



Coachella Valley Animal Campus

MINUTES

Animal Campus Commission

City of Indian Wells

Councilmember Ty Peabody

Chairman

Mayor Dana Reed
(Alternate)

City of Desert Hot Springs

City of Cathedral City

Mayor Mark Carnevale

Vice-Chairman

Vacant
(Alternate)

City of Coachella

Mayor Pro Tem Emmanuel
Martinez

Vacant (Alternate)

City of Indio

Mayor 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 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

Mayor G. Dana Hobart

Mayor Pro Tem Ted Weill

(Alternate)

County of Riverside

V. Manuel Perez, 4th District

Victoria Llort, Legislative Assistant

Jeff Hewitt, 5th District

Animal Samaritans

Len D. Betz, President

Ex-Officio

Tom Snyder, CEO

County Staff

Laurie Dozier

Executive Assistant I

Thursday – February 14, 2019

9:30 a.m.

Commission Meeting

Coachella Valley Animal Campus

72050 Pet Land Place

Thousand Palms, CA 92276

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The Animal Campus Commission Meeting was called to order on Thursday, February 14, 2019 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

Councilmember Kathleen Kelly, City of Palm Desert

Victoria Llort, Legislative Assistant, Riverside County

Mayor Pro Tem Emmanuel Martinez, City of Coachella

Others in attendance:

John Welsh, Public Information Officer, County Animal Services

Robert Miller, Director, County of Animal Services

Frank Corvino, Deputy Director, County of Animal Services

Dr. Allan Drusys, Chief Veterinarian, County of Animal Services

Deanna Burnett, Operations Chief, County of Riverside

Gabrielle Amster, Executive Director, Palm Springs Animal Shelter

Tamara Hedges, President, Friends of Palm Springs Animal Shelter

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 MINUTES:

Minutes approved as submitted Kelly/Llort m/s.

5. ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2019:

Ty Peabody was re-elected for 2019 Chairman, and Mark Carnevale was Re-elected for 2019 Vice-Chair.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Kim Hardee (Coachella Animal Network):

On March 21-23rd from 10AM-3PM they are offering senior citizens vaccinations for \$1.00, or a donation of their choice. Coachella Animal Network (CAN) is offering discounted vaccines, microchips, spay & neutering as well as a licensing clinic. Transportation for seniors is still an issue. It is hoped that future events can be held at senior citizen centers. A minimum of 20 seniors is needed to make this possible. Kim requested each city help promote these clinics in their area.

Brad Anderson:

Mr. Anderson would like his true spoken comments said during the Commission meeting held on May 10, 2018 replaced with the following: "Brad Anderson, resident of the City of Rancho Mirage, past employee of the Coachella Valley Mosquito and vector Control District, would like to voice my concern over a fly and eye gnat problem in the East Valley (Mecca/North Shore community). I had two (2) older dogs that I took possession of. They both originated from the shore line in the east valley. Both dogs were diagnosed with *Onchocerca Lupi*, which is a vector spread by flies and gnats. Mr. Anderson has made his concerns known to the CVMVCD (general manager) with no noticeable action taken by this public agency to combat these flies/eye gnats Vectors relating to public health and safety. This special district was aware of similar problems caused by flies over in the Los Angeles area, but the CVMVCD has all but totally stopped their programs to "reduce" flies and eye gnats in the Coachella Valley."

Mr. Anderson has submitted a letter into public record for the non-public agenda comments. **Please see attached letter.**

Mr. Anderson's responsibility is to notify this commission of the existence of these diseases and their means of transfer (vectors) to animals, to have each commission member review and further investigate his claims, and to address their findings to their cities and county for remedies to reduce and control the vectors that pose such a great risk to the health of our pets and the public.

Janet McAfee (Loving All Animals):

Palm Desert will now reimburse its residents' adoption fees for animals obtained from county or nonprofit shelters and rescue groups within the city. Ms. McAfee thanked the City of Palm Desert for their support. She is hoping other cities will create a similar ordinance to increase public awareness of adopting. A special recognition given to Susan Weber who has fostered 45 dogs to date. There is a program that is working in the Bay Area to offer spay/neuter services for a \$50 fee for pit bulls and pit bull mixes.

Randy Gaston/Paul Yinger:

Mr. Gaston indicates he has been dealing with an ongoing barking dog issue since 2012. The dogs were deemed a public nuisance in 2012, but have progressively gotten worse. Frank Corvino and Rob Miller will look into the case and set up a meeting early next week to speak with the Mr. Gaston and Mr. Yinger.

