

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

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**File ID:** 2026-00193

3/11/2026

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

File ID: 2026-00193

**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. The AWC will discuss and decide whether or not to recommend the revision to the ordinance.	3/12/2025	The Draft Ordinance Review Committee (DORC) meets periodically to ensure any code changes are legal and syltistically consistent. This item has been in the queue for review, but unfortunately wasn't expected to be reviewed until after this month's agenda was due. If a change had been made, the wrong version would have been presented to the AWC and it would need to be moved to a future meeting anyway. We have confidence this item will be presented for review at the April 2026 meeting.
Euthanasia Numbers	Commissioner Treat requested an in-depth breakdown of euthanasia numbers and the associated reasons behind each category	3/12/2025	Staff is planning to present this information at the April commission meeting.
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	Audit updates will be sent to the AWC quarterly, in line with audit updates provided to council.
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. 2/11/26 update: A commission member asked if cats can be included in this discussion.	11/12/2025	This will be a discussion item at the March 2026 agenda. The shelter communications team has met with communications staff from the County animal shelter to get information about how their Final Plea program works, which dogs are selected, and results of the program. Staff can share the details of this conversation during the discussion item.
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	Commissioner McDole requested additional spay/neuter events similar to animal balance event.	1/21/2026	2/19/26 update: The initial request for \$500,000 to hold ten additional spay/neuter events to alter 2,000 animals has been approved by the city manager and finance department - it is now pending Council approval.
Shelter manager's report in advance	Commissioner McDole requested access to shelter manager's PowerPoint prior to the meeting. 2/11/26 update: The commission requested statistics that look behind to the previous month rather than the most current statistics. This will allow the powerpoint with stats to be uploaded in advance	1/21/2026	Starting at the March meeting, the manager's report will reflect the prior month's statistics, and will not include the current animal inventory. Other updates will be given as an oral report and not included in the PowerPoint. This change is in response to changes in PowerPoint due dates per the Clerk's office.
Pre-COVID capacity vs Current	Commissioner 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 kennelling 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.
Redemption policy, applicable laws, and spay/neuter incentivization.	Vice Chair Bagley requested to discuss laws and codes related to spay/neuter requirements on second stray impound, followed by a discussion of fees and other ways to incentivize spay/neuter on first redemption.	1/21/2026	Staff will determine what month this presentation can be added. Several commission members indicated this was a high-priority discussion item.
Request to author policies and procedures	Commissioner Bagley and others have expressed interest in writing or working in consultation with vendor for the shelter's policies and procedures.	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. Commissioners requesting to discuss working on consultation with vendor on drafting of SOPs, leading to potential project on which commissioners can collaborate with the shelter.
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. 2/11/26 meeting update: Vice Chair Bagley asked whether we send unaltered dogs to foster care and how that differs from Foster2Adopt.	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. 2/11/26: The response to sending dogs to foster unaltered will be provided in a separate email that allows for more space as well as the opportunity for individual commissioners to reply to the shelter with feedback.
Cat euthanasia list	Commissioner Virga stated that there wasn't a euthanasia list for cats and requested written policies related to this.	2/11/2026	This item will be addressed in the FAQ for rescue-related questions (described below).

Animals not on rescue list	Commissioner Virga stated that not all animals appear on rescue list prior to euthanasia and requested written policies related to this.	2/11/2026	Staff will provide the commission with a rescue process overview or FAQ for rescue-related questions via BCC email.
Kitten connection process	Commissioner Bell requested a breakdown of the Kitten Connection process	2/11/2026	Staff will provide the commission with a Kitten Connection process overview via BCC email.
Regional shelter emergency communications	Commissioner Virga suggested creating a protocol for local shelters to notify each other of disease outbreaks or other emergencies.	2/11/2026	The communications manager will reach out to other local shelters (Sacramento County, Sacramento SPCA, Elk Grove, Yolo County) and propose creating an email list to keep each other informed during emergencies where other shelters may be affected, or where help could be needed.
Community Survey	Commissioner Barragan asked for a discussion or sharing of information about what it would take to do another community survey similar to the survey in 2021. The rationale being that the world looks different now than 2021, and that there is opportunity to evaluate sentiment from traditionally marginalized communities and non-English speakers.	2/11/2026	Staff will determine what month this item can be placed on the agenda for discussion.
Availability of information to underserved or multilingual communities	Commissioner Barragan requested report outlining what mechanisms and practices are in place about existing services at shelter accessible to traditionally underserved and non-English speaking communities.	2/11/2026	Staff have relayed information to Commissioner Barragan about existing language access mechanisms, as well as opportunities for improvement. Several ideas about better reaching Spanish-speaking residents were exchanged, including Meta ads and community. Staff will determine what month this item can be placed on the agenda for discussion, or alternatively may coordinate with individual commission members outside the commission meeting if they are interested in working on aspects of this project.
Policy and Procedure changes	Commissioner Benedict request shelter P&P changes come to the commission for review and public comment	2/11/2026	As part of the RFP for policy and procedure development, the selected vendor will be required to make at least one presentation to the AWC. To focus the presentation, commission members are welcome to specify what information they are hoping to have presented (i.e. all policies, certain policies, the process of creating the policies, etc.).
Site Improvement Review	Commissioner Barrigan requests to revisit site improvement plan and to evaluate if funds are being put to best use	2/11/2026	The prior needs assessment (which includes discussion of interim improvements) was sent to commission for review in January 2026. Staff will determine what month this item can be placed on the agenda for discussion.