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, May 10, 2012

9:30 a.m.

Commission Meeting
Coachella Valley Animal Campus
72-050 Pet Land Place
Thousand Palms, CA 92276

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chairwoman Cindy Finerty called this meeting to order at 6:30 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
Supervisor John J. Benoit, Riverside County- 4th District
Councilmember Adam Sanchez, Desert Hot Springs
Lt. Earl Moss (proxy), Cathedral City
Noelia Chapa (proxy), Coachella

Others present:
Jacqueline Berman
Lindi Biggi
Dr. Allan Drusys, Chief Veterinarian of Animal Services
Frank Corvino, Deputy Director of Riv. Co. Animal Services

2. FINALIZATION OF AGENDA

Commission unanimously approved the agenda as is.
3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Lindi Biggi spoke about Loving All Animals and brought with her one of the dogs they rescued and groomed.

Jack Becker, from Desert Hot Springs and attended the March 2012 CVAC meeting, thanked the Animal Campus Commission members for their assistance in forming a committee to work on animal welfare issues in Desert Hot Springs. This committee is working on putting together a “mobile unit” for animal registration, microchipping, and to help keep pets current on their vaccinations. The committee is also working on educating the public on pet ownership.

4. **ANIMAL CAMPUS COMMISSION MEMBERS AND DIRECTOR COMMENTS**

None

5. **CORRESPONDENCE**

Proxy letter for Lt. Moss

6. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Approval of the January 12, 2012 meeting minutes  
M/S: Councilwoman Franklin/ Councilmember Hobart  
Councilmember Sanchez abstained

7. **ANIMAL SERVICES 2011 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR**

2011 Volunteer of the Year- Josue Zavala  
Mr. Zavala was unable to attend the commission meeting.

8. **SB 969 (LUCY’S LAW) UPDATE** - Jacqueline Mercier

Jacque testified at the last Business, Professions and Economic Development hearing on SB 969 (Lucy’s Law). About 200 groomers showed up at the state capitol in opposition of the bill. The bill was passed in the Business and Professions Committee and is now on its way to the Senate Appropriations Committee. All of the letters of support from the Animal Campus Commission and member cities was acknowledged by Senator Vargas during his comments for this bill.

9. **COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES**

- Publicity: John Welsh, Public Information Chief, Animal Services
  - Mega Match- A- Thon was a huge success! Animal Services believes that this adoption event surpassed world records for number of pet adoptions in one day.
  - Animal Services still has their live segment on KMIR 6 to advertise the animals the shelter has up for adoption.
• Update: Rob Miller, Director of Animal Services
  – Councilmember Finerty asked why in March the euthanasia rate was 48% and 51% of
    animals were returned to their owners or adoption partners, but in April euthanasia
    was 52% and 48% were returned to owners or adoption partners.
  – Frank Corvino said the increase is likely due to a higher intake of animals because
    people are leaving the valley because it is the end of our season. During this time
    of year the shelter sees more cats turned in by their owners and cats are their
    hardest animal to adopt. To combat this issue the Animal Services has lowered cat
    adoption fees.

10. MADDIE’S FUND UPDATE- Rob Miller, Director of Animal Services
    This is an ongoing process. No update at this time.

11. ANIMAL SAMARITANS & ADOPTION ALLIANCE UPDATE- Fred Saunders, Executive
    Director

    Councilmember Finerty said that the City of Palm Desert is currently working on
    their 2012-2013 budget and it has been recommended that Palm Desert contribute
    $20,000 to the Animal Samaritans Adoption Alliance program.

    Fred Saunders read a letter that has been sent to the city participants of the
    Coachella Valley Animal Campus (Desert Hot Springs, Cathedral City, Rancho Mirage,
    Palm Desert, Indian Wells, La Quinta, and Coachella) for funding for the Adoption Alliance
    program. In April 2011 the program was funded with $40,000 combined from Palm Desert
    and Rancho Mirage. The Adoption Alliance has rescued 1,502 at a cost of $55.02 per
    animal. The animals that have been rescued have been sent to rescue groups throughout
    the U.S. and Canada. The original projected cost for this program was $67,000 to $70,000
    annually. Palm Desert and Rancho Mirage contributed $40,000 and Animal Samaritans
    was able to cover $42,645 through donations and grants. Some animal rescue groups
    and adoptions added $5,150 of income for the program. The program expenses were:
    medical at $20,520, payroll for two employees was $54,106, operating overhead $5,853.
    The total cost for the program was $84,479. The remaining balance is $7,316 which will
    fund the program for another month and a half. This program is a more cost effective way
    of saving animals rather than sheltering and euthanizing.

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS

    No announcements

    The next meeting of the Animal Campus Commission is scheduled for
    Thursday, July 12, 2012 at 9:30 a.m. at the at the Coachella Valley Association of
    Governments, Room 115.

13. ADJOURNMENT

    Councilmember Finerty adjourned the meeting at 9:58 a.m.

For copies of agendas and past meeting minutes, please visit our website:
www.rivco4.org/web/cvacc