

Minutes
Animal Companions of Las Cruces
Core Group Meeting
Monday, December 9th, 2021
5:30 via Zoom

Present: Dawn Duncan, Chair, Carol Ezell, Judy Bosland, Miguel Marquez, Nancy C Sharp, Terra V. Winter, President, Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico

Dawn Duncan, chair, welcomed everyone. Dawn explained that the reason for the meeting were to ascertain:

- how a fiscal sponsorship would work organizationally,
 - if there would be any limit on donations,
 - how we would be allowed to spend funds and
 - whether we would need to register as a non-profit if under fiscal sponsorship.
- She also explained that we have moved toward seeing ourselves as a resource/support organization dedicated to helping our local vets expand to 24h-7d emergency services.

Terra said we would not register separately as a non-profit while under sponsorship, but when we are ready to spin off on our own the Fountain would assist with the paperwork. She affirmed that monies could be used for scholarships to pay down vet debts; assist with vet tech education; pay for recruitment materials/travel/meals, software (such as Televet) and honorariums.

Terra stated she had recently talked to a local vet who had not heard of our organization or activities and she learned that some vets receive 35-50K sign on bonuses. We discussed salaries and it was agreed we will not pay salaries.

Terra reviewed the processes for Foundation fiscal sponsorship. Our application will be due to her by January 10 and presented to the Board January 21, 2022. We will share the draft with her throughout the composition process. Terra highly recommend that we stress our current and desired collaboration with other animal centered/affiliated organizations.

When our application is approved the advisory committee created under the application will hold weekly or bi-monthly meetings with a Foundation representative to assess situations/progress/needs. The foundation will be our operational partner throughout the 2 year period of the sponsorship. The Foundation, on our behalf, will submit grants we write seeking funding. Terra indicated that we will be the last fiscal sponsorship organization to join the Foundation in the near term.

Terra explained how the donation system would work in conjunction with our website. We will have a donate button on our site that will link directly to the Community Foundation. And the Foundation will list us on their site to receive donations. The CFSNM will do all the receipting for us and we will have access to the donors to send notes of appreciation.

If/when we decide to incorporate as a 501c3 we will be able to accept donations with our EIN in hand pending approval of our registration.

Prior to adjournment there was some decision about the potential of offering CEU's to veterinarians through the CFSNM. The prospect of establishing a licensed vet tech program at NMSU was raised as well.

Recorded by,

Nancy C. Sharp