



## Animal Companions of Las Cruces General Meeting Minutes June 20, 2022

**Attendees:** Dawn Duncan, Miguel Marquez, Nancy Sharp, Judy Bosland, Amyliah Piña, Julie Basile, Cherri Hudson-Brown, Jaye Williams, Judy Stuart, Toni Donnelly, Eileen Tersagp, Jean Berlowitz

**Meeting Began:** 5:35pm MDT

When Dawn opened the meeting and attempted to access her slides, Zoom did not correctly portray Dawn's desktop. After multiple attempts to fix the problem, Dawn presented the content without showing the slides. These included:

- The Board met with Las Cruces City Mayor Miyagishima. He would like to make a call to Thrive regarding setting up an emergency pet hospital in Las Cruces. He is interested in how Las Cruces might provide incentives for emergency pet care. He suggested that Dawn present to the City Council during a work session, which she will do on July 25.
- Dawn met with April Anaya of the Doña Ana County Human Society (DACHS) on May 18, 2022. DACHS has received grants from Petsmart which is now changing how it provides grants. The company is taking an "incubator/accelerator" approach. April and Dawn discussed working together for an "accelerator" grant that could provide funding for up to three years.
- Dawn presented to the Doña Ana County Commission on May 24. The link to the video clip of the meeting is available on the Animal Companions website on the Media and Events page (under "More"). The commissioners who were present expressed interest in our mission.
- Next up, Dawn will meet with Clint Thacker, Director, Animal Services Center of the Mesilla Valley, and Doña Ana County Commissioner Lynn Ellins on July 21

Miguel gave an update on our website. Highlights included:

- Buttons on the Home page now provide links to our Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and Nextdoor social media accounts.
- The Meeting and Events page has the link to Dawn's presentation to the Doña Ana County Commission.

As Board Treasurer, Miguel presented a summary of finances to date. Thus far, \$8,620 has been received from 39 donors, we've spent \$1,045 in administrative expenses, and have a Total Fund Balance of \$7,575.

Nancy introduced our city-funded summer intern, Amyliah Piña. Amyliah will be a junior at Arrowhead Park Early College High School this fall. She is interested in pursuing a bachelor's degree in Animal Science. Her interest in animal science grew when she became the proud pet parent of Jules, a budgerigar, and wanted to learn more about taking care of birds. Amyliah's internship work thus far has been to collect stories and photos of our community's pet parents and their pets and post these on Animal Companion's social media.

Nancy has tallied 32 registered volunteers thus far. Eight are willing to help with grant research, and three have expressed interest in letter writing and door-to-door outreach.

Dawn gave the following updates:

- It's time to work on the brochure. It should be slick, colorful and engaging. Julie suggested a tri-fold design at this time. Liz Reed has offered to take the brochure to Cornell University Veterinary School at the end of

June. Dawn would like to eventually see a spiral-bound version that permits removable pages for updating information.

- There is now heightened awareness of VetTriage, with Jornada Veterinary clinic, Paisano Animal Clinic and Zia Mobile Veterinary Clinic participating. DACHS would like to work with VetTriage, as well. A recent experience reported on Nextdoor (a dog and chocolate) made many pet parents more aware of VetTriage, with lots of likes for the information.
- Rumor has it that Calista Animal Hospital (CAH) is interested in becoming a 24/7 pet hospital. However, it has been very difficult to get in touch with them. It's very important that Animal Companions have a discussion with CAH. We would like to help them achieve this goal, and it will affect what money we need to raise. Any capital campaign we initiate will need to have a clear goal of where/how the money will be used.
- The board will be planning a fundraiser with the Mesilla Valley Film Society for a day of animal films and a silent auction. We need to settle on a date (likely sometime in September), get the word out, and solicit items for the auction.

Dawn opened the meeting to discussion:

- Judy Stuart has talked with CAH and confirmed that business does want to become a 24-hour emergency hospital. Nancy mentioned that Heidi at CAH had attempted to contact her while she was recently out-of-state. Dawn asked Judy and Nancy to stay in contact with CAH and make it clear that Animal Companions wants to help, and we are not in competition. Dawn reiterated that Animal Companions supports all area veterinarians, and our goal is to get emergency care. There is enough business for all.
- Julie asked about the content for the brochure. Dawn will provide content ideas via a Google Drive document tomorrow.

Meeting ended at 6:25pm.