

Public Comment for Upcoming Commission Meeting

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Comments:

Hello,

I spoke at the last commission meeting and just wanted to provide my comments in writing for the commission. I also would like to invite the commissioners to come volunteer with me! I usually volunteer Sunday mornings, but I understand commissioners may have church, so we could do a Saturday morning instead. Weekdays I'm usually working, so unable to go volunteer. I also often go volunteer on holidays, so Thanksgiving morning I'll be there to help! It'll be good exercise before eating too much.

Comments from meeting:

Thank you Commissioners and staff.

I volunteer, foster, and have adopted from Sandoval County Animal services. The staff do an amazing job with the limited resources they have and follow the rules of animal welfare. It's astonishing how well behaved the dogs in their care are once they learn they're safe and taken care of. I applaud them for all they do as well as the countless volunteers and fosters involved in helping these animals find homes.

Animal Services, when running smoothly and well, is a great service to the community.

I'm concerned about the new facility in the planning stages. The public/private partnership I've read about in the papers most of all. Animal rescue is a passion project of many, but passion should have no role in how our tax dollars are spent.

The facility needs to be easy to clean and also provide places for the animals to rest, play, and meet potential adopters. The current model is a holding facility, but not all animals are moved out in a timely manner. Our current foster had been at the facility since April – Max is an awesome dog, by the way.

I'm very concerned about the aspect of this facility that would be leasing kennels out to other entities and rescue groups. Would county staff be responsible for these animals? Or will they provide their own staff? There are liability issues to be considered since we are dealing with living animals who can sometimes be unpredictable.

I do not want my tax dollars being spent on nonprofits picked by the county. I pick where I want my nonprofit dollars to go.

The vet clinic needs to be up and running as soon as possible. The only true way out of the current animal welfare nightmare we are having in New Mexico and across the nation is through income-based spay and neuter programs. Not everyone can afford a \$250 sterilization procedure, but I believe everyone who wants to provide love to an animal should be given that chance regardless of income.

Thank you.

Additional resources for best practices for animal shelters:

Shelter Medicine & Community Animal Health Guidelines: <https://higherlogicdownload.s3.amazonaws.com/ASV/fa11b6a5-ea22-45cc-9b33-416a24d44499/UploadedImages/2022-ASV-GL-Checklist.pdf>

Enclosure design for shelters - <https://www.uwsheltermedicine.com/library/resources/facility-design-shelter-animal-housing-and-shelter-population-management>