



Coachella Valley Animal Campus

Thursday, May 11, 2017
9:30 a.m.
Commission Meeting
Coachella Valley Animal Campus
72050 Pet Land Place
Thousand Palms, CA 92276

Animal Campus Commission

City of Indian Wells

Councilmember Ty Peabody

Chairman

Mayor Dana Reed
(Alternate)

City of Desert Hot Springs

Councilmember Joe McKee

Vice-Chairman

City of Cathedral City

Councilmember Mark Carnevale

Mayor Stan Henry
(Alternate)

City of Coachella

Councilmember Betty Sanchez
Vacant (Alternate)

City of Indio

Councilmember Glen Miller
Mayor Elain Holmes (Alternate)
P.J. Gagajena (Alternate)

City of La Quinta

Councilmember Steve Sanchez
Councilmember Kathleen
Fitzpatrick (Alternate)

City of Palm Desert

Councilmember Kathleen Kelly
Frankie Riddle (Alternate)

Palm Springs

Animal Shelter

Daniel Sumner – Director of
Operations

Friends of Palm Springs

Animal Shelter

Tamara Hedges-Vice President
Ex- Officio

City of Rancho Mirage

Mayor G. Dana Hobart
Mayor Pro Tem Ted Weill
(Alternate)

County of Riverside

John J. Benoit, 4th District
Matthew Fletcher, Board Assistant
Marion Ashley, 5th District

Animal Samaritans

Len D. Betz, President
Ex-Officio
Tom Snyder, CEO

County Staff

Laurie Dozier
Executive Assistant I

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The Animal Campus Commission Meeting was called to order on Thursday, May 11, 2017 at 9:30 a.m. at the Coachella Valley Animal Campus, 72050 Pet Land Place, Thousand Palms, CA 92276, by Vice-Chairman Joe McKee, Councilmember with the City of Desert Hot Springs.

A roll call was conducted by the **Vice-Chairman** and it was determined that there was a quorum. The following were present:

Members in Attendance:

Joe McKee, Councilmember, City of Desert Hot Springs
Kathleen Kelly, Councilmember, City of Palm Desert
Mark Carnevale, Councilmember, City of Cathedral City
P.J. Gagajena, City of Indio
Matthew Fletcher, Board Assistant, Riverside County

Others in attendance:

Frank Corvino, Deputy Director, County Animal Services
Dr. Allan Drusys, Chief Veterinarian, County Animal Services
Tom Snyder, Chief Executive Officer, Animal Samaritans
John Welsh, Public Information Officer, County Animal Services
Veronica Ramos, Customer Service Manager, County Animal Services
Laurie Dozier, Executive Assistant, County Animal Services

3. FINALIZATION OF AGENDA:

The agenda was approved as submitted.

4. APPROVAL OF May 2017 MINUTES:

Minutes approved as submitted McKee/Kelly m/s.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Kim Hardee: To date, they have sterilized 4,400 animals and sold over 500 licenses. Kim is holding County licensing clinics monthly with the next one scheduled for May 27th. She would like to request if a technician would be available to assist once a month. There is a significant need in East Valley for these services, and if finances are a problem, she can assist with covering costs.

6. CORRESPONDENCE: None at this time.

7. ANIMAL CAMPUS COMMISSION MEMBERS AND DIRECTOR COMMENTS:

• **Matt Fletcher, Board Assistant:**

Matt discussed the upcoming Homeless Pets & Combat Vets event for District 4 being held on June 3rd at the Coachella Valley Animal Campus. The adoption fee is \$49.00 which includes a \$20 donation for the ASK Foundation, \$20 donation for Veterans Affairs, and \$9.00 adoption fee for the Department of Animal Services. The first 25 adoptions will be free, courtesy of SOAR. The next 25 animals will be \$24.50, with half the costs being covered by the Palm Springs Kennel Club. There will be food vendors, dog obedience training, dog food donations, portraits with your pets, and much more.

• **Kathleen Kelly, Councilmember:**

Kathleen Kelly asked for information about the ASK Foundation. John Welsh explained the organization, its purpose and the programs it funds that benefit homeless pets and needy pet owners.

