implementing the Follow-Up Log, Animal Wellbeing Commission Members can request specific items be added to a future agenda and provide staff with any accompanying criteria in a format that is easy to monitor, track, and change as necessary.

**Financial Considerations:** None.

**Local Business Enterprise (LBE):** Not applicable.

**City of Sacramento Animal Wellbeing Commission Follow-Up Log**

Item Title	Question to be answered and/or specific request	Date Added	Status
Increasing number of dogs residents can own	Currently, county residents can own 4 dogs and 7 cats, city residents can own 3 dogs and 7 cats. Increasing the number of owned dogs would increase licensing revenue and potentially increase adoptions.	3/12/2025	Proposed ordinance will be sent to the Law and Legislative Committee - Ordinance is going to be heard by the Law & Leg Committee on January 13. This will be a discussion item on the February
Euthanasia Numbers	Staff will present euthanasia numbers and rates.	3/12/2025	The quarterly numbers were presented in January 2026. Next presentation will take place in May 2026. If a separate, more detailed presentation is requested, please provide specifics of request to Ryan Hinderman.
Animal Cruelty Presentation	Commissioner Bagley-Franzoia requested to do a presentation on animal cruelty.	3/12/2025	Staff will determine what month this presentation can be added.
Bi-Annual Workshop	Commissioner Treat asked to hold two bi-annual retreats outside of the regular commission meetings.	11/12/2025	Staff will determine what month this item can be placed on the agenda for discussion.
Audit Update	Commissioner Treat asked for a monthly follow-up on the Animal Care Services Audit.	11/12/2025	The audit updates will be included in the follow up log or in a separate attachment or email. These may become quarterly updates.
At Risk Dogs	Commissioner Garcia requested a discussion item to discuss at risk and senior dogs at the shelter. 1/21/25 update - Commissioner Benedict is also interested in discussing this item, and Commissioner Virga mentioned the county shelter's "final plea" program.	11/12/2025	Staff will determine what month this presentation can be added. The shelter communications team is reaching out to the county shelter in hopes to get data about the effectiveness of their Final Plea program.
Friends of Front Street Presentation	Commissioner Treat asked if a presentation by Friends of Front Street would be possible	11/12/2025	Staff would like the MOU to be completed before a Friends of Front Street presentation takes place.
Additional spay/neuter events	Comissioner McDole requested additional spay/neuter events similar to animal balance event.	1/21/2026	Animal Care Services is asking Council for \$500,000 to hold ten additional spay/neuter events to alter 2,000 animals.
Shelter manager's report in advance	Comissioner McDole requested access to shelter manager's PowerPoint prior to the meeting	1/21/2026	Since the manager's report focuses on statistics pulled the day before the meeting, as well as the most current updates on important issues, it has been created the day before the commission. This is 2-3 weeks past when the other agenda attachments are due. Currently Powerpoints are due by 8am the day of the commission. However, new rules will change this and the report will need to be uploaded when the other agenda items are due. This will mean the data/updates will be old by the time of the meeting. So the report may need to be modified or given orally if the most up-to-date information is desired.
Pre-COVID capacity vs Current	Comissioner McDole requested an analysis of the shelter's kennel population/capacity before the pandemic	1/21/2026	After consulting with the shelter's data expert on Chameleon (the shelter's management software), it is not possible to run a report to determine what the kennel inventory was for a specific day 7+ years ago. We have been tracking this information for the past couple years, but that wouldn't fulfill this request. However, anecdotally from staff memory, the situation is similar. In the past, there were typically only 2 large dogs that could be safely paired in a kennel, whereas 5-7 small dogs may be paired in a single kennel. "Full" capacity is reached when there are only a few (or no) open kennels, and all dogs that can be safely and humanely paired have been paired. There is not a set number for when the shelter hits maximum capacity, since it depends on how many dogs are small vs large, how many puppies in litters there are, etc. "Full" often happens around 170 dogs, but could be over 200 dogs depending on the number of each type of dog, whether a large number of dogs will be spayed/neutered in the very near future and can therefore leave, etc. The only notable procedural change in recent years is kenelling puppies alone if they came in by themselves. This was a directive from our veterinarians to reduce the chances of the puppy catching parvo or other diseases from being paired with other dogs.

Spay/neuter policy for 2nd impounds	Commissioner Bagley requested a presentation on policies on requirements for Spay/Neuter the second time an animal is brought in, and discuss ways to incentivize this.	1/21/2026	Staff will determine what month this presentation can be added.
Request to author policies and procedures	Commissioner Bagley and others have expressed interest in writing the shelter's policies and procedures in place of a third party firm.	1/21/2026	Recruiting an outside organization to assist in writing policies and procedures was a request of the former city manager, the cost of which will not come out of the shelter's budget. Ideal candidates will possess significant shelter expertise while being able to provide impartial feedback, perspective from working with other shelters, and reliable timelines for completion due to contractual obligation. The proposal review process will begin late January/early February. There will be at least one presentation to the Animal Wellbeing Commission by the vendor after they are selected.
Dog foster guidelines	Commissioner Benedict and Commissioner Virga expressed concern about a potential new dog foster policy that may exclude healthy or senior dogs from foster	1/21/2026	The Shelter Operations Manager, who oversees the dog foster program, confirmed that most healthy dogs and senior dogs ARE eligible for foster care. The only dogs excluded are those that are considered highly adoptable that will go up for adoption very shortly (these are typically puppies, young small dogs, or other breeds that are likely to be adopted within hours of being made available). Reasons for this include: 1) Sending a dog to foster requires staff time to prepare supplies, make an appointment, meet the foster, send and organize paperwork, and have back and forth communication to answer questions and coordinate all this. 2) When a dog is placed in foster, medical or behavioral concerns can arise that then require significant communication and coordination to resolve or schedule them to come back to the shelter. 3) Not all fosters will expediently work with adopters to get them out of the system, and we can experience challenges getting animals back for spay/neuter or prolonged stays in the foster system. 4) These dogs would get adopted into permanent homes very quickly, opening up kennel capacity without impacting foster team capacity. There was a message sent out from a staff member (not the shelter operations manager) to an interested foster parent that contradicts the above, and we will be sending communications to the foster team emphasizing that, with few exceptions, healthy dogs should be foster candidates. Another exception would be dogs that are "rescue only" and not available for foster if there is a behavioral or medical issue that is severe and we are concerned the foster would not be able to safely or effectively manage the concern.