



Coachella Valley Animal Campus

COMMISSION MINUTES

PLEASE NOTE THAT ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA MAY RESULT IN ACTION TAKEN BY THE ANIMAL CAMPUS COMMISSION

The next meeting of the Coachella Valley Animal Campus Commission is as follows:

THURSDAY, March 8, 2012

9:30 a.m.

Commission Meeting
CVAG Conference Room 115
73-710 Fred Waring Drive
Palm Desert, CA 92260

Animal Campus Commission



City of Cathedral City

Councilmember Sam Toles

City of Coachella

Councilmember Gilbert Ramirez Jr.



City of Desert Hot Springs

Councilmember Adam Sanchez

City of Indian Wells

Councilmember Mary Roche



City of La Quinta

Councilmember Kristy Franklin
Vice-Chair

City of Palm Desert

Councilmember Cindy Finerty
Chair



City of Rancho Mirage

Councilmember G. Dana Hobart

County of Riverside

John J. Benoit, 4th District
Marion Ashley, 5th District

Animal Samaritans

Betty Maytag, President
Ex-Officio



County Staff

Noel Loughrin
Board Assistant



1. **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Chairwoman Finerty called this meeting to order at 9:38 a.m.

Members present:

Chairwoman Cindy Finerty, Palm Desert
Councilmember Kristy Franklin, La Quinta
Councilmember Mary Roche, Indian Wells
Councilmember G. Dana Hobart, Rancho Mirage
Michelle DeArmond (proxy), Riverside County- 4th District
Lt. Earl Moss (proxy), Cathedral City
Noelia Chapa (proxy), Coachella

Members not present:

Councilmember Adam Sanchez, Desert Hot Springs

Others present:

Jacqueline Berman
Lindi Biggi
Janet McAfee
Tracy Essex
Rob Miller, Director of Riv. Co. Animal Services
Dr. Allan Drusys, Chief Veterinarian of Animal Services
Frank Corvino, Deputy Director of Riv. Co. Animal Services

2. **FINALIZATION OF AGENDA**

Commission members approved agenda as is

72-050 Pet Land Place, Thousand Palms, CA 92276

Coachella Valley Animal Campus

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jack Becker has been working with the Desert Hot Springs Police Department to strengthen animal management in the northwest part of the Coachella Valley by creating an ad hoc committee to work and bring together all of the people that are involved in animal welfare in the Coachella Valley. The goal of this committee will be to encourage more residents to register their animals and to reduce the number of animals that are coming into the Animal Campus.

4. ANIMAL CAMPUS COMMISSION MEMBERS AND DIRECTOR COMMENTS

None

5. CORRESPONDENCE

Proxy letters:

Lt. Earl Moss from Cathedral City

Michelle DeArmond from Supervisor Benoit

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

M/S: Councilmember Roche/ Councilmember Franklin

All members approved the minutes, except from one abstention from Councilmember Hobart.

January 12, 2012 meeting minutes were approved

7. LOVING ALL ANIMALS SUPER ADOPTION EVENT- Lindi Biggi, Loving all Animals

Lindi Biggi provided an update on the 2011 Super Adoption Fair that was held at Whitewater Park in Rancho Mirage. At this event there were 33 different animal welfare organizations that brought 380 animals. Of the 380 adoptable animals, 230 animals were adopted. Not only were animals adopted into homes but some of the no kill animal rescue organizations worked with kill shelters to take some animals back to their shelters. The Super Adoption Fair has become a community/ family event with entertainment, vendors, and food. Planning has begun for the November 17 & 18 2012 Super Adoption Fair. Lindi passed out sponsorship information to all of the commission members and guests. Lindi also asked that the cities offer specials for their residents to help encourage adoptions at this event.

Councilmember Franklin asked if Loving All Animals is a 501(c)3 because the City of La Quinta has a grant program and she encouraged Lindi to apply.

Noelia Chapa from Coachella also mentioned that the City of Coachella also has grant programs for community events.

8. COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES

- Publicity: John Welsh, Public Information Chief, Animal Services

John Distributed flyers for the countywide Adopt-a-Thon animal adoption event that will be held on Saturday, March 31. This event is funded through a grant from the ASPCA. The flyers will also be emailed to each commission member.

Animal Services sent out a press release regarding canine influenza to raise awareness.

Councilmember Hobart asked about what Animal Services is doing about the proposed funding cuts to animal services. John has been receiving phone calls about this issue had he has been educating the public about Hayden Bill. California counties have not been receiving funding from this bill for the last 18 months because Governor Schwarzenegger suspended the bill. Also, Riverside County animals have been staying in the county shelter for far longer than what is required currently and what was required under the Hayden Bill.

- Update: Rob Miller, Director of Animal Services

The western side of Riverside County created an animal alliance with nonprofit animal welfare groups and the county banded together to apply for money from Maddie's fund. This grant will require two things, first to increase spay/ neuter and the second is to increase adoption rates. There are four steps to apply for these funds; first the organization must submit complete shelter data to Maddie's fund. After speaking with a representative from Maddie's fund the county was told that the only thing that would hold them back from becoming part of Maddie's fund would be not including the entire Riverside County, they do not just want the western part of Riverside County participating. This means that every animal shelter in Riverside County, including municipal shelters, must participate and work together. The western alliance wants to move forward with applying for this grant. Currently they are working on a presentation and planning an all day summit and inviting all municipal shelters to attend and join this alliance. Rob's timeline for this project is four to six months to get the entire alliance formed. One of the four starter grants is to create a 10 year plan, this is expected to be the hardest to put together. Overall goal is to get through all of the four starter grants and begin apply for the main grant during the 3rd quarter of the 2012-2013 fiscal year. Rob asked for Chairwoman Finery's permission to give a presentation on this alliance at a future meeting when the presentation is complete.

Still in contract negotiations with the City of Indio.

Rob spent six years as a director on the California Animal Control Directors Association. His term expired in January. To help keep Riverside County's voice on the board and to help with lobbying, Rob has recommended that Betsey Webster be appointed to the board. The California Animal Control Directors Association has accepted and appointed Betsey to the board.

Canine Influenza was not detected in the Thousand Palms shelter, but there were three potential cases in the Riverside shelter. Dr. Drusys said that it has been a while since a case has popped up in California. This is a presumptive diagnosis; all of the animals came from the same pod in the Riverside shelter. County has no reason to believe that there are cases in the Blythe and Thousand Palms shelters. There are two symptoms for canine influenza: persistent kennel cough symptoms that are nonresponsive to antibiotics, respiratory distress and fever. There are no antiviral treatments for this virus. Both dogs that have developed symptoms of canine influenza are improving since they were first brought into the shelter clinic. A vaccine is available however, it DOES NOT prevent dogs from becoming infected with the virus, it mitigates exposure to the virus. The vaccine also lessens the amount of virus that the infected animal sheds; meaning an infected animal would normally shed the virus through normal breathing and coughing before it becomes clinically sick, with the vaccine the infected animal would not shed as much of the virus. Once an infected animal begins to show signs of illness the virus stops shedding. Animal Services suggests that if anyone runs into a case of canine influenza that it should be reposted to Animal Services. The Riverside shelter received 500 vaccines this morning and all of the dogs in the quarantined part of the shelter will be vaccinated.

9. **SB 969- LUCY'S LAW UPDATE & LETTER OF SUPPORT (ACTION ITEM)**- Jacqueline Mercier & Chairwoman Finerty
Senator Vargas has sponsored Lucy's Law, SB 969 at the state. The Coachella Valley Animal Campus Commission has drafted a letter of support for SB 969. This letter will be sent to Senator Vargas.

M/S: Councilmember Roche/ Councilmember Hobart
Commission unanimously approved the letter as written.

