



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, JAN. 13, 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



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

www.riversideshelter.com
(760) 343-3644 or (888) 636-7387

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

Chair Dana Hobart called this meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

Bruce Pelletier voting substitute for Mary Roche, Indian Wells.

Present:

Same Toles- Cathedral City, Karl Baker- Desert Hot Springs, Bruce Pelletier- Indian Wells, Kristy Franklin- La Quinta, Cindy Finerty- Palm Desert, Dana Hobart- Rancho Mirage, Supervisor Benoit- County of Riverside, Rob Miller- Animal Services, Frank Corvino- Animal Services, Anthony Moreno, Betsey Webster- Animal Services, Fred Saunders- Animal Samaritans, Jacqueline Berman, Susan Jacoy, Karen Esposito, Ilene Koch, Janet McAfee.

2. **FINALIZATION OF AGENDA**

Palm Desert City Manager, John Wohlmuth asks that the Adoption Coordinator be added to the March Animal Commission Agenda for updates and discussion from each participating city. Commissioner Finerty suggested adding the discussion for this position to today's agenda so to get support from each participating city. Supervisor Benoit suggested that Rob Miller send a letter with details about this position to participating cities. The cost for this position is about \$50,000 annually. The Cities of Indian Wells, Palm Desert, and Rancho Mirage are already discussing funding this position. Chair Hobart requested that Riverside County and cities agree to fund employment for the Adoption Coordinator position. The discussion is only for funding for one year right now. Rob Miller said that this will

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

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be a contracted position with the Department of Animal Services and one the funding disappears so will the position. Rob also mentioned that even though this position is no longer at the Animal Campus they are still doing rescues. Supervisor Benoit said that if the cities agree to help fund the position that the cost will be divided equally by each city. Commissioner Finerty said that the City of Palm Desert is solidly behind funding this position and has committed up to \$15,000 for funding this position. Indian Wells will work on adding this item to their city council agenda. Each city agreed to add Adoption Coordinator funding to their city council agendas. Animal Services will send out a letter describing the position to each city.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Karen Esposito from KASE provided an update on the inspiration garden. Representatives from Animal Services, KASE, and Animal Samaritans met with CVWD. They are currently working with legal at Animal Samaritans. Once done with legal they will begin to contract with companies to build the garden. The garden will have a desert landscape. The original concept might have to be adjusted as they are concerned with water flow. The fountain will either be reduced or eliminated. CVWD has given \$38,000 for this garden which will be used first for the soft-scape and architecture. KASE is looking into having Petco fund the stage. They are also looking into soliciting funding from each city to help pay for the fountain expenses. KASE is also looking into a memorial garden to help reduce costs.

Jacqueline Berman in November and December got 11 dogs into homes. Jacque is still working on getting Lucy's law passed and would like Animal Campus Commission to help lobby. She is receiving emails reporting animal abuse by groomers.

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.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

None

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of the September 23, 2010 meeting minutes- M/S: Anthony Moreno/ Frank Corvino. Commissioner Hobart and Commissioner Baker abstained.

(No minutes from November 18, 2010 – no quorum)

7. NOMINATING COMMITTEE

No report

8. ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2011

Commissioner Franklin nominated Commissioner Finerty for Chair, she accepted. Commissioner Hobart nominated Commissioner Baker for Vice-Chair, he accepted. No other nominations. Commissioner Finerty continued meeting as Chair and Commissioner Baker continued as Vice-Chair.

9. COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES

- **Publicity: John Welsh, Public Information Chief, Animal Services**
Desert Sun reported on Adoption Coordinator but did not call Animal Services for a comment.
A dog in DHS got his head stuck in a wall. The story was picked up nationally and internationally.
Forty-four dogs were rescued in southeast Riverside County and were brought to Animal Campus. All of the dogs that were picked up were in good health. Woman had far too many dogs at her home and welcomed Animal Services to bring some to the animal campus to be adopted out. The woman is not a 501 (c) 3 and it is likely that Animal Services will go back to pick up more dogs. The woman is very cooperative with Animal Services.
Commissioner Hobart said that there was an advantage to keeping the dogs with her because they were healthy and not going to be euthanized.
Frank said the woman who had the dogs was a hoarder. Having this many animals in one home can potentially harm and cause illness which would spread to all of the dogs. Animal services does not want euthanize rates to increase.
Commissioner Hobart asked if the woman could be permitted to have a kennel since she did a good job taking care of all the dogs.
Frank said land use is not up to Animal Services and should be brought up with planning.
Commissioner Finerty asked that Animal Services come back to Commission with a recommendation on how to reduce CUP fees.

10. ANIMAL SAMARITANS – Fred Saunders, Executive Director

Representatives from China came to Animal Samaritans to study animal care. China has now mandated a rehab center with animal assistance and will begin working on a vet program in China.
Spay & neuter funding with the county is limited. Contract for \$75,000 will fall short by a couple of months this year. Once funding runs out then animals will be transported to Riverside for spay and neuter services. Animal Services would like to continue to keep animals here in the desert and would like to know if cities are able to help.
The Animals Samaritans Clinic has extended their hours to 7pm on Wednesdays. They have also added ultrasound and endocardiology(?).
Animal Samaritans is interested in assisting with the Adoption Coordinator position.
Working with Tom Snyder and Animals Services showcase animals up for adoption on TV for more exposure.
The City of La Quinta gave a grant to Animals Samaritans to extend their van spay and neuter services. The van is popular in La Quinta, Mecca, Coachella, Banning, and Beaumont. There are no additional fees to use the van spay and neuter services. Animals Samaritans is currently looking for grants for this service.

-Chair Cindy Finerty left-

-Vice-Chair Karl Baker took over meeting-

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

Friends of the CVAC and recently made a donation to the Animal Campus. Food is being donated and Friends is paying for the shipping.

12. LOVING ALL ANIMALS “MOBILE MUTTS”- Janet McAfee

Mobile Mutts is a new program that showcases animals up for adoption to people by bringing the pets to the people. About 80% of people don't go to shelters because they

are disables, don't know where one is, or they don't want to go to shelters. Mobile Mutts cleans up the dogs and chauffeurs them in a limo to businesses to try and get the dogs adopted. The program was televised during their first run and dogs were adopted. Shelters can make requests to Mobile Mutts. People will call Loving All Animals and fill out a potential adopter application. Mobile Mutts works with all shelters and rescue groups. They will also take people to shelters to look for pets. The program also offers the guest one complementary glass of champagne.

Irene Cook brought her dog Mattie who she adopted through the Mobile Mutts program. She got to meet three adoptable dogs and chose Mattie.

13. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Vice-Chair Baker asked that a update on local animal rescue groups and how they all work together be presented at the next Animal Campus meeting.

Rob said he would provide an overview at the March meeting.

The next meeting of the Animal Campus Commission is scheduled for Thursday, March 10, 2011 at 9:30 a.m. at the ***Coachella Valley Association of Governments, 73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Room 115, Palm Desert.***

14. **ADJOURNMENT**

Vice-Chair Baker adjourned the meeting at 11:16 a.m.