



# Coachella Valley Animal Campus

## MINUTES

Thursday – May 6, 2021  
 9:30 a.m.  
**Commission Meeting**  
 Coachella Valley Animal Campus  
 72050 Pet Land Place  
 Thousand Palms, CA 92276

### Animal Campus Commission

**City of Indian Wells**  
Councilmember Kimberly Muzik

**City of Desert Hot Springs**

**City of Cathedral City**  
Councilmember Mark Carnevale  
**Chairman**  
Mayor Pro Tem Raymond Gregory  
(Alternate)

**City of Coachella**  
Mayor Pro Tem Emmanuel Martinez  
Vacant (Alternate)

**City of Indio**  
Mayor Lupe Ramos Amith  
Councilmember Elaine Holmes (Alternate)  
Scott Trujillo  
(City Representative)

**City of La Quinta**  
Councilmember Steve Sanchez  
Councilmember Kathleen Fitzpatrick  
(Alternate)

**City of Palm Desert**  
Councilmember Karina Quintanilla  
**Vice-Chairman**  
Councilmember Susan Marie Weber  
(Alternate)

**Palm Springs Animal Shelter**  
Gabrielle Amster  
Executive Director

**Friends of Palm Springs Animal Shelter**  
Tamara Hedges- President  
Ex- Officio

**City of Rancho Mirage**  
Councilmember G. Dana Hobart  
Mayor Ted Weill  
(Alternate)

**County of Riverside**  
V. Manuel Perez, 4<sup>th</sup> District  
Amy Cuen, Board Assistant  
Jeff Hewitt, 5<sup>th</sup> District

**Animal Samaritans**  
Len D. Betz, President  
Ex-Officio  
Tom Snyder, CEO

**County Staff**  
Laurie Dozier  
Executive Assistant I

### 1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

### 2. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The Animal Campus Commission Meeting was called to order on Thursday, May 6, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. via ZOOM by Vice-Chairman Mark Carnevale, Cathedral City.

A roll call was conducted by the **County Staff, Laurie Dozier**, and it was determined that there was a quorum. The following were present:

#### Members in Attendance:

Councilmember G. Dana Hobart, City of Rancho Mirage  
Amy Cuen, Board Assistant, Riverside County  
Councilmember Karina Quintanilla, City of Palm Desert  
Assistant City Manager Scott Trujillo, City of Indio  
Councilmember Mark Carnevale, Cathedral City  
Councilmember Kimberly Muzik, City of Indian Wells

#### Others in attendance:

Julie Bank, Director, County of Animal Services  
Chris Mayer, Commander of Field Service, County of Riverside Animal Services  
Kim McWhorter, Program Chief, County of Riverside Animal Services  
John Welsh, Public Information Officer, County of Riverside  
Jackie Schart, Operations Chief, County of Riverside Animal Services  
Ryan Long, Operations Chief, County of Riverside Animal Services  
Gabrielle Amster, Executive Director, Palm Springs Animal Shelter  
Tamara Hedges, President, Friends of Palm Springs Animal Shelter  
Michelle Bergeron, Animal Samaritans  
Tom Snyder, Animal Samaritans  
Laurie Dozier, Executive Assistant, County of Riverside Animal Services

### 3. FINALIZATION OF AGENDA:

The agenda was approved.

### 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes from February 6, 2020 and February 2, 2021 were approved.

### 5. ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2020:

The election of officers took place. Mark Carnevale was voted Chairman and Karina Quintanilla was voted Vice-Chairman.

**6. PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Brad Anderson from Rancho Mirage stated he has a concern regarding dogs being adopted online and not being able to meet the dog first before picking up. Julie Bank, from Riverside County Animal Services stated that this is not the case any longer due to Covid-19 restrictions being lifted to the next tier. Starting today, May 6, 2021 with our new public access plan, you can make an appointment to come in and visit before adopting.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

No correspondence.

**7. ANIMAL CAMPUS COMMISSION MEMBERS AND DIRECTOR COMMENTS:**

Mayor Dana Hobart asked if dogs and cats can get the Corona-19 virus. Julie Bank stated that animals can get Covid-19, although it is a very small percentage. Animals can also transfer the virus. If a person tests positive for the virus, the person should stay away from pets as much as possible during their quarantine time, although this is very rare.

**8. RIVERSIDE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL SERVICES:**

**Julie Bank, Director:**

Julie Bank stated that as of tomorrow Riverside County's Animal Services will utilize their updated Public Access Plan. This means adoptions by appointment and visiting the animals before adopting. Adoptions were not affected during Covid-19. Over the past three weeks animals coming in have doubled, primarily mom cats with babies. We do have an aggressive campaign for fosters, such as dog foster care programs, cat foster care programs, day trip program, foster to adopt program and messaging to the community to follow the laws and get involved. We also offer help and support through our Healthy Pet Zone (HPZ) program. Visit our website at RCDAS.org to check out what we are doing and what we offer. Our department is also putting a lot of effort in the Coachella Valley area to include the spay/neuter bus, pet food and our Healthy Pet Zone services. We are getting out there to collaborate and make a difference. Mayor Dana Hobart suggested that Julie be added to the Rancho Mirage City Council meeting being held at 1 p.m. today to tell of the great things the department is doing. Kimberly Muzik suggests that Julie contact every city manager to do a presentation at each city's council meeting. Julie stated she would do that.

**9. ANIMAL SAMARITANS (Tom Snyder, CEO):**

Michelle Bergeron stated that their facility now has urgent care services, open 7 days a week and received a \$70,000 grant for low-income veterinarian costs. There seems to be a shortage of veterinarians.

**10. PALM SPRINGS ANIMAL SHELTER (Gabrielle Amster, Executive Director):**

Gabrielle Amster discussed cat issues, TNR program and community cats.

**11. FRIENDS OF PALM SPRINGS ANIMAL SHELTER (Tamara Hedges, President):**

**12. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next meeting of the Animal Campus Commission is scheduled for August 5, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. via ZOOM.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 a.m.