

Animal Companions of Las Cruces Meeting Minutes
February 7, 2022
Via Zoom

Attendees: Carol Bartholomew, Julie Basile, Dawn Duncan, Carol Ezell, Cherri Hudson-Brown, Linda Mandel, Miguel Marquez, Denise Middlestaedt, Pam Pacheco, Bart Polin, Nancy Sharp, Candis Stern, Judy Bosland

Meeting began: 5:30pm

Dawn began the meeting with a PowerPoint presentation and made the clarification that Animal Companions of Las Cruces (ACofLC) supports all southern New Mexico, not just Las Cruces.

As of January 21, 2022, ACofLC is officially under the fiscal sponsorship of the Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico (CFSNM) to begin operating as a non-profit. Dawn, Miguel, and Nancy will sign the paperwork tomorrow (February 8, 2022).

The ACofLC Board members are Dawn Duncan, Carol Ezell, Miguel Marquez, Nancy Sharp, and Judy Bosland (<https://animalcompanionsoflascruces.org/about-us-1>). Their efforts over the next few months will be to define upcoming projects and manage day-to-day decisions as necessary.

ACofLC is now ready to build funding. Our website lists several membership levels. Single or recurring donations are welcome. It was noted that an anonymous donor has already paid the \$1,500 startup fee for CFSNM.

Miguel presented updates to our website: <https://animalcompanionsoflascruces.org/home>. The clickable banner on the home page will take you to our donor page. The donor buttons link to the donation form on the CFSNM website. It was requested that credit card donations add three percent to the total to cover card processing costs (not necessary if paying by check). However, if the donor does not do so, they will still be credited with the full amount of the selected donor level. Miguel noted that suggestions for improving the website can be made via "Contact Us" under the "More" tab.

Nancy discussed the Volunteer Task Sign Up form, available on the "Get Involved" tab of the website (<https://animalcompanionsoflascruces.org/get-involved>). The information in this fillable form will go straight to Nancy. She will contact anyone who submits the form.

Carol discussed the results of her research regarding "televet" services. She explained what a "televet" service is, and what we are looking for in such a service for southern New Mexico. This includes flexibility of referrals and choice. Our regional veterinarians should be able to join if they desire to do so. Our preferred service would also help our rescue groups and fosters. The three Carol has contacted are VetTriage, Guardian Vet, and AirVet. Our current plan is to present at least one option to our local vets via a webinar in the near future. It was noted that our underlying problem remains a shortage of veterinarians. This is an interim step with the ultimate goal of a fully staffed emergency hospital. It is hoped that a "televet" approach will help our local vet clinics to engage with ACofLC.

Questions asked included clarification on the 3% credit card charge and increasing the font size on the donate page. Carol mentioned another benefit of our relationship with CFSNM is the opportunity and support to pursue grants. She also stressed that ACofLC has no paid employees; we are all volunteers which is required by CFSNM. When asked about having a Facebook page for ACofLC, Miguel said he would get on it (as of Tuesday, February 8, 2022, there is a Facebook Group and Miguel is setting up a Facebook page).

Our next meeting will be Monday, March 14, 5:30pm via zoom. Meeting adjourned at 6:12pm.