

From: [Heidi Hofer](#)
To: [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Chan, Connie \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#); [Hepner, Lee \(BOS\)](#); [MandelmanStaff, \[BOS\]](#); [Fregosi, Ian \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Commission of Animal Control and Welfare, Heidi Hofer Appointment Consideration
Date: Thursday, May 13, 2021 9:08:53 PM

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Dear Supervisors Peskin, Mandelman and Chan,

Thank you for your consideration of my application to the Commission of Animal Control and Welfare. I appreciate the opportunity to speak to the Board of Supervisors Rules Committee on May 17th.

Prior to the meeting I wanted to introduce myself and provide a brief summary of my qualifications:

Passion for and appreciation for animals: A life-long pet lover and guardian, I grew up with a lot of pets. Usually 3-5 cats, one or two dogs, mice or hamsters, goldfish and a canary at any given time. I am currently the proud mom of Sneakers, a gray tabby adopted from ACC over 10 years ago, and Nika, our Akita adopted 11 years ago from a local rescue group. I also live close to Mountain Lake Park and the Presidio and adore the abundant local wildlife – hawks, owls, gophers, squirrels, coyotes, raccoons, skunks and the rare fox.

Volunteer experience with Animal Care and Control: Over 5 years ago my daughter and I went through the ACC volunteer orientation and became volunteers with Toni's Kitten Rescue (TKR). Since then I have had the exquisite pleasure of fostering over 150 ACC kittens. In that time I have gotten to know ACC extremely well – the staff, the volunteers and the facility (although I have only been to the outside of the new facility due to COVID). During my many visits there I have also got to see countless community interactions between the public and the dedicated ACC staff and volunteers. In addition, several years ago I organized a community support event at my employer involving over 100 people to make 25 pet beds and 170 pet toys and raise almost \$1000.00 for Friends of ACC.

Volunteerism and civic engagement: Besides my involvement with ACC/TKR, I volunteer with NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) as a parent support group facilitator and course instructor. I am also a certified NERT (Neighborhood Emergency Response Team) volunteer with the SF Fire Department and have participated in their drills and assisted at COVID vaccination clinics. I have also volunteered with Jewish Family and Children's Services as a senior companion volunteer. At Wells Fargo I served for two years on the board of the Women's Team Member Network.

If appointed, I commit to serve the city, its pets and wildlife, and pet lovers and guardians to the utmost of my ability. As a 23-year resident of the city named in honor of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals, I believe we should be at the forefront of animal welfare and well-being.

Sincerely,

Heidi

Heidi M. Hofer, heidi_hofer@yahoo.com

From: [Bryant, Taimie](#)
To: [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Irina Ozernoy: candidate for SF Commission of Animal Control and Welfare
Date: Friday, May 14, 2021 3:35:11 PM

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Dear Mr. Young,

Irina Ozernoy asked me to send an email to you in support of her application to join the San Francisco Commission of Animal Control & Welfare. I am happy to do so because I know her to be a thoughtful, intelligent, and collaborative person interested in animal protection and welfare. She demonstrated remarkable initiative when a neighbor illegally trapped a raccoon and had her killed. As someone who had appreciated all the wildlife in her neighborhood without sentimentalism or inappropriately feeding wildlife, she expressed shocked disappointment to see a neighbor behave unnecessarily and, ultimately, fruitlessly to achieve misguided “wildlife management” objectives. She has turned that experience into an opportunity to engage with wildlife rescue and rehabilitation efforts by volunteering with an organization focused on urban wildlife protection. Her positive attitude is contagious, and her thoughtfulness bodes well for collaborative approaches to solving animal welfare and protection issues in San Francisco.

I actually came to know Irina’s partner first, as he was a student in my animal law class at UCLA Law. He supported the clinic I teach through which students conduct potentially dangerous dog hearings for the Los Angeles Department of Animal Services. I had occasion to talk with both Irina and her partner in that context and then again in the context of the death of the raccoon. I have been impressed by their thoughtfulness and dedication to finding the best lawful approach to animal issues. Irina listens to different points of view and thinks clearly about alternatives.

I hope that the members of the Board of Supervisors Rules Committee will give her application serious consideration.

Sincerely,
Taimie Bryant

Taimie Bryant, Ph.D., J.D.
Professor of Law, UCLA School of Law
Director, UCLA Animal Law and Policy Program
Director, UCLA Dog Administrative Hearings Clinic
(310) 206-3763

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May 15, 2021

Attn: Victor Young
Board of Supervisors Clerk
victor.young@sfgov.org

Re: Commission of Animal Control and Welfare Member Recommendation

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I understand that my neighbor and friend, Heidi Hofer, is being considered as a member of the Commission of Animal Control and Welfare. I have known Heidi for about 15 years as a neighbor and friend from the Lake Street Inner Richmond area.

Over those years, I have been able to observe first hand Heidi and her family's passion for fostering kittens, her love of animals and her kindness to people and care for our neighborhood. She and her husband, Mark, are outstanding citizens of the community and have a genuine concern for the area – picking up trash, participating in recycling programs, and of course, caring for their own pets, as well as the many, many fosters they have had over the years.

I have been a dog trainer in San Francisco for about 20 years doing private lessons using reward based positive reinforcement training and teaching classes for SmartyPup! and Jeffrey's Natural Pet in San Francisco, Bravo!Pup in the East Bay, and having volunteered for about 5 years at the SFSPCA many years ago during the years of the dog training academy. It is always rewarding for me to meet other like-minded people who share my interests.

It is without hesitation that I recommend Heidi Hofer as a member of the Commission, and I would be happy to answer any questions you might have.

Best regards,

/s/

Tammy Mehmed

From: [Toni's Kitty Rescue](#)
To: [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Heidi Hofer for Animal Welfare Commission
Date: Monday, May 17, 2021 8:30:23 AM

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We highly recommend Heidi Hofer for a seat on the Animal Welfare Commission. We have worked with her for over 10 years and found her to be very reliable, and more important, she is a thoughtful and compassionate person who will be an asset to the Commission.

Toni Sestak
Director Toni's Kitty Rescue

Linda Hmelo
Assistant Director