10. **SB 1785 UPDATE (HAYDEN BILL)**- Dr. Allan Drusys, Department of Animal Services
Governor Brown wants to revoke the rules that were created by SB 1785, Hayden Bill. Some of the rules that were created were mandatory holding of stray animals for 5 days (originally, and now currently, 72 hours) and funding for food and supplies for the animals during the mandatory stay in the shelter. Governor Schwarzenegger suspended this bill 18 months ago and shelters have not been receiving this support and shelters are not required to hold stray animals longer than 72 hours. Governor Brown has added revoking portions of the Hayden Bill into current budget bills at the state (AB 1463 and SB 957), the current language asking for continued suspension however Governor Brown originally recommended termination in the budget. There will be a hearing on Tuesday, March 13 in subcommittee 4 of the Assembly Budget Appropriations Committee that will hear this particular item. Rallies have been organized at the state capitol to protest against revoking the Hayden provisions. Dr. Drusys suggested that if a letter requesting that the Hayden provisions not be revoked is sent it would be more beneficial to send it now rather than later. The letter should be sent to the Budget and Appropriations Committee at the state assembly. County of Riverside opposes the suspension or repeal of the Hayden Bill. Chairwoman Finerty has asked to add a letter of opposition be added to the agenda because of the urgency of this matter, hearing at the state on the Tuesday following this meeting. Councilmember Hobart moved that a letter of opposition be added as an emergency item to the agenda, Michelle DeArmond seconded the motion. Adding this emergency item to the agenda was unanimously approved by the commission.

LETTER OF OPPOSITION TO THE STATE REGARDING AB 1463 (REVOCATION OF HAYDEN BILL)

Councilmember Hobart moved that the commission give authority to Chairwoman Finerty to approve and sign the letter that both opposes revocation and temporary suspension of the Hayden Bill as soon as it is ready to be sent. Michelle DeArmond seconded the motion. The commission unanimously supported giving Chairwoman Finerty to approve and sign a letter of opposition for revoking and suspending the Hayden Bill.

Rob Miller suggested that the letter be sent to the Assembly Budget and Appropriations Committee Chair, Governor Brown, the Big Five, and the Coachella Valley representatives. Letter will be created and sent to the Thousand Palms Animal Shelter by Friday morning for Cindy Finerty to sign and fax to the state representatives.

11. **ANIMAL SAMARITANS & ADOPTION ALLIANCE UPDATE**- Fred Saunders, Executive Director
Adoption Alliance has rescued 1,244 animals through the end of February 2012. The City of Indio has asked Animal Samaritans if they can rescue a few animals out of their shelter. Adoption Alliance was able to rescue 24 animals from the Indio shelter. This last week Animal Samaritans shipped a couple of animals to a New York rescue. The Adoption Alliance is currently working with rescue groups in Oregon. Fred believes that 1,500 animals rescued will be reached soon. This program has been very successful. Program began working in mid-May 2011. Animal Samaritans has found that the success of this program relies on having a network of foster homes. Fred would like to present to each of the Coachella Valley cities on the success of this program and get financial support, currently this is only funded by Rancho Mirage, Palm Desert, and Indian Wells. Program costs about

\$67,000 a year to run. Originally got \$41,000 funding from cities originally and Animal Samaritans was successful in getting an additional \$30,000 from a grant for the Adoption Alliance program.

Animal Samaritans has received a \$7,500 grant from the ASPCA to provide vaccinations to pets in the east valley. Indio, Mecca, Thermal, Coachella, and all of the other east valley communities up to North Shore will benefit from this grant. This vaccination clinic will take place on Saturday, March 10 at the Coachella Veterans Park.

Fred is concerned about canine influenza cases. Animal Samaritans will be on the lookout for this virus.

Animal Samaritans annual Walk for Animals will be held on Saturday, March 31 at the Palm Desert Civic Center park.

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next meeting of the Animal Campus Commission is scheduled for Thursday, May 10, 2012 at 9:30 a.m. at the ***Coachella Valley Animal Campus, 72-050 Pet Land Place, Thousand Palms, CA 92276.***

13. ADJOURNMENT

Chairwoman Finerty adjourned the meeting at 10:54 a.m.