



## Animal Companions of Las Cruces General Meeting Minutes May 9, 2022

**Attendees:** Dawn Duncan, Miguel Marquez, Judy Bosland, Candis Stern, Kathe Stark, Linda Mandel, Cherri Hudson-Brown, Carla Alford

**Meeting Began:** 5:32pm MDT

Dawn opened the meeting with a slide presentation. She highlighted the outreach meetings held during the past month. These included:

- Community Conversations at the Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico (CFSNM) for connecting our local animal services nonprofits.
- Rotary Club meeting on May 4, 2022 – this went very well, and we’ve since received several donations.
- Partnering with other local animal-focused nonprofits to address city and state animal ordinances.
- Zoom meeting with Mayor Miyagishima this Wednesday.
- Keeping a positive, active face on Facebook and Nextdoor.

Miguel gave an update on our website. Highlights included:

- A link at the top right of our home page, “VetTriage” will go to our landing page that describes VetTriage (VT), offers a sign-in form, and the connection to VT.
- The Meeting and Events page now has the webinar with VT.
- Our goals have been updated.
- We now have 19 volunteers who have signed up via our volunteer form. We could use more for research.

Dawn informed everyone that Animal Companions is now working with VT so that anyone can now access their services through our website. Some people have already set up an account which will streamline their connection to VT in case of an emergency. The following Las Cruces veterinary clinics have signed with VT and have, or soon will have their own landing pages: Paisano Animal Clinic, Jornada Veterinary Clinic, and Zia Mobile Veterinary Clinic. These clinics will receive a full report of each emergency call regarding their clients. Animal Hospital of Las Cruces has opted to send their clients through our website.

Dawn continued with additional updates:

- The board has begun working on grant applications. One is due May 20, and the next set will be due in July.
- We have been awarded a 20 hour per week summer intern from the City. CFSNM will provide office space free of charge.
- The board is beginning to plan a fundraiser with the Mesilla Valley Film Society. It will be a day of animal films and a silent auction. The theater will be free, and Dawn will supply the films from her personal collection. The date is currently undecided.
- Animal Companions will be participating in the National Night Out at the Las Cruces Plaza on August 2, 2022.
- We are continuing to encourage more veterinary clinics to participate in VetTriage, and we’re still working towards an emergency hospital. We would like to make connections with someone in real estate who could help us find a property at low or no cost.
- The NM State Veterinary Board has assured us that nonprofits can own an animal hospital as long as a licensed veterinarian is the managing signatory.

Dawn opened the meeting to discussion. Highlights include:

- Dawn noted that Animal Companions was 14<sup>th</sup> out of 44 nonprofits in raising donations during April's Giving Day.
- Linda and Candis discussed CFSNM's recent "100 for 100" event in which 100 people were invited to pay \$100 each to attend and support various charities. Candis spoke up for Animal Companions. However, the vote went for Casa de Peregrinos.
- Linda volunteered to help mail out invitations for an Animal Companions fundraising event. Dawn said that of the eighty-plus people on our contact list, 34 have made at least one donation to Animal Companions.
- If anyone is interested in learning how to conduct accurate research, Dawn is willing to provide a webinar.

Dawn will be having surgery at the end of May and will be "out of commission" for about six weeks.

Our next general meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 13 at 5:30pm, with the same zoom link.

Meeting ended at 6:10pm.