



Coachella Valley Animal Campus

MINUTES

Animal Campus Commission

City of Indian Wells

Councilmember Ty Peabody
Chairman
Mayor Dana Reed
(Alternate)

City of Desert Hot Springs

Councilmember Joe McKee

City of Cathedral City

Councilmember Mark Carnevale
Vice-Chairman
Mayor Stan Henry
(Alternate)

City of Coachella

Councilmember Betty Sanchez
Vacant (Alternate)

City of Indio

Councilmember Lupe Ramos Watson
Councilmember Elain Holmes
(Alternate)
P.J. Gagajena
(City Representative)

City of La Quinta

Councilmember Steve Sanchez
Councilmember Kathleen Fitzpatrick (Alternate)

City of Palm Desert

Councilmember Kathleen Kelly
Mayor Pro Tem Susan Marie Weber (Alternate)

Palm Springs

Animal Shelter

Craig Ewing – Director of Operations

Friends of Palm Springs

Animal Shelter

Tamara Hedges- President
Ex- Officio

City of Rancho Mirage

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

County of Riverside

V. Manuel Perez, 4th District
Victoria Llort, Legislative Assistant
Marion Ashley, 5th District

Animal Samaritans

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

County Staff

Laurie Dozier

Thursday – May 10, 2018
9:30 a.m.
Commission Meeting
Coachella Valley Animal Campus
72050 Pet Land Place
Thousand Palms, CA 92276

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The Animal Campus Commission Meeting was called to order on Thursday, May 10, 2018 at 9:30 a.m. at the Coachella Valley Animal Campus, 72050 Pet Land Place, Thousand Palms, CA 92276, by Chairman Ty Peabody, Councilmember 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:

Ty Peabody, City of Indian Wells
Joe McKee, Councilmember, City of Desert Hot Springs
Kathleen Kelly, Councilmember, City of Palm Desert
Mark Carnevale, Councilmember, City of Cathedral City
G. Dana Hobart, Councilmember, City of Rancho Mirage
PJ Gagajena, City Representative, City of Indio
Victoria Llort, Board Assistant, Riverside County
Steve Sanchez, Councilmember, City of La Quinta

Others in attendance:

Robert Miller, Director, County Animal Services
Frank Corvino, Deputy Director, County Animal Services
Dr. Allan Drusys, Chief Veterinarian, County Animal Services
Tom Snyder, Chief Executive Officer, Animal Samaritans
Tamara Hedges, President, Friends of Palm Springs Animal Shelter
Laurie Dozier, Executive Assistant, County Animal Services

3. FINALIZATION OF AGENDA:

The agenda was approved as submitted.

4. APPROVAL OF February 2018 MINUTES:

Minutes approved as submitted McKee/Carnevale m/s.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Brad Anderson: Brad Anderson from Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District brought concerns regarding insects causing heartworm and West Nile virus in dogs. Dr. Drusys will look into these concerns and report back to the commission. Rob Miller indicated we can issue an alert to educate the public as well.

Janet McAfee (Loving All Animals): Questions regarding the DAS rescue policy were answered by Frank Corvino. Rescues must be registered and a 501c3. There is not a limit placed on the number of animals a rescue can pull. Impounded animals are placed in two categories (Adoptable and Needs Rescue), and there are three color coded levels of Needs Rescue. Green indicates an animal is being held, but showing signs of stress or minor illnesses. Yellow indicates an animal's condition or behavior is deteriorating. Red indicates an animal must be pulled within 24-48 hours. Animals not on the Needs Rescue list can be adopted by anyone. Michelle Bergeron appreciates the color coding system – it works well and is helpful in communication between shelters and rescue coordinators. Rob Miller offered clarification on the rescue program, legal custody and legal responsibilities. State law allows licensed nonprofit organizations to remove animals and assume all legal responsibility for these animals, their care and behavior. This is the reason the general public is required to adopt, rather than rescue an animal.

6. **CORRESPONDENCE:** There were no correspondence.

7. ANIMAL CAMPUS COMMISSION MEMBERS AND DIRECTOR COMMENTS:

- **Mark Carnevale, Councilmember/Vice Chairman:** Mark Carnevale inquired about impounds for Cathedral City. Commission members can receive a breakdown of statistics from their City Manager or billing person. Dr. Drusys discussed licensing revenue and performing according to city expectations. Rob encouraged all cities to reach out to other jurisdictions for more information.
- **Ty Peabody, Councilmember/Chairman:** Ty Peabody inquired about the Date Festival adoptions and returned animals. Frank Corvino indicated the overall dog population had decreased, and fewer animals were taken to the fair this year. Statistically, return rates remained the same (5%) with no rise in the return rate during the Date Festival. Suggestion made to ask additional questions during the fair and offsite adoptions events, due to the fact that families attending a fair or public event may not be expecting or looking to adopt an animal. This may help with the return rate.

8. RIVERSIDE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL SERVICES:

- **Robert Miller, Director:** The Department of Animal Services may be looking at a 4% proposed budget cut. The cities of San Bernardino, Rialto, Banning, and Grand Terrace have reached out to us and are looking to contract with us, which will assist with budget concerns. Fontana and Colton currently contract with DAS. Mr. Joe McKee asked if the county has a plan in place to close their deficit. Dr. Drusys stated that the county is about two years away from attaining structural balance. Per Mr. Miller, animal services fees are under review at this time. Fees have not been changed or increased in ten years, and any adjustments to fees require presentation to and approval by the Board of Supervisors. No changes will be made before July 1, 2018.
- **Frank Corvino, Deputy Director:** Cruelty case updates will be given at the next meeting. Best Friends is interested in expanding their program county wide with Animal Services. Additional information on the program will be given at the next meeting, however the Best Friends program is successful and has proven to have a large positive impact at our shelters.

- **Dr. Allan Drusys, Chief Veterinarian:** Discussed microchip statistics. The return to owner rate is increasing each year for dogs, but is not following the same trend with cats. Outcomes are based on population. The City of Indio has seen an increase in revenue due to licensing compliance and animals being returned to their owner.
- 9. **ANIMAL SAMARITANS (Tom Snyder, CEO):** A full service veterinary clinic in the valley is the most pressing need for Mr. Snyder's organization. There are many members of the public who cannot afford veterinary care and their pets suffer. He would like to bring in another doctor to meet the demand, but cannot financially support it.
- 10. **PALM SPRINGS ANIMAL SHELTER (Director of Operations):** Not in attendance.
Friends of Palm Springs Animal Shelter (Tamara Hedges, Vice President): The group has met the halfway mark of the three year Best Friends Grant. The program is well organized, working smoothly and making a collective impact. The transport program has been instrumental with transports to Oregon, Washington and other locations. Palm Springs funds the deployment of the SNIP bus in the Palm Springs area and is continuously raising money. Discussed the current inventory numbers - this is an all-time low for Palm Springs. Although their intake rates have gone up, they believe they are on a positive course.
- 11. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**
The next meeting is scheduled for September 20, 2018 at 9:30AM at the Coachella Valley Animal Campus: 72-050 Pet Land Place, Thousand Palms, CA 92276.

ADJOURNMENT The meeting was adjourned at 10:32 a.m.