

Santa Barbara County Animal Commission - Mission and Purposes

The overall mission of the Santa Barbara County Animal Commission is to sustain and improve care of homeless animals and improve service to the general public in Santa Barbara County by:

- promoting and sustaining a public-private partnership between Santa Barbara County Animal Services, volunteers, non-profit organizations and other interested citizens;
- ensuring accountability and transparency in operations of Santa Barbara County Animal Services and partnering organizations; and
- enhancing communication and cooperation among all persons interested in animal welfare in Santa Barbara County.

Authorized activities of the Animal Commission shall include:

- a. Monitoring the operations of SBCAS, holding public hearings and making periodic reports and recommendations for improvements, including recommendations for facility improvements.
- b. Promoting and facilitating collaboration between SBCAS, outside non-profit organizations and interested members of the public.
- c. Receiving and investigating citizen and employee complaints concerning SBCAS and other animal welfare matters within Santa Barbara County; making recommendations for corrective action where warranted.
- d. Reviewing and making recommendations concerning SBCAS policies and procedures, in consultation with SBCAS staff, stakeholders and interested members of the public. The Animal Commission shall make final decisions on SBCAS policies affecting animal care and service to the public, subject to override by Board of Supervisors.
- e. Reviewing and making recommendations on SBCAS budget proposals, staffing and organization.
- f. Reviewing and making recommendations on contracts or other agreements affecting care and disposition of SBCAS animals, including contracts concerning uses and improvements of SBCAS grounds and facilities, contracts for professional services (e.g. dog trainers), and contracts or operating agreements with non-profit partners.
- g. Conducting applicant interviews and making recommendations on hiring of senior management personnel (SBCAS Director, Operations Manager, Shelter Supervisors).
- h. Evaluating and making recommendations to the Board of Supervisors on local, state and federal legislative matters and regulations related to animal welfare.