



Coachella Valley Animal Campus

MINUTES

Thursday – August 12, 2021
9:30 a.m.
Commission Meeting
ZOOM

Animal Campus Commission

City of Indian Wells
Councilmember Kimberly Muzik

City of Desert Hot Springs

City of Cathedral City
Councilmember Mark Carnevale

Chairman
Mayor Pro Tem Raymond Gregory
(Alternate)

City of Coachella
Councilmember Denise Delgado
Vacant (Alternate)

City of Indio
Mayor Lupe Ramos Amith
Councilmember Elaine Holmes (Alternate)
Scott Trujillo
(City Representative)

City of La Quinta
Councilmember Steve Sanchez
Councilmember Kathleen Fitzpatrick
(Alternate)

City of Palm Desert
Councilmember Karina Quintanilla
Vice-Chairman
Councilmember Susan Marie Weber
(Alternate)

Palm Springs
Animal Shelter
Gabrielle Amster
Executive Director

Friends of Palm Springs
Animal Shelter
Tamara Hedges- President
Ex- Officio

City of Rancho Mirage
Councilmember G. Dana Hobart
Mayor Ted Weill
(Alternate)

County of Riverside
V. Manuel Perez, 4th District
Alexis Perez, Board Assistant
Jeff Hewitt, 5th District

Animal Samaritans
Len D. Betz, President
Ex-Officio
Tom Snyder, CEO

County Staff
Laurie Dozier
Executive Assistant I

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The Animal Campus Commission Meeting was called to order on Thursday, August 12, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. via ZOOM by Vice-Chairman Mark Carnevale, Cathedral City.

A roll call was conducted by the **County Staff, Laurie Dozier**, and it was determined that there was a quorum. The following were present:

Members in Attendance:

Councilmember G. Dana Hobart, City of Rancho Mirage
Amy Cuen, Board Assistant, Riverside County
Councilmember Karina Quintanilla, City of Palm Desert
Councilmember Steve Sanchez, city of La Quinta
Councilmember Mark Carnevale, Cathedral City
Councilmember Kimberly Muzik, City of Indian Wells

Others in attendance:

Julie Bank, Director, County of Animal Services
Chris Mayer, Commander of Field Service, County of Riverside Animal Services
Kim McWhorter, Program Chief, County of Riverside Animal Services
Jackie Schart, Operations Chief, County of Riverside Animal Services
Laurie Dozier, Executive Assistant, County of Riverside Animal Services
Michael Phipps-Russell, Executive Director, Loving All Animals

3. FINALIZATION OF AGENDA:

The agenda was approved.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes from May 6, 2021 were approved.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

No public comments.

CORRESPONDENCE:

No correspondence.

6. ANIMAL CAMPUS COMMISSION MEMBERS AND DIRECTOR COMMENTS:

No comments

7. RIVERSIDE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL SERVICES:

Julie Bank, Director:

- Animals Service's statistics for 2020 were amazing, with animals staying in their homes and the public doing the right thing. Now with the county lifting Covid-19 restrictions, inventory is up. Animal Service's has seen a surge over the past month and a half, primarily in cats. Animal Services is addressing the cat surge. We have seen an increase in dogs as well. We now have three times the number of animals from 2020 at this time. Numbers go up in the summer months due to kitten season. Animal Service's is seeing strays coming in more often. Our service requests have increased, veterinarian care, spay and neuters, and vaccines are up also. Animal Service's does offer Thursday vaccine clinics, and our spay/neuter bus has been going out in the area when possible. Messaging is extremely useful on public platforms and social media as well as our website. Our Riverside shelter location has seen Pan Leukopenia, which is cat parvo come through the shelter during the increase of cats coming in, but not so much in the Coachella Valley Animal Campus. We are pushing for people to get their pets vaccinated. Our HPZ (Healthy Pet Zone) program has helped public keep their pets. Our website (www.rcdas.org) shows all we have to offer.
- It is rare for animals to get the Covid-19 virus, although we have seen a few. There are no indications of animals giving the virus to humans. Our department has a Standard Operation Procedure (SOP) to follow for animals coming in from a Covid positive home and how to care for them. Julie stated the department will look into hosting a ZOOM meeting regarding Covid-19 exposed animals and caring for them sometime in September.
- Animals Services started a coalition called Animal Welfare Coalition of Riverside County. It consists of brick-and-mortar organizations of animal welfare groups throughout Riverside County. This group meets monthly to discuss various animal related topics, such as the surge of cats we are seeing and how to address this issue collectively. On August 30 the coalition will be hosting a webinar all about cats and how to help. The coalition will share the web link with the commission to share with your constituents for anyone who would like to join in and discuss. All groups are working hard to prevent euthanasia, protecting people and the animals we serve.
- Animal Services was involved in a large seizure of 76 dogs this week on a property located in the unincorporated Riverside, Winchester area, which is in District 3, Supervisor Washington's area. This involved a homeless man, squatting illegally on someone's empty property with kennels and housing of the 76 dogs. The dogs are now at the San Jacinto Valley Animal Campus. This also involved Code Enforcement, Riverside Sheriff, and Behavior Health as well as our department. The investigation process is now under way.

8. **ANIMAL SAMARITANS (Tom Snyder, CEO):**

Not present.

9. **PALM SPRINGS ANIMAL SHELTER (Gabrielle Amster, Executive Director):**

Not present.

10. **FRIENDS OF PALM SPRINGS ANIMAL SHELTER (Tamara Hedges, President):**

11. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next meeting of the Animal Campus Commission is scheduled for November 4, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. via ZOOM.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 9:50a.m.