



Coachella Valley Animal Campus

COMMISSION MINUTES

Animal Campus Commission



City of Cathedral City

Councilmember Stan Henry

City of Coachella

Councilmember Steven Hernandez
David Garcia (Alternate)

City of Desert Hot Springs

Mayor Adam Sanchez

City of Indian Wells

Councilmember Mary Roche
Chair
Warren Morelion (Alternate)

City of Indio

Councilmember Elaine Holmes
Vice-Chair
Jason Chan (Alternate)

City of La Quinta

Councilmember Kristy Franklin

City of Palm Desert

Frankie Riddle

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

Carol-Ann Myers
Executive Assistant

Thursday, January 9, 2014

9:30 a.m.

Commission Meeting

Coachella Valley Animal Campus

72-050 Pet Land Place,

Thousand Palms, CA 92276.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The Animal Campus Commission Meeting was called to order on Thursday, January 9, 2014 at 9:37 a.m. at the Coachella Valley Animal Campus, 72-050 Pet Land Place, Thousand Palms, CA, by Chair Kristy Franklin, Councilmember for the City of La Quinta.

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

Members in Attendance:

Supervisor John J. Benoit, County of Riverside
Kristy Franklin, Councilmember, City of La Quinta
Mary Roche, Councilmember, City of Indian Wells
Frankie Riddle, City of Palm Desert
Fred Saunders, Animal Samaritans, Ex Officio

Others in attendance:

Earl Moss, Police Captain, City of Cathedral City (**proxy to vote**)
David Garcia, City Manager, Coachella (**authorized to vote**)
Jason Chan, Sr. Management Analyst, Indio (**authorized to vote**)
Robert Miller, County Animal Services
Frank Corvino, County Animal Services
Kim McWhorter, County Animal Services
Veronica Ramos, County of Riverside
Carol-Ann Myers, County Animal Services
Lindi Biggi, Loving All Animals
Kim Hardee

1. FINALIZATION OF AGENDA:

The agenda was approved as submitted

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- Jaqueline Mercier-Berman introduced the "Lucy Pet Foundation" which is a mobile spay/neuter, and adoption program assisting major cities throughout the county by offering surgeries. The founder would like to take his mobile vehicles to the major cities in order to assist with spay/ neuter. Mrs. Mercier-Berman would like each city to discuss with their Council on participating with this. Mrs. Mercier-Berman voiced the founder would like to lease and add signage on Animal Control Vehicles in order to increase the awareness of the Foundation. The website is: Lucypetfoundation.org

Coachella Valley Animal Campus

PUBLIC COMMENTS CONT:

Kim Hardee, a resident of Indio, discussed the low cost spay/Zeuterin clinics being done in Indio. There will be two clinics November 16th and November 17th. In the past they have administered over 1200 vaccines. Kim Hardee spoke on behalf of residents who do not have transportation to submit their rabies certificates in order to complete the licensing process. Rob Miller, Director of Riverside County Animal Control, clarified rabies certificates can also be submitted via mail and licenses can be mailed to the customers. Kim Hardee spoke on behalf of the licensing fees being higher in Indio than in other cities. Mr. Miller spoke of the importance of licensing fees and that they are the only sole revenue source designated directly for Animal Control. Kim Hardee also spoke on behalf of residence who cannot afford the violations being given from License Inspectors. Animal Services has given over a million dollars in free spay/neuter services to the desert communities. All notices from License Inspectors are correctable violations. Rob Miller stated one of the most important things is that the residents engage the county in order to receive assistance.

3. ANIMAL CAMPUS COMMISSION MEMBERS AND DIRECTOR COMMENTS:

None

4. **CORRESPONDENCE:** Letter authorizing proxy voting rights to Earl Moss (Cathedral City), for the November 14, 2013 meeting.

