



Coachella Valley Animal Campus

MINUTES

Thursday – November 8, 2018
 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 Ty Peabody

Chairman

Mayor Dana Reed
(Alternate)

City of Desert Hot Springs

City of Cathedral City

Councilmember Mark Carnevale

Vice-Chairman

Mayor Stan Henry
(Alternate)

City of Coachella

Mayor Pro Tem Emmanuel
Martinez

Vacant (Alternate)

City of Indio

Councilmember Lupe Ramos Watson

Councilmember Elaine Holmes

(Alternate)

Scott Trujillo

(City Representative)

City of La Quinta

Councilmember Steve Sanchez

Councilmember Kathleen

Fitzpatrick (Alternate)

City of Palm Desert

Councilmember Kathleen Kelly

Mayor Pro Tem Susan Marie

Weber (Alternate)

Palm Springs

Animal Shelter

Craig Ewing – Director of
Operations

Friends of Palm Springs

Animal Shelter

Tamara Hedges- President

Ex- Officio

City of Rancho Mirage

Mayor G. Dana Hobart

Mayor Pro Tem Ted Weill

(Alternate)

County of Riverside

V. Manuel Perez, 4th District

Victoria Llort, Legislative Assistant

Marion Ashley, 5th 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, November 8, 2018 at 9:30 a.m. at the Coachella Valley Animal Campus, 72050 Pet Land Place, Thousand Palms, CA 92276, by Chairman Ty Peabody, Councilmember with the City of Indian Wells.

A roll call was conducted by the Chairman, and it was determined that there was a quorum. The following were present:

Members in Attendance:

Ty Peabody, City of Indian Wells

Susan Marie Weber, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Palm Desert

Victoria Llort, Legislative Assistant, Riverside County

G. Dana Hobart, Councilmember, City of Rancho Mirage

Steve Brown, Councilmember, City of Coachella

Others in attendance:

John Welsh, Public Information Officer, County Animal Services

Michelle Bergeron, Animal Samaritans

Laurie Dozier, Executive Assistant, County Animal Services

Tom Snyder, Animal Samaritans

3. FINALIZATION OF AGENDA:

The agenda was approved as submitted.

4. APPROVAL OF May 2018 MINUTES:

Minutes approved as submitted Hobart/Llort m/s.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Director (Loving All Animals):

We are offering a great incentive for adopters, a \$105 rebate. We are not sure why cities are not participating in this rebate. Mr. Hobart would like to see adoptable animals brought back down to the city council meetings like they used to do in the past. It was a fun program, and he would like a few of the shelters to commit to starting this program up again in Rancho Mirage. Ms. Weber would like to see this program brought back as well, and would like the adoptable animals to hang around for a while after the presentation to give possible adopters the chance to visit with the animals. Chairman Peabody stated he attended the Loving All Animals event that was held at the air museum, and stated that it was an awesome event. A woman at the event even deeded property to Loving All Animals, which was amazing to see.

Kim Hardee:

The clinics are doing great. We are licensing animals in the east valley once a month. All fines can be waived. We have two clerical staff assisting with roughly 30 to 40 licenses, and each transaction can take roughly 20 minutes. It is a very time consuming process.

CORRESPONDENCE: Received a letter appointing the Mayor Pro Tem, Susan Marie Weber, for the City of Palm Desert to cast a vote on behalf of Kathleen Kelly, councilmember in her absence.

6. ANIMAL CAMPUS COMMISSION MEMBERS AND DIRECTOR COMMENTS:

John Welsh stated that on behalf of our Director, Robert Miller and the department of Animal Services, he would like to present a recognition plaque to Mr. Joe McKee. Mr. McKee was not in attendance, and John Welsh stated that he would be sure Mr. McKee receives his plaque.

7. RIVERSIDE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL SERVICES:

- **Robert Miller, Director:** Not in attendance.
- **Frank Corvino, Deputy Director:** Not in attendance
- **Dr. Allan Drusys, Chief Veterinarian:** Not in attendance.
- **John Welsh, Public Information Officer:**

Per our Director, Rob Miller, strategic goals announced for the Department. We will reach a 90% live release rate by 2023, if not sooner. We will display our "Tree of Life" boards at each shelter location and update our totals on a quarterly basis. Live release rates have been 15-20% higher than the original goal with the help of Palm Springs, Best Friends and Animal Samaritans. Cat impounds have decreased. Best Friends is a national organization and having them embedded in our shelter we will save more lives with TNR. They are focused on the entire county, including dogs. Best Friends is a tremendous help. They interview customers and educate the public as well. They are not in favor of our night drop boxes due to the fact that they want to be able to get the cats spayed, neutered and ear-tipped and then back to the area where they came from. The night drop boxes do not collect that information unless the person dropping the animal in the night box leaves that information. The grant fund money from Best Friends will be coming soon. We are super excited to be able to save more lives. Black Saturday will be held on Saturday, November 24, 2018. All fees will be waived on this day. The return rate is as low as normal, at about 7%, with almost 300 adoptions per event.

We have begun telling stories with data, meaning crunching numbers. A news release went out recently regarding huskies and a puzzling trend that shelter employees have been noticing over the past few years. We have seen an increase 3x the amount compared to 2013. Husky intake at the shelter has exploded. We feel it is due to the show, The Game of Thrones. Pit Bulls and Chihuahua's have decreased over this time. The increase in Dalmatians exploded during the release of 101 Dalmatians, and the same for Chihuahuas during the release of the movie, Beverly Hills Chihuahua. These are just some of the challenges we face. We will be asking for the public's help.

8. **ANIMAL SAMARITANS (Tom Snyder, CEO):** With the help of Best Friends we had 19 cat spay and neuters last Tuesday. Spay and neuters are up 70%, we are looking for veterinarians to work with, and we are in the process of speaking with equine UC Davis. We need high volume spay/neuters coming back to the desert. We are looking at the cities for support at this time. We are having a large animal spay & neuter clinic on November 11, 2018 at our clinic. On November 17, Gardens to the Rescue will be hosting an adoption event and Animal Samaritans will be participating. We are partnering with car dealerships to take dogs out for adoption events also. We are also always willing to reach out to showcase other organization's animals at our events. December 2 is Man of the Desert, you can get your tickets now. December 15, is Paws and Claws with Santa. There will be a small fee for photos. Michelle Bergeron stated that Best Friends is imperative in reaching all of our goals. We rely on our local groups for help when numbers get high here. We need them to step up again. As of last month, Michelle has been here for 7 years with rescue. We have only sent one underage puppy to rescue due to the efforts of Best Friends.

9. **PALM SPRINGS ANIMAL SHELTER (Director of Operations):** Not in attendance.

Friends of Palm Springs Animal Shelter (Tamara Hedges, President): Not in attendance.

10. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next meeting is scheduled for February 7, 2019 at 9:30 A.M. at the Coachella Valley Animal Campus: 72-050 Pet Land Place, Thousand Palms, CA 92276.

ADJOURNMENT The meeting was adjourned at 10:11 a.m.