



Coachella Valley Animal Campus

Thursday, November 10, 2016
9:30 a.m.
Commission Meeting
Coachella Valley Animal Campus
72050 Pet Land Place
Thousand Palms, CA 92276

Animal Campus Commission

City of Cathedral City

Councilmember Mark Carnevale
Mayor Stan Henry
(Alternate)

City of Coachella

Councilmember Betty Sanchez
Vacant (Alternate)

City of Desert Hot Springs

Councilmember Joe McKee

City of Indian Wells

Councilmember Ty Peabody
Chairman
Mayor Dana Reed
(Alternate)

City of Indio

Councilmember Michael Wilson
P.J. Gagajena
(Alternate)

City of La Quinta

Councilmember John Pena
Vice-Chair

Councilmember Kristy Franklin
(Alternate)

City of Palm Desert

Frankie Riddle

Palm Springs

Animal Shelter

Dr. Shayda Ahkami,
Shelter Director

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
Patricia Cooper, Board Assistant
Lilia Escobido, Board Assistant
Marion Ashley, 5th District

Animal Samaritans

Len D. Betz, President
Ex-Officio

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, November 10, 2016 at 9:30 a.m. at the Coachella Valley Animal Campus, 72050 Pet Land Place, Thousand Palms, CA 92276, by Chairman Ty Peabody, Mayor with the City of Indian Wells.

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

Members in Attendance:

John Pena, Councilmember, La Quinta
Ty Peabody, Mayor, Indian Wells
Joe McKee, Councilmember, City of Desert Hot Springs
Frankie Riddle, City of Palm Desert
G. Dana Hobart, Mayor, City of Ranch Mirage
Mark Carnevale, Councilmember, Cathedral City
Lilia Escobedo, Board Assistant, County of Riverside

Others in attendance:

Frank Corvino, Deputy Director, County Animal Services
Tom Snyder, Chief Executive Officer, Animal Samaritans
Greg Priamos, Riverside County Counsel
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 July 2016 MINUTES:

Minutes approved as submitted McKee/Hobart m/s.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

No public comments.

5. **CORRESPONDENCE:** No Correspondence

6. **ANIMAL CAMPUS COMMISSION MEMBERS AND DIRECTOR COMMENTS:**

Lilia Escobedo: Lilia stated that the Benoit50 event was a great success! The fee for adoption, spay/neuter and microchip were waived. There were a total of 50 adoptions, 37 dogs and 13 cats.

7. **RIVERSIDE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL SERVICES:**

- **Frank Corvino, Deputy Director:**
Case Updates: None at this time.

Pet Store Update/Palm Desert Puppies: Animal Control issued two citations to Palm Desert Puppies. The citations were fought in court, but ultimately upheld by the judge. We will continue doing monthly checks, and continues to issue citations as necessary. At this time, he continues to cooperate. Greg Priamos stated there are benefits to filing a lawsuit in civil court; if violated, they can be held in contempt. Mr. Priamos would be happy to meet with any of the cities to discuss.

Partnership/TNR: DAS has partnered with Palm Springs and Best Friends. Best Friends is offering a large grant for TNR activities. The grant is for \$1.5 million dollars and will be spread over 3 years. This grant would include a full time employee at the CVAC shelter. The goal is to have a 90% live release rate. The plan for TNR follows. Volunteers would trap cats and bring them in. The cats would be examined, spay/neutered, micro chipped and ear tipped and then returned to the community cat colony where volunteers would care for them. Tamara Hedges stated that this would be a partnership with many organizations and it would bring people together. In Indio, if animal control officers are called out to pick up a cat that is trapped and they find that it is ear tipped upon arrival, they educate the caller and release the cat.

Events: The Black Saturday event is approaching and has been very successful in the past. It will be held on Saturday, November 26, 2016. All animals will be free at all of our shelters.

Volunteer Services: Kim McWhorter stated that Priscilla Dewing is the volunteer coordinator for the CVAC shelter. The volunteer program is growing every day. There are currently 71 active volunteers as of July 2016 and 1,500 hours volunteered since July 2016. Volunteers also help with adoptions, events, and Petco. To become a volunteer you will need to apply on line and then you will be called to attend an orientation.

- **John Welsh, Public Information Officer:**
Updates: John spoke about a number of notable stories. A large tortoise was found, fostered and returned to its owner. A dog named Scruffy was missing for a year and was reunited with his owner through our shelter and a microchip. The story of the inseparable pig and sheep that were impounded together ended happily, as both were adopted out as a bonded pair.
- **ANIMAL SAMARITANS (Tom Snyder, CEO):** Animal Samaritans is approaching 10,000 rescues as of next week. Tom Snyder will be contacting John Welsh for media assistance and

possibly holding a small celebration. The annual Men of the Desert Fashion Show and charity luncheon which will be held on Sunday, December 4, 2016 at the Agua Caliente Casino Resort Spa in Rancho Mirage.

8. **PALM SPRINGS ANIMAL SHELTER (Dr. Shayda Ahkami, Shelter Director):** Dr. Shayda discussed her handout that was distributed regarding the Palm Springs Animal Shelter monthly statistics. Statistics included 63 cats rescued from a hoarding cruelty case, strays vs. surrenders, promotion of adoptions, retention programs, lost and found, and micro chipping. She is hoping to see a significant reduction of kittens. Palm Springs Animal Shelter has a number of senior pets that they are trying to promote at this time. On November 19, 2016 there will be an event called Seniors for Seniors. It will be held at the Stonewall Senior Center and it will also offer medication for senior pets.

Friends of Palm Springs Animal Shelter (Tamara Hedges, Vice President): With Frank Corvino's euthanasia reduction program, Tamara believes we can tackle pet overpopulation together. They received a grant for training coming up in February 2017 which will be open to all. Tamara will send out additional details in the near future.

9. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next meeting is scheduled for January 12, 2017 at 9:30AM at the Coachella Valley Animal Campus: 72-050 Pet Land Place, Thousand Palms, and CA 92276.

ADJOURNMENT Chairman Mayor Ty Peabody adjourned the meeting at 10:10 a.m.