



Joint Animal Services Commission Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, August 11, 2025

Lacey City Hall and Online

1. Call to Order

Chair Miller called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. Roll Call

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chair Malcolm Miller, City of Lacey; Vice Chair Emily Clouse, Thurston County; and Commissioners Kelly Green, City of Olympia; Jo MacGugan, Feline Friends of Olympia; Vicky Smith, DVM, Deschutes Animal Clinic

COMMISSIONERS EXCUSED: Peter Agabi, City of Tumwater and Mike Murphy, DVM, Thurston County Humane Society

REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT: Barbara Benson, Vice President, Thurston County Humane Society

STAFF PRESENT: Shannon Kelley-Fong, Lacey Assistant City Manager; Sarah Hock, Joint Animal Services Executive Director; Bekka Kraai, Animal Welfare and Positive Outcomes Coordinator; Sierra Teas, Animal Welfare and Field Services Manager; and Elissa Fontaine, Lacey City Clerk

3. Approval of Agenda and Consent Agenda Items

- A. Approval of Agenda
- B. June 9, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Green moved to approve the agenda and consent agenda. Chair Miller seconded. The motion carried.

4. Public Comment

No one registered to speak in person or remotely, and no written public comments were received.

5. Business Items

A. Shelter Stats and Field Data June/July

Sarah Hock, Executive Director

Hock presented monthly intake data by species and jurisdiction, positive outcomes (adoption, transfer, and return to owner), data trends, and impacts on staff time. Data trends indicate a gradual increase in all categories from previous months, and a 78% increase in intakes from the last year. The presentation reviewed field calls, related statistics, and jurisdictional data.

B. Positive Outcomes Update

Bekka Kraai, Animal Welfare and Positive Outcomes Coordinator

Kraai presented positive outcomes achieved through programs, engagement, and data trends. The presentation included discussions on recent implementations including onsite foster orientations, increased wellness exams and vet care capacity, and increased training materials and protocol. Staff highlighted the increase in fosters is partly due to increased intake and a shift in culture and engagement within the Foster Program.

C. Field Update

Sierra Teas, Animal Welfare and Field Services Manager

Teas briefed the Commission on field data and cruelty cases. Since May 2025, Joint Animal Services (JAS) has investigated over 240 reports of cruelty and neglect. A detailed review of cases involving 1st and 2nd degree charges was presented.

Staff detailed potentially dangerous and dangerous dog designations, investigations, qualifiers, and considerations. JAS has the authority to classify dogs as potentially dangerous or dangerous, based on specific criteria. A review of declarations for each jurisdiction was presented. Discussion ensued.

D. Budget Amendment

Sarah Hock, Executive Director

Hock presented the budget amendment request. Joint Animal Services is experiencing increased costs for medical care due to the following key factors:

- Increased fees for emergency veterinary providers, due to reduced availability.
- Two invoices resulting from recent animal cruelty cases.

- Medical supply and pharmaceutical price increases.

Chair Miller moved to approve a 2025 budget amendment of \$80,000 from medical reserves to cover costs of veterinary care. Vice Chair Clouse seconded. Chair Miller, Vice Chair Clouse, and Commissioner Green voted in favor. Commissioner Agabi was excused. The motion carried.

6. Director Report

A. Sarah Hock, Executive Director

Hock reported on the July adoption event, upcoming events, and workshop designed to cultivate compassion within the JAS team. The report detailed participation in animal cruelty research, staff accomplishments, volunteer program recruitment, professional development and continuing education, workforce updates, legal coordination, community engagement, spay and neuter access, a new dog enrichment program, and status of a potential contract for services with Mason County.

7. Adjourn

Chair Miller adjourned the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

Minutes approved October 13, 2025