



Joint Animal Services Commission Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 20, 2026

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; and Commissioner(s) Emily Clouse, Thurston County (remote); Brandon Weedon, City of Tumwater; Jo MacGugan, Feline Friends of Olympia; Vicky Smith, DVM, Deschutes Animal Clinic; and Barbara Benson, Thurston County Humane Society.

COMMISSIONERS EXCUSED: Vice Chair Kelly Green, City of Olympia

STAFF PRESENT: Shannon Kelley-Fong, Lacey Assistant City Manager; Sarah Hock, Joint Animal Services Executive Director; Andrew Toledo, Joint Animal Services Operations Manager; and Elissa Fontaine, Lacey City Clerk

3. Approval of Agenda and Consent Agenda Items

- A. Approval of Agenda
- B. February 9, 2026, Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Weedon moved to approve the agenda and consent agenda. Commissioner Clouse seconded. The motion carried.

4. Public Comment

No public comment was received.

5. Business Items

A. Shelter Statistics and Field Data February-March 2026

Sarah Hock, Executive Director

Hock presented the February and March 2026 shelter statistics and field call data. The presentation detailed monthly intake data by species and jurisdiction, positive outcomes (adoption, transfer, and return to owner), and field call data trends through March 2026.

B. Best Friends Animal Society Embed Agreement

Sarah Hock, Executive Director

Hock presented the proposed partnership and agreement with Best Friends Animal Society. Joint Animal Services (JAS) has been invited to participate in the National Shelter Embed Program, a short-term, high-impact technical assistance initiative aimed at helping animal shelters implement proven lifesaving strategies and improve outcomes for animals. As part of the proposed partnership, Best Friends would assign a dedicated staff member onsite at JAS for an initial six-month period. The embedded team member would collaborate closely with shelter leadership and staff to implement operational improvements, strengthen programs and services, and advance sustainable lifesaving outcomes. The embedded staff member would remain an employee of and be fully funded by the organization, resulting in no direct cost to JAS of the City. Details regarding the scope and focus of the operational support were presented. Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Weedon moved to authorize the City of Lacey to enter into the Best Friends National Shelter Embed Program Agreement on behalf of Joint Animal Services. Chair Miller seconded. The motion carried.

6. Director Report

A. Sarah Hock, Executive Director

The Director's Report highlighted staffing updates, quarter veterinary services, professional development events, community programs and engagement, and partnerships and outreach. Hock advised the next JASCOM meeting will consist of a retreat for strategic planning sessions for the next 5-6 year priorities.

7. Adjourn

Chair Miller adjourned the meeting at 6:07 p.m.

Minutes approved as amended on June 8, 2026