



Coachella Valley Animal Campus

Thursday, May 12, 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

Mayor Ty Peabody
Chairman
Mayor Pro Tem Dana Reed
(Alternate)

City of Indio

Councilmember Michael Wilson
P.J. Gagajena
(Alternate)

City of La Quinta

Councilmember John Pena
Vice-Chair
Mayor Pro Tem 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
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, May 12, 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
Frankie Riddle, City of Palm Desert
Betty Sanchez, Councilmember, City of Coachella
Joe McKee, Councilmember, City of Desert Hot Springs
P.J. Gagajena, Principal Management, Indio (**Proxy to Vote**)
Earl Moss, Police Captain, Cathedral City (**Proxy to Vote**)
G. Dana Hobart, Mayor, City of Rancho Mirage
Patricia Cooper, Board Assistant, County of Riverside

Others in attendance:

Tamara Hedges, Vice-President, Friends of Palm Springs Animal Shelter
Dr. Shayda Ahkami, Shelter Director, Palm Springs Animal Shelter
Tom Snyder, Chief Executive Officer, Animal Samaritans
Robert Miller, Director, County Animal Services
Greg Priamos, Riverside County Counsel
Frank Corvino, Deputy Director, County Animal Services
Dr. Allan Drusys, Chief Veterinarian, County Animal Services
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 March 2016 MINUTES:

Minutes approved as submitted Hobart/Moss m/s.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Kim Hardee: Kim stated she is having a clinic at the ABC Recovery Center for spaying, neutering and licensing on May 21, 2016 and June 17-18, 2016 and another at Fantasy Springs on June 26.

PUBLIC COMMENTS CONTINUED:

6. **CORRESPONDENCE:** Proxy letter received to appoint Captain Earl Moss, Cathedral City to serve as the alternate for Councilmember Mark Carnevale, Cathedral City and a proxy letter appointing P.J. Gagajena, City of Indio to serve as the alternate for Councilmember Michael Wilson, City of Indio.

Joe McKee asked if it is legal to have a non-elected official proxied in to vote. Mayor Dana Hobart indicated the structure of this commission meeting is outside the traditional structure of the other commissions the group may be members of, and they are not paid while in attendance. Greg Priamos reviewed the approved by-laws and stated that membership is made up of one elected official appointed by the respective City Council of each signatory city as well as a county supervisor and board designate. The voting membership is limited to a county representative and representatives of a city contracted with the county. Ex-Officio membership, without the right to vote can be granted to a community organization by commission action. There is a provision for alternate commissioners of each jurisdiction that can be appointed by a city council and it may be an elected or a city appointed representative with voting powers from the signatory jurisdiction.

7. **MEETING LOCATION:** The commission members voted unanimously to continue holding this meeting at the Coachella Valley Animal Campus rather than alternating locations. No objections.

8. **ANIMAL CAMPUS COMMISSION MEMBERS AND DIRECTOR COMMENTS:**
No comments at this time.

9. **RIVERSIDE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL SERVICES:** Robert Miller, Director

- **Robert Miller, Director:**

Department Updates: Rob stated that the county and every city in it are working on their budgets at this time. Budget Hearings will be held on June 20 and 21, 2016. Animal Services has a significant budget deficit of seven million dollars. We may have 3.6 million dollars of support from the Executive Office to assist with the deficit. The Department will be examining our new contract rates, an annual requirement per Board Policy. These will not affect the cities in attendance today – these contracts are not up for renewal at this point. Rob will share the draft contract once it is available. The county is facing many challenges at this time.

County Executive Officer Jay Orr will be visiting the Riverside shelter to film a short video with John Welsh. This film will go out county wide to encourage our county departments to adopt, foster and raise awareness of various areas within our department.

Steve Spiro from START Rescue, the group responsible for numerous animal transports to the Pacific Northeast, has invited Rob to visit the receiving shelters that our dogs are transported to. John Welsh, Frank Corvino and Dr. Drusys will join Rob for this visit. START transports 99% of our dogs. Dr. Drusys stated START does an amazing job and said they are 100% behind having the appropriate proper circumstances and doctors and conditions for these animals.

We have a new relationship with the ASPCA who is performing cat transports for DAS to Denver Dumb Friends League, the oldest humane society in the country. The first transport focused on cats. We rarely have outlets for cats, and now we are starting to see transports focus on the cat issues and this is very positive for us.

- **Frank Corvino, Deputy Director:**
Case Updates: There are no case updates at this time.

Volunteer of the Year Award: Frank presented a Proclamation from the Board of Supervisors for the Volunteer of the Year Award to Cheryl Hans for the Coachella Valley Animal Campus. Cheryl has over 270 volunteer hours.

- **Dr. Allan Drusys, Chief Veterinarian:**
Clinic Updates: There are no clinic updates at this time.
- **John Welsh, Public Information Officer:**
Updates: There are no updates at this time.

10. ANIMAL SAMARITANS (Tom Snyder, CEO): An update on feral cats, as of today, since late February we have spayed and neutered 160 cats. Animal Samaritans and Loving All Animals have been getting together for s/n clinics with Palm Springs as well. Sixty-seven animals have gone to rescue over the last week and a half.

11. PALM SPRINGS ANIMAL SHELTER (Dr. Shayda Ahkami, Shelter Director): Dr. Shayda spoke of the No Kill Coalition and stated cats remain in a bleak state. During last month's cat initiative round table we spoke of two items, intake and how to increase the live release rate. We have transported 400 cats this year so far. We are in the process of putting a lot of thought into coordinating and transporting to make it sustainable. We also rescued 15 cats from the CVAC shelter and sent them straight into foster. Frank Corvino explained our focus on neonatal kittens and their need for foster care. He stated we reached out to 890 of our volunteers with a letter to foster and we may go county wide with it the request. We are also working with Forever Meow on education and intervention programs. Tamara stated that Best Friends will be out for a week this summer.

Friends of Palm Springs Animal Shelter (Tamara Hedges, Vice President): Funding for the large grant opportunity discussed at the last meeting has dried up after a major funder fell out. This grant would have distributed one million dollars over a three year span. Best Friends did say that there is still an opportunity for a large grant for community cats in 2017. We need to look at the budget and figure out the gap funding. The grant would be valley wide and, for the interim 2016, Best Friends is giving Palm Springs Animal Shelter a \$30,000 grant to continue the good work we are doing with TNR. This would put a lot of attention and focus on community cats. Rob stated grants require effort from multiple organizations, or in-kind such as staffing, surgery hours, transportation and/or vehicles. We are in a good position at this time. The dollar amount is \$82,000 over three years with Loving All Animals, the County, Animal Samaritans and possibly a few other organizations we can easily close that gap. Tamara stated they received a grant from Help for the Homeless. It is for homeless people with pets on the streets who need pet food and veterinary care. This is a pilot outreach program they are doing in Palm Springs. Rob and Frank stated that the ASK Foundation reimburses the cost to the County for homeless individual's dog licensing to help them become compliant with state laws. The County cannot waive licensing fees. Rob stated it is crucial to get a working phone number from the homeless owner in order to contact them should their dog become impounded.

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next meeting is scheduled for July 14, 2016 at 9:30AM at the Coachella Valley Animal Campus: 72-050 Pet Land Place, Thousand Palms, and CA 92276.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Mayor Ty Peabody adjourned the meeting at 10:05 a.m.