

## ANIMAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, January 29th, 2026 - 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Animal Services Conference Room (space limited)

511 W 3900 S, Millcreek, UT 84123

Recording Link:

<https://slco.webex.com/slco/ldr.php?RCID=ad4931f43bb64cf07f0d468e340ac92e>

### **MEETING MINUTES**

#### **Members in Attendance:**

Dustin Gettel – Midvale

Thom DeSirant – Millcreek

Dea Theodore – Salt Lake County Council

Toby Hazelbaker – Salt Lake City

Terry George – Magna

Gary Bowen – Emigration

Grant Crowell – Bluffdale

Jared Steffey (alternate) – Salt Lake

County Mayor

Holly Smith – Holladay

Linda Price – White City

Lorrin Colby (alternate) – Kearns

Patrick Theobold – Industry Expert

Rita Lund (alternate) – Millcreek

#### **Non-Members in Attendance:**

Audrey Pierce – Magna

Jami Johanson – SLCO Animal Services

Carrie Naylor – SLCO Animal Services

Talia Butler – SLCO Animal Services

#### **1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL – Dustin Gettel, Chair**

- Welcome new member Thom DeSirant representing Millcreek and potential new members. Carrie took roll call and all in attendance introduced themselves and who they represent.

#### **2. PUBLIC COMMENT – Please state name & jurisdiction.**

None

#### **3. CONSENT AGENDA**

##### **3.1. Approval of 11-6-25 Meeting Minutes**

Thom DeSirant motioned, Gary Bowen seconded. All say aye.

##### **3.2. Vote for Chair and Vice Chair**

Gary motioned to nominate Dustin as Chair, Thom seconded. All say aye, Dustin Gettel voted as 2026 Chair.

Thom DeSirant volunteered to be Vice Chair. Dustin motioned, Linda Price seconded. All say aye. Thom Desirant voted as 2026 Vice Chair

#### **4. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS**

##### **4.1. Online Open Meetings Act Training**

<https://training.auditor.utah.gov/courses/open-and-public-meetings-act-training-2026>

All in attendance participated in the open meetings act training and successfully completed the training.

##### **4.2. Legislation, Talia Butler, Division Director; Jami Johanson, Associate Division Director**

Talia provided a summary of the current bills related to animals in the 2026 Utah State Legislative session.

Talia explained that we are closely following and in support of HB 87 Animal Crime Victim Amendments, related to seeking swift disposition for animals being held on court holds, and SB 102 Animal Control First Responder Amendments, which would classify animal control officers as first responders alongside other law enforcement officers.

Animal Services asked members for their support in helping get these bills passed and Carrie will distribute a support letter if members and their city officials would like to sign to show support.

Other bills Animal Services is monitoring includes SB70 related to sheltering during emergencies, SB201 related to shelter euthanasia amendments that clarifies requirements before shelter animals are euthanized, and a bill that addresses penalties related to distribution of animal cruelty images and media. Dustin asked if there are any current bills related to puppy mills and backyard breeders. Talia explained that so far there is nothing related to that on legislature yet.

4.3. **Division Updates**, Talia Butler, Division Director; Jami Johanson, Associate Division Director  
Jami Johanson highlighted a court hold case involving a dog named Biscuit that ended with a successful adoption. Jami also went over upcoming events including the fundraising event Treadbowl and Spring into Love Easter adoption event. Jami also provided a summary of this year's capital projects.  
Jami and Dustin also highlighted a recent hoarding case and animal control and other agencies efforts to take possession of the various animals and provide assistance to the home owner.

