



Coachella Valley Animal Campus

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



COMMISSION MINUTES

THURSDAY, July 12, 2012

9:30 a.m.

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

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Chairperson Cindy Finerty, Councilmember, City of Palm Desert

Commission Members:

Cindy Finerty, City of Palm Desert
Russell Betts, City of Desert Hot Springs
Kristy Franklin, City of La Quinta
Dana Hobart, City of Rancho Mirage
John J. Benoit, County of Riverside

Others Present:

Noelia Chapa, City of Coachella (**authorized to vote**)
Mel Windsor, City of Indian Wells (**authorized to vote**)
Lt. Chuck Robinson, City of Cathedral City (**authorized to vote**)
Deby Conrad, City of La Quinta
Frank Corvino, Deputy Director, Department of Animal Services
Fred Saunders, Executive Director, Animal Samaritans
Jacqueline Berman
Noel Loughrin

2. FINALIZATION OF AGENDA

Fred Saunders asked that Michelle Bergeron, Adoption Alliance Coordinator, provide the Adoption Alliance update.

Chairwoman Finerty added an update on Lucy's Law (SB 969) after the Animal Samaritans & Adoption Alliance Update.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

4. ANIMAL CAMPUS COMMISSION MEMBERS AND DIRECTOR COMMENTS

None

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

Coachella Valley Animal Campus

5. CORRESPONDENCE

Lt. Chuck Robinson from the City of Cathedral City provided an authorization letter from the City to vote on behalf of the jurisdiction.

Mel Windsor from the City of Indian Wells provided an authorization letter from the City to vote on behalf of the jurisdiction.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the May 10, 2012 Animal Campus Commission Meeting were presented for approval. M/S (Hobart/ Chapa) to approve the May 10, 2012 meeting minutes.

Lt. Robinson, City of Cathedral City and Councilmember Betts, Desert Hot Springs abstained.

7. COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES

- Publicity: John Welsh, Public Information Chief, Animal Services
- Update: Rob Miller, Director of Animal Services

According to the May 2012- July 2012 Animal Services Staff Report healthy euthanasia was at 8 animals in May but in June it was 0 animals. Chairwoman Finerty asked why 8 healthy animals were euthanized and asked if animal welfare organizations can be contacted to rescue them in the future.

Dr. Drusys said that the animals that were euthanized were most likely over represented breeds (Chihuahuas or Pit bulls) and the department is working hard to keep those numbers down. The department has lowered its dog adoption fee to \$20 to try and encourage more people to adopt animals from the shelter. Dr. Drusys said that the department will alert Chairwoman Finerty and the animal welfare groups in the Coachella Valley if any healthy animals are at risk of being euthanized.

Fred Saunders mentioned the Animal Samaritans Adoption Alliance Program and said that they have been successful in pulling out animals and either fostering, adopting, or sending the out to other rescue shelters.

Janet McAfee from Loving All Animals suggested that John Welsh send press releases to Tidbits and CV Weekly to help advertise animals that are available for adoption.

Frank Corvino from Animal Services mentioned that the Blythe Shelter Facebook page has been helped increase pet adoptions.

Frank also mentioned that the Coachella Valley Animal Campus is in need of repairs. Some of the repairs that are needed are from regular use of the facility and some of the repairs have been needed since the facility was built. The contractor that was used to build the animal campus went under and they did not complete all of the construction on the building. Each commission member received photos and explanations for repairs that are needed.

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

Michelle Bergeron, Adoption Alliance Program Coordinator, updated the commission on the status of the program. As of July 2012 the Adoption Alliance is completely out of funds and is being fully supported financially by Animal Samaritans. This program was originally funded through the cities of Palm Desert, Rancho Mirage, and Indian Wells. The program began with \$40,000. Animal Samaritans used its own funds and applied for grants to raise an additional \$46,320 for the program (total \$86,320). As of July 2012 the Adoption Alliance Program has rescued 1,774 animals and sent them to rescue groups throughout the US and Canada. This program has reduced the county euthanasia rate by 15% and has saved the county money (costs for sheltering, medical, transportation, etc.). Average cost to rescue one animal \$53.65 (including medical fees). Costs will decrease as more animals are rescued. There have been a lot of additional medical costs as some of the rescued animals have been sick or injured. Animal Samaritans has also seen an increase in "bucket babies" which are very young animals that have been dumped outside of the shelter without being properly vaccinated or nourished. The "bucket babies" usually have more health problems because of this. Animal Samaritans is asking for the Coachella Valley cities to step up and help fund this program again.

Chairwoman Finerty said that both Palm Desert and Rancho Mirage have already committed \$20,000 to this program and she challenges all of the other Coachella Valley Animal Campus members to follow suit.

Supervisor Benoit has suggested that Fred send a one page letter to each city outlining intake from each city and how much money each city contributed to the program. Chairwoman Finerty said she will sign this letter and send it to the county and each city.

9. Lucy's Law (SB 969) Update- Jacqueline Mercier (added to agenda)

There was an appropriations hearing a few weeks ago and this bill passed. In August SB 969 will go to the Assembly. Jacqueline has asked that all of the Coachella Valley Animal Campus member cities mail or email state representative again to let them know that they are still in support of this bill.

Supervisor Benoit asked Jacqueline to set up a meeting with him to answer his questions about the testing and training requirements.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Loving All Animal will host the next Super Pet Adoption at Whitewater Park in Rancho Mirage on November 17 and 18. Cities can participate as sponsors. All animal welfare organizations are invited to attend with their adoptable animals.

Chairwoman Finerty informed the commission and guests that the City of Palm Desert will be hosting the K-9 trials again. This event will take place on Saturday, November 3 at Palm Desert High School.

Fred Saunders announced that animal abuse is still happening and we all need to continue to work on prevention.

The next meeting of the Animal Campus Commission is scheduled for Thursday, September 13, 2012 at 9:30 a.m. at the **Coachella Valley Animal Campus, 72-050 Pet Land Place, Thousand Palms, CA 92276.**

11. ADJOURNMENT