



Coachella Valley Animal Campus

COMMISSION MINUTES

PLEASE NOTE THAT ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA MAY RESULT IN ACTION TAKEN BY THE ANIMAL CAMPUS COMMISSION

The next meeting of the Coachella Valley Animal Campus Commission is as follows:

THURSDAY, May 10, 2012

9:30 a.m.

**Commission Meeting
Coachella Valley Animal Campus
72-050 Pet Land Place
Thousand Palms, CA 92276**

Animal Campus Commission



City of Cathedral City

Councilmember Sam Toles

City of Coachella

Councilmember Gilbert Ramirez Jr.



City of Desert Hot Springs

Councilmember Adam Sanchez

City of Indian Wells

Councilmember Mary Roche



City of La Quinta

Councilmember Kristy Franklin
Vice-Chair

City of Palm Desert

Councilmember Cindy Finerty
Chair



City of Rancho Mirage

Councilmember G. Dana Hobart

County of Riverside

John J. Benoit, 4th District
Marion Ashley, 5th District

Animal Samaritans

Betty Maytag, President
Ex-Officio



County Staff

Noel Loughrin
Board Assistant



1. **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Chairwoman Cindy Finerty called this meeting to order at 6:30 a.m.

Members present:

Chairwoman Cindy Finerty, Palm Desert
Councilmember Kristy Franklin, La Quinta
Councilmember Mary Roche, Indian Wells
Councilmember G. Dana Hobart, Rancho Mirage
Supervisor John J. Benoit, Riverside County- 4th District
Councilmember Adam Sanchez, Desert Hot Springs

Lt. Earl Moss (proxy), Cathedral City
Noelia Chapa (proxy), Coachella

Others present:

Jacqueline Berman
Lindi Biggi
Dr. Allan Drusys, Chief Veterinarian of Animal Services
Frank Corvino, Deputy Director of Riv. Co. Animal Services

2. **FINALIZATION OF AGENDA**

Commission unanimously approved the agenda as is.

72-050 Pet Land Place, Thousand Palms, CA 92276

Coachella Valley Animal Campus

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Lindi Biggi spoke about Loving All Animals and brought with her one of the dogs they rescued and groomed.

Jack Becker, from Desert Hot Springs and attended the March 2012 CVAC meeting, thanked the Animal Campus Commission members for their assistance in forming a committee to work on animal welfare issues in Desert Hot Springs. This committee is working on putting together a “mobile unit” for animal registration, microchipping, and to help keep pets current on their vaccinations. The committee is also working on educating the public on pet ownership.

4. ANIMAL CAMPUS COMMISSION MEMBERS AND DIRECTOR COMMENTS

None

5. CORRESPONDENCE

Proxy letter for Lt. Moss

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of the January 12, 2012 meeting minutes
M/S: Councilwoman Franklin/ Councilmember Hobart
Councilmember Sanchez abstained

7. ANIMAL SERVICES 2011 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

2011 Volunteer of the Year- Josue Zavala
Mr. Zavala was unable to attend the commission meeting.

8. SB 969 (LUCY'S LAW) UPDATE- Jacqueline Mercier

Jacque testified at the last Business, Professions and Economic Development hearing on SB 969 (Lucy's Law). About 200 groomers showed up at the state capitol in opposition of the bill. The bill was passed in the Business and Professions Committee and is now on its way to the Senate Appropriations Committee. All of the letters of support from the Animal Campus Commission and member cities was acknowledged by Senator Vargas during his comments for this bill.

9. COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES

- Publicity: John Welsh, Public Information Chief, Animal Services
 - Mega Match- A- Thon was a huge success! Animal Services believes that this adoption event surpassed world records for number of pet adoptions in one day.
 - Animal Services still has their live segment on KMIR 6 to advertise the animals the shelter has up for adoption.

- Update: Rob Miller, Director of Animal Services
 - Councilmember Finerty asked why in March the euthanasia rate was 48% and 51% of animals were returned to their owners or adoption partners, but in April euthanasia was 52% and 48% were returned to owners or adoption partners.
 - Frank Corvino said the increase is likely due to a higher intake of animals because people are leaving the valley because it is the end of our season. During this time of year the shelter sees more cats turned in by their owners and cats are their hardest animal to adopt. To combat this issue the Animal Services has lowered cat adoption fees.

10. MADDIE'S FUND UPDATE- Rob Miller, Director of Animal Services
This is an ongoing process. No update at this time.

11. ANIMAL SAMARITANS & ADOPTION ALLIANCE UPDATE- Fred Saunders, Executive Director

Councilmember Finerty said that the City of Palm Desert is currently working on their 2012-2013 budget and it has been recommended that Palm Desert contribute \$20,000 to the Animal Samaritans Adoption Alliance program.

Fred Saunders read a letter that has been sent to the city participants of the Coachella Valley Animal Campus (Desert Hot Springs, Cathedral City, Rancho Mirage, Palm Desert, Indian Wells, La Quinta, and Coachella) for funding for the Adoption Alliance program. In April 2011 the program was funded with \$40,000 combined from Palm Desert and Rancho Mirage. The Adoption Alliance has rescued 1,502 at a cost of \$55.02 per animal. The animals that have been rescued have been sent to rescue groups throughout the U.S. and Canada. The original projected cost for this program was \$67,000 to \$70,000 annually. Palm Desert and Rancho Mirage contributed \$40,000 and Animal Samaritans was able to cover \$42,645 through donations and grants. Some animal rescue groups and adoptions added \$5,150 of income for the program. The program expenses were: medical at \$20,520, payroll for two employees was \$54,106, operating overhead \$5,853. The total cost for the program was \$84,479. The remaining balance is \$7,316 which will fund the program for another month and a half. This program is a more cost effective way of saving animals rather than sheltering and euthanizing.

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS

No announcements

The next meeting of the Animal Campus Commission is scheduled for Thursday, July 12, 2012 at 9:30 a.m. at the ***at the Coachella Valley Association of Governments, Room 115.***

13. ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Finerty adjourned the meeting at 9:58 a.m.

For copies of agendas and past meeting minutes, please visit our website:
www.rivco4.org/web/cvacc