CORRESPONDENCE: Received a letter appointing the Mayor Pro Tem, Emmanuel Martinez for the City of Coachella to serve as the representative to the Coachella Valley Animal Campus Commission. An email was received stating neither delegate Dana Hobart nor Alternate Ted Weill can make the Animal Campus meeting on February 14, 2019.

7. ANIMAL CAMPUS COMMISSION MEMBERS AND DIRECTOR COMMENTS:

Chairman Ty Peabody asked Animal Services to discuss a few topics.

1. **Malnourished Horses:** Commander Chris Mayer indicated our officers removed six horses, one miniature horse and one burro from a North Shore property. All were underweight and one was deceased. All animals were signed over, and we will file cruelty charges.
2. **The Humane Society:** Discussed allegations made against Ms. Bustos. Kim Hardee and her colleagues hope to see the hospital reopen.
3. **Pit Bull Killed Mayor's Dog:** Commander Mayer stated that the restraint order was issued to the owner's mother's address, however the whereabouts of the pit bull and owner are unknown. This case remains open.
4. **Desert Hot Springs Closed Clinic:** Due to a shortage of veterinarians, Kim Hardee indicated they are unable to open. Once they retain a veterinarian, they hope to open the clinic again. The shelter is running great, and at this time they have 8 full time employees.

8. RIVERSIDE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL SERVICES:

- **Robert Miller, Director:** Discussed contract requests from the City of San Bernardino. San Jacinto has chosen to remain with Ramona Humane. A sheltering contract with the City of Rosemead (Los Angeles County) is being considered. In regards to budget, there are no updates. The County has two new Board of Supervisors and new budget subcommittees. DAS has been staffing the Emergency Operations Center in 24 hour shifts during its activation due to storms.
- **Frank Corvino, Deputy Director:** We are 2 years into our 3 year Community Cat Grant, and it has been very successful in the Coachella Valley. Cat impounds have decreased and live release has increased. Best Friends will be implementing their program in our Riverside, San Jacinto and Blythe shelters. A foundation has been working with Best Friends and would like to fund this program. Discussed some recent severe bite cases – we are filing all possible charges against the owners.
- **John Welsh, Public Information Officer:** Discussed the North Shore horse cruelty investigation. There is an additional case involving reports of skinny beef cattle. The owner will begin working with a nutritionist to improve their weight. Two of our animal control officers, Lt. Luis Rosa and Sgt. Miguel Hernandez, thwarted a potential kidnapping after noticing a distressed woman waving to them from the back of an SUV on Interstate 10. Our officers called 911 and followed the vehicle, and the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department were eventually able to pull the suspect over and arrest him. The Date Festival will not have as many dogs as past years, but it is positive outreach. Brook Beare, a reporter from KESQ, is requesting statistics of fatal dog attacks, and if statistics show a decrease in the number of pit bulls from 2005 to 2019. The request is large and complicated, and Dr. Drusys will work on gathering the data. Some attacks are never reported. John introduced the new Volunteer Coordinator for the Coachella Valley Animal Campus, Chelsea White.

9. **ANIMAL SAMARITANS (Tom Snyder, CEO):** The Indio clinic will be expanding. There is a shortage of veterinarians. New housing developments are being built, and Animal Samaritans would like to be able to provide service. The 5k and 1k Superhero fundraiser will be held on March 9, 2019.

10. **PALM SPRINGS ANIMAL SHELTER (Gabrielle Amster, Executive Director):** Palm Springs Animal Shelter is working on their live release rate, enrichment program, and events. The Meiselman Homes Tour begins February 23, 2019 at 9am. Tickets are limited. If you are

interested, please visit www.psanimalshelter.org/meiselman. Island Tails Faux Fur Ball V is a large gala scheduled for April 6, 2019. If you are interested in attending/sponsorship please email jolivas@psanimalshelter.org.

Friends of Palm Springs Animal Shelter (Tamara Hedges, President): Introduced Gabrielle Amster, the new Executive Director for the Palm Springs Animal Shelter. There are currently 178 animals in their care, some of which are in foster care. This is the lowest census ever, and is attributed to spay/neuter and TNR (trap, neuter and release) efforts. Loving All Animals, Animal Samaritans, and various clinics throughout the valley will be meeting on February 22, 2019 to discuss a foundation of support and how to work together for the success of this program. 9,909 cats have been processed through their TNR program.

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next meeting is scheduled for May 9, 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 10:30 a.m.