



Coachella Valley Animal

Thursday, September 8, 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

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The Animal Campus Commission Meeting was called to order on Thursday, September 8, 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
G. Dana Hobart, Mayor, City of Rancho Mirage
Charles Townsend, City of Rancho Mirage (Proxy to Vote)
Earl Moss, Police Captain, Cathedral City (Proxy to Vote)
Lilia Escobedo, Board Assistant, County of Riverside (Proxy to Vote)

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/Escobido m/s.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Lisa Blodgett: Lisa would like to know the purpose of this commission. Chairman Peabody explained that the purpose of the commission is to represent the cities in a public forum. Lisa would like Frank Corvino to respond to questions that were asked during the last commission meeting. Mayor Dana Hobart, City of Rancho Mirage, stated that the Brown Act allows the public to speak during public comments, although it does not require a city official to respond. This forum is to bring issues forward, for the commission to take public comments under advisement and, if deemed necessary, to act on them to the best of their ability. Lisa reiterated she would like questions answered from the last commission meeting. Lisa stated that the commission may not know what to ask during the meetings and would like a contact email in order to send items to be added to the agenda and brought up during the commission meetings. Chairman Peabody reminded the group it is inappropriate to interrupt the meeting, and the public must fill out a speaker slip. We have procedures we must follow.

PUBLIC COMMENTS CONTINUED:

Janet Litton: 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 has asked that a sign be placed prominently to ensure that no misconception is made between the two. She would also like to see signs directing people to the shelter. She stated she has asked this at the last commission meeting and has yet to receive an answer. Mayor Dana Hobart stated that he understands their frustration and that she must take the signage issue up with the cities first and then approach the county. He suggested that they attend their city meetings as an essential ingredient for change. Frank Corvino indicated the CVAC shelter would love to have more signage, but in the past when the commission and Pat Cooper worked on this issue with Cal Trans, they received a lot of pushback. Vice-Chair Pena has asked for the signage item to be placed on the next meeting's agenda.

Kim Hardee: Kim is holding a clinic at the ABC Recovery Center for spaying, neutering and licensing on September 16th and 17th, 2016.

Janet McAfee: The Spay-Ghetti & No Balls pasta dinner and silent auction event is Thursday, October 13, 2016 at the BG Bird Garden in Palm Desert. She reminded everyone about the shelter tours and Yappy Hour being held on September 21, 2016 from 4pm-7pm at Venus de Fido, 73600 Alessandro Drive in Palm Desert.

5. **CORRESPONDENCE:** Proxy letter received to appoint Captain Earl Moss, Cathedral City to serve as the alternate for Councilmember Mark Carnevale, and Charles Townsend to serve as the alternate for Councilmember Ted Weill, City of Rancho Mirage.

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

Joe McKee: Prior to the meeting, Joe McKee received some unofficial paperwork detailing a list of items related to animal services operations. A copy of this paperwork was not received by the Commission Secretary. During discussions, Frank Corvino indicated he would be addressing most, if not all of the concerns being presented by Mr. McKee.

Lilia Escobedo: Lilia presented details of the upcoming Supervisor Benoit50 event happening Friday, September 9th and Saturday, September 10, 2016. The event will take place at the Coachella Valley Animal Campus and the first 50 adoptions will be free. Mayor Dana Hobart, City of Rancho Mirage announced he will be donating \$1000 to the Benoit50 event.

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

- **Frank Corvino, Deputy Director:**

Case Updates: The officers in the field do carry scanners. The animals are checked for microchips at all stages of impoundment. If an animal is impounded in the field, they are scanned and if the animal's owner can be located, the animal is current on shots and licensed, they are returned home. If the owner is not home, the officer will make every attempt to secure the animal in the owner's yard. This is called the Free Trip Home Program. The spay/neuter bus is deployed 8-10 days a month to various locations throughout the county. Shelter hours are being reviewed, and signage for CVAC will be added to the agenda for our next commission meeting. Frank gave updates for all the County shelters, including statistics, licensing, mandatory microchipping, euthanasia reductions program, ordinances, programs, partnerships, rescues, community outreach, volunteers, TNR and others. With the statistical data to support, there is no way that you can say we aren't making an effect in the county. Frank would like all the cities in our jurisdiction to follow suit with mandatory microchipping, spay and neutering. Please see Frank's attached Euthanasia Reduction Plan Update. (Frank will post his Euthanasia Reduction Plan Update to the website once it is finalized.)

