



Coachella Valley Animal Campus

Animal Campus Commission

City of Cathedral City

Councilmember Mark Carnevale
Mayor Stan Henry
(Alternate)

City of Coachella

Councilmember Magdalena Zepeda
Councilmember Betty Sanchez
(Alternate)

City of Desert Hot Springs

Councilmember Joe McKee

City of Indian Wells

Mayor Ty Peabody
Mayor Pro Tem Dana Reed
(Alternate)

City of Indio

Councilmember Elaine Holmes
Jason Chan
(Alternate)

City of La Quinta

Councilmember John Pena
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

Chairman

Mayor Pro Tem Ted Weill
(Alternate)

County of Riverside

John J. Benoit, 4th District
Patricia Cooper,
Board Assistant
Vice-Chair
Marion Ashley, 5th District

Animal Samaritans

Len D. Betz, President
Ex-Officio

County Staff

Laurie Dozier
Interim Executive Assistant I

Thursday, November 12, 2015

9:30 a.m.

Commission Meeting

CVAG

73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 115
Palm Desert, CA 92260

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The Animal Campus Commission Meeting was called to order on Thursday, November 12, 2015 at 9:32 a.m. at the Coachella Valley Association of Governments, 73-710 Fred Waring Drive Palm Desert, CA 92260, by Chairman Dana Hobart, Mayor with the City of Rancho Mirage.

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

Members in Attendance:

Dana Hobart, Mayor, Rancho Mirage
Patricia Cooper, County of Riverside
John Pena, Councilmember, La Quinta
Ty Peabody, Mayor, Indian Wells
Frankie Riddle, City of Palm Desert
Joe McKee, Councilmember, Desert Hot Springs
Tamara Hedges, Vice-President, Friends of Palm Springs Animal Shelter
Dr. Shayda Ahkami, Director, Palm Springs Animal Shelter
Fred Saunders, Animal Samaritans, Ex-Officio

Others in attendance:

Jason Chan, Sr. Management Analyst, Indio
Earl Moss, Police Captain, Cathedral City
Tom Snyder, Chief Operating Officer, Animal Samaritans
Frank Corvino, Deputy Director, County Animal Services
Veronica Ramos, Customer Service Manager, County Animal Services
Carol-Ann Myers, Executive Assistant, County Animal Services
Laurie Dozier, Interim Executive Assistant, County Animal Services

3. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER MINUTES: Minutes approved as submitted Pena/McKee m/s. Chairman Mayor Dana Hobart abstained.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Janet McAfee (Loving All Animals): Janet McAfee provided a flyer for a Super Pet Adoption Festival taking place on November 14th and 15th at the Palm Desert Civic Center Park. The theme is "The Wizard of Paws". There will be over 500 animals available, along with vendors, food, and entertainment. Flyers were handed out to help publicize this fun upcoming festival.

PUBLIC COMMENTS CONTINUED:

Dr. Paula Terifaj (Desert Hot Springs Resident/Activist): Dr. Paula Terifaj would like to know what the proper procedure is for Animal Services when a hoarding situation has been identified. She discussed Animal Hoarding issues and cases in Desert Hot Springs. Frank Corvino stated people are protected by the 4th amendment, and we must follow the law. Each case brings certain aspects which require us to approach each case differently. Depending on the severity of the cruelty case, animals may be seized immediately; warnings or citations are issued, and ultimately search warrants. Dr. Shayda offered to assist Animal Services with animal seizures or welfare checks if needed in the future. Frank will contact Councilman McKee in order to formally put information together pertaining to hoarding cases.

5. **FINALIZATION OF AGENDA:** The agenda was approved as submitted.
6. **CORRESPONDENCE:** Received letter appointing Captain Earl Moss to serve as the alternate for Councilmember Mark Carnevale, Cathedral City.
7. **MEETING LOCATION:** Some members feel it is confusing changing locations between CVAG and CVAC. The Commission Members agreed to meet at the Coachella Valley Animal Campus for the next six months, and then revisit the topic again to decide if they will continue meeting at the Coachella Valley Animal Campus from that point forward.

ANIMAL CAMPUS COMMISSION MEMBERS AND DIRECTOR COMMENTS:

8. **ANIMAL COMMISSION BYLAWS:** Revised bylaws were sent out by Laurie Dozier. Laurie Dozier will send out the red-lined bylaws illustrating the changes. Some of the changes include: formatting from sections to articles, proper meeting decorum, and articles 11, 28 and 29 were added. The meeting location will need to be changed once a permanent location is decided. This item will be revisited at the next meeting for discussion and approval.
9. **COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES (Frank Corvino, Deputy Director):** Frank offered an update on the Riverside Animal Shelter break-in. The Department is in the process of upgrading the security camera systems at all of our shelters. We now have a security guard at the Riverside campus.

Euthanasia Reduction Plan: Our Operations Division has put out a first quarter report. It is a full report with highlights of each shelter and all of the activities, adoptions and outcomes that we have had in the first quarter. Overall we have had over 16,800 total impounds, 7,655 are dogs, 7,694 cats and 15,010 others are rabbits, horses and others, 7,828 live releases, 3,500 adoptions, 2,662 transfers to rescues and 1,567 return to owners. Volunteers have logged 9,948 volunteers hours system wide. Frank will send this report electronically.

Case updates: There are no major case updates at this time.

10. **ANIMAL SAMARITANS (Fred Saunders, CEO):** The Adoption Alliance Program is in need of immediate support. In the past some of the support has come from Animal Services and others. This program is now a financial burden, and at this time there has been no response for assistance. Without assistance this program may no longer be able to be funded. It was suggested to add information on the door hangers that the Animal Services' License Inspectors pass out, or possibly add to sweeps to promote Animal Samaritans. Frank Corvino stated that Animal Samaritans has helped Animal Services so much and without this program, Animal Services would have to absorb the cost. Lindi Biggi stated Animal Samaritans has done a fabulous job and losing this program would impact them tremendously.

A second issue is the Indio Clinic. The clinic is now open and it takes half a million dollars to equip and furnish this facility. This facility is not producing what was expected. There is heavy competition in the East

Valley, including the Department of Animal Services' spay and neuter bus. Spay/neuters have not been performed as of yet due to the cost being too high. This has negatively impacted Animal Samaritans' budget. The City of Indio will be coming over to take a tour in the near future. There is a full surgical suite and a veterinarian that does surgeries and acupuncture as well. We certainly need these services in the valley. Chairman Hobart has asked Fred to give him updates on grants that he has requested.

11. PALM SPRINGS ANIMAL SHELTER (Dr. Shayda Ahkami): Dr. Ahkami commended Animal Samaritans for their assistance in the past and for pulling dogs from them. The Palm Springs Shelter was built to house a maximum of 250-300 animals, and currently Palm Springs is over capacity with 522 animals. The Fix-A-Friend Program will be continuing and the TNR program has increased with the volunteer veterinarians assisting. Tamara Hedges indicated that TNR is important, and if you feed you must spay and neuter. A handout with outcomes and trends over the last two years was reviewed. Some spay and neuters are offered through grant funding, private donors, and supporters. The Commission Members discussed the dog vs. cat population, and it was decided to add this as an agenda item for the next meeting and to invite cat rescues to come and present in a discussion on the imbalance of dogs vs. cats and licensing.

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

13. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman and Mayor Dana Hobart adjourned the meeting at 10:32 a.m.