



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, SEPTEMBER 8, 2011

9:30 a.m.

Commission Meeting
Coachella Valley Animal Campus
72-050 Petland Place
Thousand Palms, CA

Animal Campus Commission



City of Cathedral City
Councilmember Sam Toles

City of Coachella
Councilmember Gilbert Ramirez Jr.



City of Desert Hot Springs
Councilmember Karl Baker, Jr.
Vice-Chair

City of Indian Wells
Councilmember Mary Roche



City of La Quinta
Councilmember Kristy Franklin

City of Palm Desert
Councilmember Cindy Finerty
Chairperson



City of Rancho Mirage
Councilmember G. Dana Hobart

County of Riverside
John J. Benoit, 4th District
Marion Ashley, 5th District

Animal Samaritans
Al Vasquez, President
Ex-Officio



County Staff
Noel Loughrin
Board Assistant



www. riversideshelter. com
(760) 343-3644 or (888) 636-7387

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

Commissioners present:
Cindy Finerty, City of Palm Desert
Mary Roche, City of Indian Wells
Earl Moss (proxy), City of Cathedral City
Kristy Franklin, City of La Quinta
Dana Hobart, City of Rancho Mirage
John J. Benoit, County of Riverside, 4th District

County staff and audience members present:
John Welsh, PIO for Dept. Animal Services
Frank Corvino, Deputy Director for Sept. Animal Services
Burt Hanada, City of La Quinta
Fred Saunders, Executive Director for Animal Samaritans
Christina Castillo, Adoption Alliance Coordinator, Animal Samaritans
Jacqueline Berman

2. **FINALIZATION OF AGENDA**

IF YOU HAVE ANY ITEMS YOU WANT ADDED TO THE AGENDA, THE BROWN ACT REQUIRES THAT YOU DO SO AT LEAST 72 HOURS PRIOR TO THE MEETING.

3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

THIS IS THE TIME AND PLACE FOR ANY PERSON WISHING TO

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

Coachella Valley Animal Campus

5. CORRESPONDENCE

None

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of the July 14, 2011 meeting minutes.

7. ADOPTION ALLIANCE UPDATE

Christina Castillo, Adoption Alliance Coordinator for Animal Samaritans has been able to rescue 679 animals during the last 20 weeks (April 25, 2011 through September 5, 2011). Of the 679 animal rescued, 519 were sent to rescue groups and 160 were sent to foster homes. Of the 160 in foster care, 92 were sent to animal rescue groups, 21 were adopted from the foster home, 11 have passed away, and 36 are currently in foster care.

Animal Samaritans has had a rash of parvo cases, and the clinic has been handling the situation. They have also had a breakout of ringworm with their cats in the shelter.

The Adoption Alliance program has held three adoption events at the Westfield Mall. At the June 11 event one pet was adopted. On the July 9 event four pets were adopted. On the August 13 event two pets were adopted.

Animal Samaritans' Adoption Alliance program has been successful with transporting animals to rescues in Sacramento, CA and Canada. This has been successful because larger cities have a higher demand for animals.

8. COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES

- **Publicity:** John Welsh, Public Information Chief, Animal Services
On September 8, John Welsh will be on the Joey English show to discuss/ advertise the \$40 dog adoption fee and the \$5 cat adoption fee. The Department of Animal Services is lowering their adoption rates because they are competing in the \$100,000 ASPCA challenge.

John has been working on building the Department of Animal Services Facebook page and the twitter account. You can find the Animal Services Facebook page at www.facebook.com/RiversideCountyAnimalServices.

Department of Animal Services will be working with Tom from Animal Samaritans to work together on a press release to inform the public when the Adoption Alliance program reaches 1,000 pets rescued. Both departments are thinking that they will reach 1,000 pets rescued mark by late November or December.

The Bob Hope freeway entrance/ exit is just about ready to open. The Department of Animal Services is planning on attending the ribbon cutting with adoptable pets so that the public knows that this new freeway exit will make it easier for the public to go to the Animal Campus.

- Update: Rob Miller, Director of Animal Services
Frank Corvino, Deputy Director of Animal Services, provided the update in Rob Miller's absence.

Snowbird season is almost here which means that the busy season at the animal shelter is about to begin. They are hoping that with the increase in Coachella Valley residents they will get more animals adopted out with the reduced fees. The fee reduction will last until the end of October. Depending on how well the department does with adoptions, they might just keep the reduced fees permanently.

Fred Saunders asked how many cats have been adopted out since the \$5 fuzz ball promotion began. The exact numbers were not immediately available but Animal Services did say that they tripled their cat adoptions in August compared to their 2010 cat adoptions. In August 2011 they adopted out 426 cats compared to the 155 cats that were adopted out in August 2010.

Councilmember Hobart asked about the current staffing levels at the Department of Animal Services. Frank Corvino said that they are currently working on staff incentive programs and have hired some temporary animal care technicians. Frank said that the department needs to continue to increase staffing.

Councilmember Finerty asked the Department of Animal Services to define "untreatable euthanasia" in their staff report. Untreatable means animals cannot be treated for certain illnesses or injuries in a shelter situation. Examples that were given were parvo cases or significant injuries.

Council member Finerty asked the Department of Animal Services about the personal check policy. Their policy is just like any other retailer, if someone comes in and pays by check the persons government issued ID must match the name on the check. This is because of liability reasons.

Supervisor Benoit updated everyone on the county budget situation. At the next Board of Supervisors meeting Supervisor Benoit will mention that the Department of Animal Services has already had 45% of their budget cut over the last couple of years and they can't take any more.

9. **ANIMAL SAMARITANS** – Fred Saunders, Executive Director

The Animal Samaritans administration offices have moved into their Ramon shelter building.

The next adoption event will be held on Saturday, September 10 at the Westfield Mall from 10am to 2pm.

10. **FRIENDS OF THE COACHELLA VALLEY ANIMAL CAMPUS** – Sam Esposito

No report submitted.

11. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Fred Saunders provided an update on the KASE Memorial Events Garden. The plans have been reviewed and the water feature has been eliminated and there will be more desert landscaping.

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting was adjourned at 9:56am

The next meeting of the Animal Campus Commission is scheduled for

Thursday, November 10, 2011 at 9:30 a.m. at the **Coachella Valley Association of Governments Conference Room 115**. 73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Conference Room 115, Palm Desert, CA 92260.