



Esteban Rodriguez
Director

Donna Gillesby
Deputy Director

**Ventura County Animal Services Commission
Regular Commission Meeting
Meeting Minutes February 20, 2025**

1. Call to Order at 9:00 a.m.

2. Roll Call:

Members Present: Dee Dee Cavanaugh, City of Simi Valley; Rene Delgado, City of Moorpark; Susan Santangelo, City of Camarillo; Albert Mendez, City of Fillmore; Steven Gama, City of Port Hueneme; Leslie Rule, City of Ojai; Janice Parvin, County of Ventura Board of Supervisors; Rynn Schumacher, City of Ventura;.

Members Absent: Gabriela Rodriguez, City of Oxnard.

VCAS Staff present: Esteban Rodriguez – Director of Animal Services; Donna Gillesby – Deputy Director of Animal Services, Phil Rarick – Administrative Services Director; Randy Friedman – VCAS Public Information Officer; and Sandra Ropes – Animal Services.

3. Pledge of Allegiance led by Dee Dee Cavanaugh.

4. Review/Reordering of the Agenda: None.

5. Consent Calendar

A. Consider approval of the minutes of the regular Ventura County Animal Services Commission meeting of November 21, 2024

RECOMMENDATION: Approve minutes of the regular Ventura County Animal Services Commission meeting of November 20, 2024, pending corrections.

Motion Made by Commissioner Rene Delgado, 2nd by Commissioner Susan Santangelo

Roll Call vote: 5 – YES, 0 – NO, 3 – ABSTAIN, Mendez, Santangelo, and Schumacher.

6. Presentation, Proclamations, and Commendations: New commissioners were introduced and welcomed. Brief remarks were made by each.

7. Public Comments: No Public Comments

8. Director's Report

8.1 Transport Partnership with the Humane Society of the United States

- Successful out-of-state transport of 37 large dogs
- Immediate and positive impact on capacity issues
- Long-term value of this partnership

8.2 Securing Continued Funding for Pets for Life Program

- Expansion of partnership with the Humane Society of the United States
- Third year of \$289K funding secured
- Support for underserved pet owners in the Oxnard Colonia community

8.3 Enhancing the Foster Program

- Hiring of a foster consultant
- Foundation-supported initiative to enhance foster care services

8.4 Enhancing Training for People and Animals

- Partnership with local trainers
- Training initiatives funded through the Animal Services Foundation

8.5 Improving Language Access Services

- Implementation of document translation services
- Introduction of a language line for verbal translation

8.6 Launching Public Spay/Neuter Program

- Confirmation from the County Counsel's office that VCAS has authority
- Acquisition and operation of a spay/neuter trailer funded by Animal Services foundation

9. New Business:

9.1 Annual Elections

Action: Dee Dee Cavanaugh was nominated for Chair by Commissioner Parvin, seconded by Commissioner Delgado. Vote: Unanimously approved. Rene Delgado was nominated for Vice Chair by Commissioner Parvin, seconded by Commissioner Austin. Vote: Unanimously approved

9.2 Virtual Public Access to VCAS Commission

- Director Rodriguez presented challenges and considerations, including County technical requirements, MOU requirements, Budget constraints, Possible rotation of meeting locations and use of city facilities

Action: No motion. Commissioners agreed to revisit after cities provide input on available resources.

9.3 Animal Services Foundation of Ventura County (ASFVC)

- The presentation by Director Esteban Rodriguez covered Foundation's bylaws, financials, 2024 expenditures, and purpose and mission alignment with VCAS.
- Commissioners asked about donor outreach and transparency.

Action: Presentation received and filed.

9.4 New Animal Services Shelter

- Conceptual drawings of proposed new shelter presented. The timeline overview provided information on site analysis phase, and staff, volunteers and community areas.
- Commissioners offered positive feedback and encouraged continued public engagement

Action: Presentation received and filed.

10. Commissioner Comments:

- A. Commissioner Rule suggested expanding the foster program outreach.
- B. The Commissioners commended the shelter team on the recent community vaccination clinic and the outreach they have been engaging in.
- C. Commissioner Parvin and others expressed appreciation for staff and presentations at this commission meeting.

11. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 10:28 a.m.

Next meeting is scheduled for: Thursday, May 15, 2025, 9:00 a.m.