



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, JUNE 2, 2011

9:30 a.m.

Commission Meeting
Coachella Valley Animal Campus
72-050 Petland Place
Thousand Palms, Calif.

Animal Campus Commission



City of Cathedral City

Councilmember Sam Toles

City of Coachella

Councilmember Gilbert Ramirez Jr.



City of Desert Hot Springs

Councilmember Karl Baker, Jr.
Vice-Chair

City of Indian Wells

Councilmember Mary Roche



City of La Quinta

Councilmember Kristy Franklin

City of Palm Desert

Councilmember Cindy Finerty
Chairperson



City of Rancho Mirage

Councilmember G. Dana Hobart

County of Riverside

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

Animal Samaritans

Al Vasquez, President
Ex-Officio



County Staff

Noel Loughrin
Board Assistant



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

Vice-Chair Karl Baker Jr., Councilmember, City of Desert Hot Springs called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Commission Members Present:

Lt. Earl Moss (proxy), Cathedral City
Councilmember Karl Baker Jr., Desert Hot Springs
Councilmember Mary Roche, Indian Wells
Mayor Pro Tem Kristy Franklin, La Quinta
Councilmember Dana Hobart, Rancho Mirage

Others present:

Michelle DeArmond, County of Riverside
Frank Corvino, Department of Animal Services
Betsey Webster, Department of Animal Services
John Welsh, Department of Animal Services
Susan Jackoy
Jacqueline Mercier
Noel Loughrin, County of Riverside
Deby Conrad, City of La Quinta
Noelia Chapa, City of Coachella
Mel Windsor, City of Indian Wells
Fred Saunders, Animal Samaritans
Janet McAfee, Loving All Animals
Eduardo Garcia, Senator Vargas Representative
Evelyn Beatie
Rachel Ledoux
Candice McGrew, Department of Animal Services

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

Coachella Valley Animal Campus

2. FINALIZATION OF AGENDA

IF YOU HAVE ANY ITEMS YOU WANT ADDED TO THE AGENDA, THE BROWN ACT REQUIRES THAT YOU DO SO AT LEAST 72 HOURS PRIOR TO THE MEETING.

Commission approved agenda

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

THIS IS THE TIME AND PLACE FOR ANY PERSON WISHING TO ADDRESS THE ANIMAL CAMPUS COMMISSION ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA.

Jacqueline Mercier provided an update on the status of Lucy's Law. Senator Vargas has volunteered to author Lucy's Law. The bill is being reviewed and has not yet received a number. Senator Vargas will be sponsoring the bill for the following session (fourth quarter of 2011). Eduardo Garcia, Representative for Senator Vargas believes that they will be able to get support from both sides of the aisle for this bill. Director of the Department of Animal Services, Rob Miller has enlisted help from both the Animal Control Board and ASPCA to lobby the bill. In the coming months Rob Miller would like to bring Lucy's Law to the Animal Campus Commission as a legislative platform so he can speak on the Commission behalf. Vice-Chair Baker asked that once the bill gets a number that each city be notified and asked to support.

Janet McAfee from Loving All Animals updated the Commission on the Mobile Mutts program and an upcoming adoption event. The Mobile Mutts program has successfully found homes for 58 pets (3 cats, 1 bird, and 54 dogs (27 of which came from the Animal Campus)). In addition to animals coming from Riverside County shelters, Loving All Animals has also been adopting out animals from San Bernardino County and animal rescues.

On November 19 and 20 Loving All Animals will host a super pet adoption fair at Whitewater Park in Rancho Mirage. A similar event was held at Jackalope Ranch a few months ago and it was a great success.

4. ANIMAL CAMPUS COMMISSION MEMBERS AND DIRECTOR COMMENTS

THIS IS THE TIME AND PLACE FOR ANY MEMBER WISHING TO ADDRESS THE ANIMAL CAMPUS COMMISSION TO DO SO.

NONE

5. CORRESPONDENCE

NONE

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of the March 10, 2011 meeting minutes.

Tabled till next ACC meeting on July 14, 2011

6. VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR FOR 2009 AND 2010

Department of Animal Services Volunteer Coordinator, Candice McGrew acknowledged and provided certificates for the 2009 and 2010 Coachella Valley Animal Campus Volunteers of the Year.

