



Coachella Valley Animal Campus

Thursday, March 9, 2017
9:30 a.m.
Commission Meeting
Coachella Valley Animal Campus
72050 Pet Land Place
Thousand Palms, CA 92276

Animal Campus Commission

City of Indian Wells

Councilmember Ty Peabody

Chairman

Mayor Dana Reed
(Alternate)

City of Desert Hot Springs

Councilmember Joe McKee

Vice-Chairman

City of Cathedral City

Councilmember Mark Carnevale

Mayor Stan Henry
(Alternate)

City of Coachella

Councilmember Betty Sanchez

Vacant (Alternate)

City of Indio

Councilmember Glen Miller
Mayor Elain Holmes (Alternate)
P.J. Gagajena (Alternate)

City of La Quinta

Councilmember Steve Sanchez

Councilmember Kathleen
Fitzpatrick (Alternate)

City of Palm Desert

Councilmember Kathleen Kelly

Frankie Riddle (Alternate)

Palm Springs

Animal Shelter

Daniel Sumner – Director of
Operations

Friends of Palm Springs

Animal Shelter

Tamara Hedges-Vice President

Ex- Officio

City of Rancho Mirage

Mayor G. Dana Hobart
Mayor Pro Tem Ted Weill
(Alternate)

County of Riverside

John J. Benoit, 4th District
Matthew Fletcher, Board Assistant
Marion Ashley, 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, March 9, 2017 at 9:30 a.m. at the Coachella Valley Animal Campus, 72050 Pet Land Place, Thousand Palms, CA 92276, by Chairman Ty Peabody, Councilmember with the City of Indian Wells.

A roll call was conducted by the **Chairman** and it was determined that there was a quorum. The following were present:

Members in Attendance:

Steve Sanchez, Councilmember, La Quinta
Ty Peabody, Mayor, Indian Wells
Joe McKee, Councilmember, City of Desert Hot Springs
Kathleen Kelly, Councilmember, City of Palm Desert
G. Dana Hobart, Mayor, City of Rancho Mirage

Others in attendance:

Robert Miller, Director, County Animal Services
Frank Corvino, Deputy Director, County Animal Services
Dr. Allan Drusys, Chief Veterinarian, County Animal Services
Tom Snyder, Chief Executive Officer, Animal Samaritans
Greg Priamos, Riverside County Counsel
John Welsh, Public Information Officer, County Animal Services
Veronica Ramos, Customer Service Manager, County Animal Services
Laurie Dozier, Executive Assistant, County Animal Services

3. FINALIZATION OF AGENDA:

The agenda was approved as submitted.

4. APPROVAL OF November 2016 MINUTES:

Minutes approved as submitted McKee/Hobart m/s.

5. ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2017: Ty Peabody was nominated for 2017 Chairman, and Joe McKee was nominated for 2017 Vice-Chair.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Kim Hardee: Kim stated that they have reached their goal of over 4,000 sterilized animals, and over 500 licenses. There is a small town outside of Blythe called Wrigley that is comprised of mostly low income and the elderly. There are roughly 15 dogs residing in town with little access to veterinary care in that area. If the county is going to cite, they will need to provide constituents with a place to gain compliance. Kim will speak with Frank further.

Tiffani LoBue: Tiffani has been working with SNIP, CAN and Animal Action League and feels spay/neuter is the first line of defense for resolving these problems. She would like to know how often the County utilizes their mobile s/n bus within Coachella Valley. The bus deployment depends largely on the month and the weather during the summertime. The bus has been visiting Mecca and North Shore once a month, however North Shore visits are on hold due to a lack of appointments. Through the month of June, DAS will visit Mecca once a month. Other deployments throughout the county take place between 8 and 12 times per month. During the last sweep in North Shore, there were 30 animals altered on the first day, and 15-16 the following. Spay/neuter services are needed in that area. Dr. Drusys and Rob Miller explained grants, outreach, deployments, consistency and the cost of the spay/neuter bus. At certain locations, attendance at the spay/neuter bus and shot clinics has decreased by 25-30%. Dr. Drusys is attempting to determine if there is a cause for the dip in attendance. Some constituents in these areas may be afraid of the government. Tom Snyder stated he will rent the Indio office out which will include the staff. Rob would like to talk offline with Tamara, Kim, Tom and Palm Springs and come up with a solution for lending out our S/N bus.