• **Joe McKee, Councilmember, Vice-Chair:**

Joe McKee expressed his thanks to the Department of Animal Services, Director Rob Miller, and Deputy Director Frank Corvino for their assistance in upcoming changes in Desert Hot Springs. The City of Desert Hot Springs will be hiring staff and opening a short term shelter in approximately five months. Nearly \$200,000 in upgrades have been made to the facility, and will include two animal control trucks. Desert Hot Springs would like to return animals to their owner within three to four days; owners with transportation issues may have their animals brought to them, if needed. Their ultimate goal is to not take dogs to the shelter at all, or to significantly reduce the amount. The shelter has been approved through the budget and was given \$70,000 to continue their spay/neuter programs. Councilmember McKee is grateful to John Holcomb and several non-profits as well.

8. RIVERSIDE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL SERVICES:

• **Frank Corvino, Deputy Director:**

Updates: Frank Corvino thanked Matt Fletcher and the 4th District for their work and input on the Homeless Pets & Combat Vets adoption series. Animal Services is in the process of working on the Fiscal Year 2017/2018 budget. The Animal Services Burro Ordinance covering the Pigeon Pass and Reche Canyon area has been adjusted. The ordinance will prohibit people from interfering with, enticing or feeding burros in these areas. The practice of feeding burros has led to dangerous situations and caused many deaths. The burro ordinance will be presented to the Board of Supervisors at a public hearing scheduled for the end of July.

- **John Welsh, Public Information Officer:**

Updates: John Welsh will be issuing a press release regarding the Homeless Pets & Combat Vets adoption series.

Media: There was an incident involving a car vs. horse; the horse sadly did not survive. The caretaker of the horse owner was cited. Like dogs, horses are not permitted to roam. John worked with Kelly from KESQ and educated constituents about earthquakes and pets. The Press Enterprise published a story with the most popular names for dogs. There is a recent update on the Lake Matthews pit bull story from a few months ago when animal services impounded 27 emaciated pit bulls, with another 13 found dead on the property. The suspect, Kim Gallegos, was found and arrested in Las Vegas and will be extradited back to Riverside County.

- **ANIMAL SAMARITANS (Tom Snyder, CEO):**

Kim Laidlaw: Kim Laidlaw is pleased to assist with the community cat program. Animal Samaritans is in favor of holding clinics in Indio and Thousand Palms on Sundays. Michelle Bergeron has been working on transports, and at this time they have sent 132 animals to rescue, 57 of which were underage kittens. Animal Samaritans has a grant funded program for seniors 60 years old and over. The program will help keep pets in homes with seniors by assisting with veterinary bills. Applicants will need to show proof of income and residency to meet the criteria for assistance.

9. **PALM SPRINGS ANIMAL SHELTER (Daniel Sumner, Director of Operations):** Daniel Sumner is happy to join the Commission. Stray animals are being dropped off by Walmart in Palm Springs. At the request of Kathleen Kelly, Daniel Sumner and Tamara Hedges explained the standard for euthanasia at their facility.

Friends of Palm Springs Animal Shelter (Tamara Hedges, Vice President): Tamara Hedges indicated that having Daniel Sumner as Director of Operations for Palm Springs has helped with the alignment of Animal Action League, Animal Samaritans and others. The Best Friends grant has been going well over the last three months and is making a huge impact. An adoption special with Bianca Ray, SNIP and Luke's Legacy is planned for this Saturday. Resources are being combined to notify fosters of available animals. The grant funded spay/neuter clinic will be held in Palm Springs at Denmuth Park on May 11, 2017. Reviewed handouts and monthly statistics. With the approaching budget season and spay/neuter being such a huge need, Frank Corvino would like the No-Kill Coachella Valley group to consider a spay/neuter fund, especially for the cities in need.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next meeting is scheduled for July 13, 2017 at 9:30AM at the Coachella Valley Animal Campus: 72-050 Pet Land Place, Thousand Palms, CA 92276.

ADJOURNMENT Vice Chairman Joe McKee adjourned the meeting at 10:12 a.m.