2009 Volunteer of the Year- Evelyn Beatie has volunteered over 400 hours of at CVAC. Some of her duties include laundry, special events,

2010 Volunteer of the Year- Rachel Ledoux has also given over 400 hours to the CVAC. She has volunteered her time to drive animals to San Jacinto for spay and neuter appointments. Rachel did this every week for two months. She is also a foster parent for animals.

Vice-Chair Baker asked if there is a more public recognition planned for the volunteers of the year.

The Riverside Shelter Volunteers of the Year are recognized at a Board of Supervisors meeting. CVAC volunteers are recognized locally. The Department of Animal Services will plan an awards dinner for volunteers.

7. ADOPTION PARTNER COORDINATOR UPDATE

Michelle at Animal Samaritans has been the Rescue Coordinator and recently they have hired Christine Castillo to work with Michelle as the Adoption Partner Coordinator. Christine's position is funded by the Coachella Valley cities that decided to fund this position. Animal Samaritans has an MOU with the City of Palm Desert for this grant. Animal Samaritans figured that this position will cost \$57,000 of which the grant is a little short. Animal Samaritans is looking into additional funding and donations.

Christine's update (attachment 7A)- Over the last five weeks 136 animals were sent to rescue and 60 are currently in foster care. In August animals will be sent to a Canadian Rescue. The rescue group will be paying for transportation and various health costs. Over the last five weeks Animal Samaritans has been able to save some money because some of the rescue groups have waived \$610 in fees and have been reimbursed \$900 in medical fees. Christine is currently working on expanding the list of rescue groups, getting more foster homes and more volunteers. Christina is also working on scheduling a Pit Bull adoption event at the Westfield Shopping Center.

8. ANIMAL RESCUE GROUPS OVERVIEW

Vice-Chair Baker felt that this was already addressed during the beginning of the meeting.

No other comments

9. ASPCA \$100K CHALLENGE

The ASPCA \$100K Challenge is a contest for Animal Shelters throughout the U.S. to encourage more adoptions with innovative thinking. After the first heat, qualifying shelters will have to save at least 300 more lives than they did in the previous year between August and October. Shelters will get the chance to win up to \$100,000.

The Riverside County Department of Animal Services received more votes than any other group in California.

Commission member Franklin asked if the Loving All Animals adoption event in November could be moved to a weekend in October so the adoptions at the event could be counted in the ASPCA Challenge.

Commission member Hobart and Janet McAfee said that a date change will be looked into but might be a bit of a challenge.

10. COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES

- **Publicity:** John Welsh, Public Information Chief, Animal Services
Department of Animal Services is now on Twitter and You Tube. Updates and notable small stories are posted on Twitter. Sign up for Twitter to begin following Department of Animal Services. Twitter name is HelpinRivCoPets.
- **Update:** Rob Miller, Director of Animal Services
Rob Miller was unable to attend. Betsy Webster and Frank Corvino were in attendance to answer any questions commission members had about the bi-monthly staff report.

Betsy Webster reminded the commission that Art for the Animals online Art Auction is coming up. Photos of the art that is for sale is posted on the Department of Animal Services website www.rcdas.org. Art has been created by children and adults.

Frank Corvino said that Facilities Management is aware of the maintenance issues at the Coachella Valley Animal Campus.

11. ANIMAL SAMARITANS – Fred Saunders, Executive Director

The Animal Samaritans Clinic is doing well. The clinic has recently renovated one of their closets into a new exam room. Currently the shelter on Ramon is being renovated and Animal Samaritans has applied for façade improvement funds with the county which has been approved.

Vice-Chair Baker mentioned that he would like to see a 24 hour affordable emergency clinic for animal in the desert.

Fred said that the Animal Samaritans Finance Committee is currently looking into the possibility of a 24 hour clinic. The clinic is equipped for an overnight stay and is built like a hospital. For 24 hour services the clinic will need the right veterinarian and staff. Emergency room is the most expensive operation in a hospital.

12. FRIENDS OF THE COACHELLA VALLEY ANIMAL CAMPUS – Sam Esposito

No update provided

13. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- John Welsh mentioned that he will look into where the volunteers of the year reside so the volunteers can be recognized at their city council meeting.

The next meeting of the Animal Campus Commission is scheduled for Thursday, July 14, 2011 at 9:30 a.m. at the **Coachella Valley Association of Governments Conference Room 115**. 73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Conference Room 115, Palm Desert, CA 92260.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Vice-Chair Baker adjourned this meeting at 10:26am