## 5. MEMBER REPORTS

### 5.1. Updates from member's jurisdictions that may impact Animal Services.

- Alan Peterson Lorrin Colby – Kearns - **none**
- Grant Crowell – Bluffdale - **None**
- Thom DeSirant – Millcreek – Thom highlighted Millcreek's upcoming Doxy Derby on 3/28/26. Rita also thanked us for our council presentation and concerns over off leash dogs in parks.
- Dustin Gettel – Midvale – **Thanked Animal Services efforts**
- Toby Hazelbaker – Salt Lake City – **SLC increased budget for signage to help curb off leash dogs in parks**
- Holly Smith – City of Holladay – Holly explained Holladay secured a 30 yr lease on a former school property. The city is exploring adding a dog park with the property use.
- Lt. Brian Wright – Murray – **N/A**
- Vacant – Copperton – **N/A**
- Jeff Bossard – Brighton – **N/A**
- Linda Price – White City – Thank Animal Services for all they do. Linda explained some schools are placing signage not allowing animals on the grounds and citizens are upset.
- Audrey Pierce Terry George – Magna - **None**
- Gary Bowen – Emigration Canyon – Gary explained that Emigration is looking to update ordinances including one related to animals for food production. Gary explained that MSD seemed unaware of what Animal Services provides. Gary suggested to meet with MSD to educate them on our services.
- Scott Baird – Salt Lake County Mayor – Jared Steffey present, no updates.
- Dea Theodore – Salt Lake County Council - **none**
- Patrick Theobold – Industry Expert – Patrick explained Best Friends is also involved in legislature and showing support for bills.

## 6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

### **Tour of shelter and mobile clinic**

### **ADJOURN**

Thom motioned, Gary seconded. All say aye.

# LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES



## H.B. 87 Animal Crime Victim Amendments

Require courts to determine disposition of animals held in cruelty cases at the first scheduled hearing. Does not require owner attendance. Addresses cost of care.

### Benefits

- Clarifying provisions related to the release & forfeiture of animals reducing unnecessary hold times
- Prioritizes animal welfare in abusive and/or exploitive cases.

## S.B. 102 Animal Control First Responder Amendments

Currently the law only includes animal control officers that are part of a police or sheriff agency. Requesting change to include all municipal animal control employees that meet the first responder requirements.

### Benefits

- Strengthens workforce readiness by extending access to first responder mental health and substance use resources
- Improves coordination within emergency and public safety systems, benefiting dispatchers, responders, and the public

# Biscuit



Love



Love



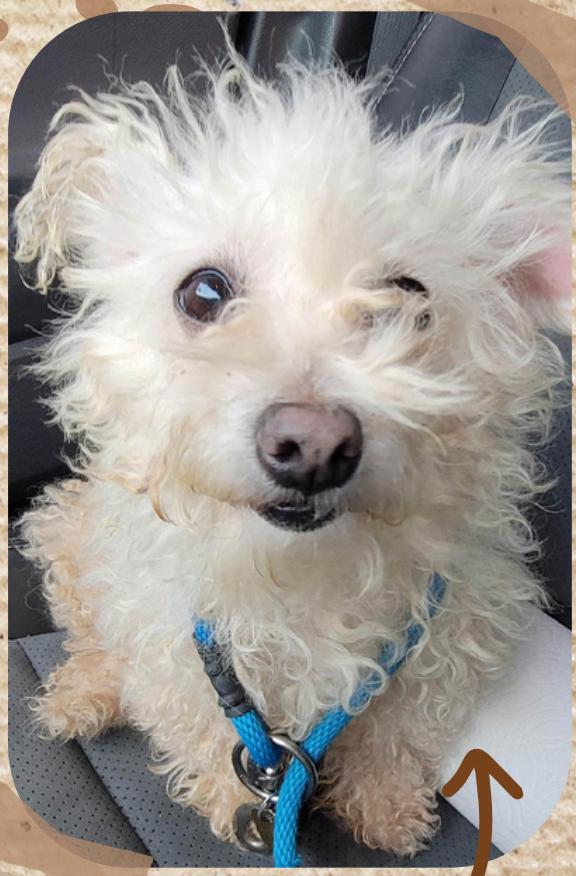


Love





# Midvale Hoarding Case



Adoptable!!