5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Minutes approved with change of adding the time change for the November 14, 2013 meeting to 10:00AM. m/s Noelia/Hobart

6. COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES:

Robert Miller, Director:

- Kim McWhorter will be presenting at the January 9th, 2013 meeting a revised staff report with correct outcome data for each city.
- Indio received a 40 thousand dollar grant for spay/neutering as well as part of their contract with Animal Control DAS will be deploying their Mobile Spay/Neuter clinic out to the City of Indio.
- **Zeuterin:** There are limitations on Zeuterin. You cannot do cats or female dogs. It is not a replacement for traditional sterilization, but a great addition. It most effective on small/medium sized male dogs and to date does not work for female dogs. It is not FDA approved on large dogs and there has been an assessment where after three attempts on a large Rottweiler dog breed they were unable to successfully sterilize.
- Each City Manager including Palm Springs will receive a letter from Robert Miller as well as the Board of Supervisors Chairman in reference to the recently adopted ordinance mandating all Pit-Bull breeds and Pit-Bull mixes be spayed/neutered. Rob Miller can provide any additional information regarding legislation to the Cities. Councilmember Hobart inquired about what arguments are presented to the cities from those who are against the legislation. A little over 1/3 of the population of Riverside City and Riverside county will be effected by this legislation. The City of Riverside adopted the ordinance however removed one component that a service dog will remain intact. The ordinance is enforced based on strong statistics demonstrating a problem with an increase in Pit-Bull breeds in the County's shelters. One popular argument is defining a Pit-bull. There are distinct characteristics that identify Pit-Bull breeds. A majority of the information on the breed of the dog is given in the

sterilization and vaccination certificates presented by the Veterinarians and the owners of the dogs. If the dog is brought in as a stray, it is up to the Department to determine the breed. DAS is putting together a review committee consisting of: DAS Animal Behaviorist, Michelle Blackowl, a well-known top breeder in the Country, and a Registered Veterinary Technician located at the Coachella Valley Animal Campus. Noelia Chapa, City of Coachella, would like to know impound data by city/breed. DAS will provide this for each city at the next Commission Meeting. The goal of the Board of Supervisors is to have all cities on the same page with this legislation.

- **Frank Corvino Deputy Director:**

- November 15th, 2013 projects to replace flooring in the Coachella Valley Animal Campus will proceed. The flooring will be replaced in sections to ensure minimal stress on the animals. The project should take 8-10 weeks. There will be minor adjustments in terms of space however the amount of kennels will remain the same and no animals will be euthanized as a result of this project. If more space is needed dogs can be transported to the San Jacinto Valley Animal Campus.
- Many media agencies did not consult with the Department prior to running stories regarding the Pit-Bull sterilization ordinance in terms of Field Services seeing an increase in impounds. Field has not seen an increase in impounds, however there is an increase in Vaccine Clinics and surgery appointments.
- **Case updates:**
- Indio: Horrific bite to a young lady by a Pit-Bull.
- B. Schwenn: All dogs have been placed in a rescue and charges are still pending.
- The story of "Dominique", a child from Cathedral City who was reunited with his lost service dog, has gone global.

7. **ANIMAL SAMARITANS & ADOPTION ALLIANCE UPDATE- Fred Saunders Executive Director**

- Grant that will provide 50 spay/neuters for pit-bulls that will be advertised.
- Animal Samaritans will be running a \$55 adoption special price on Pit-Bulls.
- Free Pit-Bull will be within the next 30 days. Free Pit-Bull spay/neuter grant received from Palm Springs.
- Animal Samaritans is currently working with a college and pre-med students going to school to become Veterinary Technicians. The program will deploy next year and may be offered at the Indio Campus. Rob asked that Fred send the information regarding the program. Animal Samaritans is also working on expanding their services.

8. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next meeting is January 9, 2014 at 9:30AM at the Coachella Valley Animal Campus. 72-050 Pet Land Place Thousand Palms, CA 92276

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

Vice Chairwoman Mary Roche, Mayor, City of Indian Wells adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m.