Pet Store Update/Palm Desert Puppies: This is an open complaint and we are unable to give out in-depth information. The store is running legally by law at this time. RCDAS has been working with the owner and he is very cooperative. Inspections will continue, and if there are violations he will be required to correct them. Citations will be issued if he does not comply. As of September 6, 2016 he has corrected all he has been asked to correct. Officers visited and inspected six out of the ten breeders. At least one or two were issued citations and we will follow through with them. The other four are out-of-jurisdiction, and we have let those counties know. Chris Mayer offered updates on the inspections as well.

David Kirk stated he has been tracking CVAC's statistics since 2009. While the live release rate for dogs is amazing, from 2009-2013 four out of five cats never got out alive. This is significantly below the national average and David wants everyone to know he doesn't think DAS is doing a good job with cats.

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

Updates: Regarding the purpose of this commission, John indicated the commission was created after the CVAC shelter's construction to encourage cities to partner, become vested, to give the cities a voice and also receive updates from the County regarding the shelter and any issues. There have been three news outlets in Desert Hot Springs reporting that dead animals are not being picked up in a timely manner. We do share in the public's concern, although priority calls must come first (live, vicious, injured animals, or animals that pose a danger to the public).

Events: Clear the Shelters was an amazing event. We adopted out over 450 animals shelter-wide. This Friday, September 9th and Saturday, September 10th is Supervisor Benoit's adoption event at the CVAC shelter.

Stories: Two weeks ago animal services assisted in a horse rescue with the help of HART Rescue, which includes trained members from Riverside County Sheriffs Aviation Team, Riverside Police, Riverside Fire and Riverside County Department of Animal Services. It was a great success and the horse was safely rescued. Regarding the Pit Bull animal cruelty case from Lake Mathews, 17 out of the 26 Pit Bulls have now gone to rescue. The crevice Chihuahuas that were rescued out of a crevice in Sycamore Canyon Wilderness Park in Riverside had a happy end after being adopted out as a bonded pair.

- **ANIMAL SAMARITANS (Tom Snyder, CEO):** Tom stated he has grant funded money for senior pet owners over the age of 60. The grant money is for vet services for low income residence. He is reaching out to the cities to see how he can better reach these residents. The services that the seniors receive will be reduced or free and will include exams, spay, neutering, dental and all other veterinary services they offer.

8. **PALM SPRINGS ANIMAL SHELTER (Dr. Shayda Ahkami, Shelter Director):** Dr. Shayda stated that the TNR part of their reduction program is working. They have had 171 adoptions, 17 euth's for medical and none for behavior. She is in the process of developing a matrix for determining behavior in the shelter that she will share with the commission once it is complete. Most organizations have moved away from having a standardized behavior evaluation to a more informal way of judging behavior. This is due to research evidence showing an animal's behavior in the shelter is not indicative of its behavior outside. There are 530 animals in their care at this time. The dog enrichment program includes play groups for dog evaluations. Dr. Shayda would like to see statistics by location, city by city, rather than the county as a whole. Frank Corvino will look into statistics by location and reach out to Dr. Shayda.

Friends of Palm Springs Animal Shelter (Tamara Hedges, Vice President): Tamara would like to see data from all the shelters including rescue numbers. She would also like to see numbers for each city regarding grants and TNR. Frank stated they can request the specific information needed from him and he will work on retrieving that information.

9. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next meeting is scheduled for November 10, 2016 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 10:48 a.m.