



Animal Companions of Las Cruces General Meeting Minutes July 11, 2022

Attendees: Dawn Duncan, Nancy Sharp, Miguel Marquez, Cherri Hudson-Brown, Carla Alford, Julie Basile, Linda Mandel, Dara Parker, Amyliah Piña, Candis Stern, Judy Stuart, Jaye Williams

Meeting Began: 5:35 p.m. MT via Zoom.

Dawn gave an update to the group. Since last month she's heard from Calista and they want to eventually do 24/7 emergency pet care. Carol Calista has hired three veterinarians who will join in the next few months. She plans to operate from 7 a.m. to midnight seven days a week.

Media and Communications. Dawn said we'd continue to support Calista and other veterinary services. She will write a letter updating veterinarians and asking how our group can be of support.

Upcoming meetings and presentations: Dawn will be talking with Las Cruces Mayor Ken Miyagishima on July 19. She will meet with Clint Thacker of Animal Services and Doña Ana County County Commissioner Lynn Ellins on July 21. She will give a presentation at a Las Cruces City Council work session on July 25.

The Atlantic article—Nancy brought to the board's attention a web site article from *The Atlantic*, reported by Sarah Zhang on the nationwide veterinary shortage. Dawn said reading the article might be depressing for some, but that it was important to be pro-active and to help recruit veterinarians to our area before others in the country are aware. The article, which Dawn received permission to re-print, is on our web site.

National Night Out on Plaza de Las Cruces—Aug. 2, 5-9 pm. We will have a table and try to recruit volunteers and give information out. We will also accept donations that night. We will also distribute magnets that advertise VetTriage.

Website and Donations—Miguel said that Dawn's title had been changed. "Project Manager" was dropped and "Founder/President" is listed.

Mission and Goals page—VetTriage was moved to the bottom of the goals list with the note: "ACCOMPLISHED"

VetTriage Page—The page was changed to include reviews and experiences from VetTriage customers. The information had originally been on our social media pages.

Pet Stories: This new page was added from our social media sites to our web page. It features "pet of the week" stories.

Donations: Miguel said we've received \$8,870 in donations from 42 donors. Our donation total increased by \$200 since last month.

We've had administrative expenses of \$1,044.66. Dawn explained none of us receive a salary. The administrative expenses were from the printing of business cards, thank you notes, a lunch, and the Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico's administrative services. The latter we've been charged for February, March and April but haven't received a statement for latter months.

The total fund balance is currently \$7, 825.34.

Fundraising Event and Volunteers—Sunday, September 18, will be our film (s) screening and silent auction at the Fountain Theatre in Mesilla. According to Nancy Sharp. Board members have already agreed to contact certain business or groups for donations. Nancy will send out an email to our general membership for help and she will keep track of who is contacting which businesses or people for donations. Dawn added that members can look around their homes or make use of their own talents to see what they can donate. Julie Basile will take photos during the event. Cherri suggested that possibly Julie could donate a pet parent/pet portrait sitting.

VetTriage—Dawn urged people to pre-register with VetTriage in order to save time if there's an emergency. Since we have partnered with VetTriage:

—Jornada Veterinary Clinic: 4 sessions have been purchased and 7 account registrations have been created.

Paisano Animal Clinic: 0 sessions have been purchased and 7 account registrations have been created.

Animal Companions of Las Cruces (ACofLC): 4 sessions purchased and 27 account registrations haven created.

Total: 8 sessions have been purchased and 41 account registrations have been created.

Call to Action—We need to contact businesses for donations for the silent auction Sept. 18. Dawn thanked those who have helped recently : Julie Basile for her amazing brochure, Liz Reed for doing vet recruitment at Cornell's veterinary school, Cherri Hudson-Brown for contacting a lawyer she knows who'll offer advice when he can on a pro bono basis.

Need for new board member—We don't need a lawyer now on the board, but Dawn said we do need a new board member who can be the secretary and who can take minutes. Cherri is doing minutes in the meanwhile.

New business/Further Discussion—Candis was wondering if we need to pre-register with VetTriage and Dawn explained it was a matter of time saving in an emergency. Dawn said to pre-register go to our web site, don't click on asking for a session. Candis asked if we could get a business to sponsor our fund-raising event. Dawn said if we have food or drink it has to be LaPosta.

Linda wanted to know when Calista would start being 24/7. Dawn said Dr. Calista hopes to open from 7 a.m. to midnight later this summer.

There is a need for more cat photos and stories. Dara said it would be good to mention exotic animals including snakes and birds. Her 20-year-old snake died because she couldn't get after hours emergency care. Our veterinarians could wind up with people from El Paso coming for after-hours care for their exotic pets, according to Dara.

Linda mentioned that The Community Foundation is hosting another "One hundred for 100" fund-raiser, which this time is July 21 at the Boneyard from 5-7 pm. It is an opportunity for a member of our nonprofit to give a pitch as to why funds that evening should come to us. Linda will try to be present. Dawn said that one of us should definitely be there to make that pitch.

The Community Foundation is having it's gala October 8 at the Convention Center, from 6pm-11pm. Individuals can purchase a ticket or a table. It includes a cocktail hour, casino games, a live DJ and dancing, and a silent auction. Dawn will ask CF if our nonprofit can be among those featured that night.

Meeting ended at 6:26 p.m.