



Coachella Valley Animal Campus

Thursday, July 14, 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, July 14, 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
Joe McKee, Councilmember, City of Desert Hot Springs
Earl Moss, Police Captain, Cathedral City (**Proxy to Vote**)
Lilia Escobido, Board Assistant, County of Riverside (**Proxy to Vote**)

Others in attendance:

Tom Snyder, Chief Executive Officer, Animal Samaritans
Greg Priamos, Riverside County Counsel
P.J. Gagajena, Principal Management, City of Indio
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 May 2016 MINUTES:

Minutes approved as submitted McKee/Pena m/s.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Chairman Mayor Peabody began by saying that there was an unfortunate incident that occurred in Palm Desert and explained that this is not an issue for this commission. Anyone wishing to speak on the topic is welcome to do so, but we do not have the authority to discuss details.

Tiffany LoBue: There is a great need for the spay and neuter bus in Coachella Valley. Tiffany would like to know about the DAS spay/neuter bus statistics. She spoke about unwanted dogs, cats, adoptions and live releases.

PUBLIC COMMENTS CONTINUED:

Valerie Masi: Valerie spoke of her employment and experiences with Animal Services, the reason she was told she was not a “good fit” and was released from employment. She would like to know what the County is doing to stop euthanasia at the shelter.

Janet Litton: Janet was a volunteer in the past. She stated that due to the proximity of CVAC and Animal Samaritans many people assume CVAC is part of Animal Samaritans and is therefore a no-kill shelter. She asks that a sign be placed prominently to ensure that no misconception is made between the two. She would like to know if there are scanners in animal control trucks and if so, are animals scanned and returned home in the field? She would like to see the shelter open longer hours and open on Sundays for public convenience.

Kim Hardee: Kim stated she is having a clinic at the ABC Recovery Center for spaying, neutering and licensing on August 20, 2016. She was happy to see Animal Control Officers in the meeting and asked that they explain the citations in the field to the public, indicate the citation is correctable and direct them to Kim’s clinics. She will work with constituents to help bring them into compliance.

Lisa Blodgett: Lisa stated animal cruelty, overpopulation and puppy mills contribute to unnecessary euthanasia. She stated that animal control must enforce laws. Discussed Parvo being highly contagious and there must be an inspection of breeders.

The commission allowed Bianca Rae two minutes to speak due to not filling out a speaker card or being present during public comments when asked if there were anyone else to speak.

Bianca Rae: Seventeen people have come forward to Ms. Rae stating they have issues with the Palm Desert pet store. Most are reporting sick puppies or dogs whose breed is being misrepresented. She stated the main issue is pet stores and where these dogs are coming from. She interviewed a woman who took part in a cargo transport from LAX and was given information on how to get through customs. These dogs were then taken to Palm Desert Puppies. She wants to hold the County accountable for the fact that there is significant proof that John Duhamell is getting animals from disreputable breeders. She wants this addressed and will continue to investigate until it is.

5. **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 Lilia Escobido, County of Riverside to serve as the alternate for Supervisor John Benoit, County of Riverside.

Chairman Peabody stated Captain Earl Moss will be retiring shortly, and wished him the very best and thanked him for his service.

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

No comments at this time.

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

- **Frank Corvino, Deputy Director:**

Case Updates: Frank announced Rita Gutierrez’s retirement and introduced Chris Mayer to the commission as the new Field Commander.

Vice-Chairman John Pena has asked that public comments are responded to during our next commission meeting.

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

Updates: John spoke about a significant upcoming event, Clear the Shelters. The event is sponsored by KNBC (Channel 4) and Telemundo (Channel 52). The special adoption fee will be \$4.52, a reflection of the two sponsoring television channels.

8. **ANIMAL SAMARITANS (Tom Snyder, CEO):** Tom has been working with many organizations to reduce overpopulation, especially cats and kittens. Sixty cats were rescued and transported to Oregon in June, with and an additional 40 cat rescued. SNIP has been deploying their new spay and neuter bus and offering low cost spay/neuters with Animal Samaritans covering the expenses. Michelle Bergeron stated that they are at about 9,500 animals saved since April 2011. Tom will contact John Welsh when they near the 10,000 mark for a big celebration.

9. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next meeting is scheduled for September 8, 2016 at 9:30AM at the Coachella Valley Animal Campus: 72-050 Pet Land Place, Thousand Palms, and CA 92276.

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Mayor Ty Peabody adjourned the meeting at 10:00 a.m.