7. CORRESPONDENCE: Received a letter appointing Councilmember Steve Sanchez to serve as the new representative for the City of La Quinta. Received a letter appointing Board Assistant Matthew Fletcher as the new representative for the County of Riverside, 4th/5th District. Received a letter appointing Councilmember Kathleen Kelly as the new representative for the City of Palm Desert.

8. ANIMAL CAMPUS COMMISSION MEMBERS AND DIRECTOR COMMENTS: None at this time.

9. RIVERSIDE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL SERVICES:

• **Robert Miller, Director:**

Leigh Kirk sent out an interesting article written by a veterinarian that Laurie will forward to the commission. Laurie Dozier will coordinate a meeting regarding spay/neuter to discuss further options and ideas. The Animal Services and County budget were discussed, as well as the County Internal Services Fund and a possible 6.5% cut for Animal Services. An event called "Homeless Pets and Combat Vets" is being planned, and will be a friendly challenge between the district offices and the executive office. It will take place for six Saturdays beginning Memorial weekend through the 4th of July. Adoption fees will be \$80; \$40 to the shelter, \$20 donation to Veterans Affairs, and \$20 donation to the ASK Foundation. The hope is to have more than \$6,000 in donations for the ASK Foundation and Veterans Affairs. We would like to make this a large annual event. A press release regarding our five year no-kill plan has been released. The greatest challenge is, and will be, cats. We have made great strides with dogs, but cats are a huge issue that can be solved by providing spay/neuter services. Riverside County Counsel is working on an ordinance that prohibits our county officers and front line staff from impounding ear-tipped cats. Community Cats that have been spay/neutered, microchipped, and vaccinated have been invested in, so they should not enter the shelters, not be euthanized, and should be allowed to stay in their communities.

- **Frank Corvino, Deputy Director:**

Case Updates: Lieutenant Rosa gave an update for the January North Shore sweeps. There were 35 dogs, and 5 cats spayed and neutered. Per Frank Corvino, the Date Festival was a huge success. We topped our record with 317 adopted animals. Facilities will be working on the flooring issues at the Coachella Valley Animal Campus. The shelter will be receiving a \$1,300 donation from Janine Bar with SOAR to go towards a much needed play yard. Facilities will assist with its construction.

- **John Welsh, Public Information Officer:**

Updates: John offered a reminder regarding coyotes in the desert and tips about not leaving small pets out. Staff raised \$600 for the cremation of the two dogs and cat that perished due to smoke inhalation following the plane crash in Riverside last week.

- **ANIMAL SAMARITANS (Tom Snyder, CEO):** Animal Samaritans will be a part of the Best Friends grant. Tom Snyder is open to renting out the Indio clinic and sharing the van, although they are unavailable on Sundays. The Adoption Alliance rescue program hit their 10,000 rescued animals mark as of November. Michelle Bergeron is a huge part of this success and over approximately six years, the total cost has been \$327,000. When the program began in 2011, they received \$60,700 in rescue help from the cities to kick start the program. Since then there has not been much monetary assistance. Tom is asking for \$2,500 assistance from each city to keep this program running and not have to pull Michelle Bergeron back to the Animal Samaritans clinic. Chairman Peabody suggested that Tom ask for more, make it a specific program, get proposals and then reach out to the cities.

10. PALM SPRINGS ANIMAL SHELTER (Dr. Shayda Ahkami, Shelter Director): None at this time.

Friends of Palm Springs Animal Shelter (Tamara Hedges, Vice President): Discussed and reviewed the statistics handout. Over the next three years, 3,500 cat's surgeries will be paid for by the Best Friends grant. Two new staff members will be embedded in the CVAC shelter to assist with this program. A Palm Desert town hall meeting on March 20th at 6pm will include a discussion and presentation about the Community Cat program. There will also be a No-Kill Coachella Valley meeting roundtable on March 14th at 9:30am at Animal Samaritans. Tamara Hedges stated she can help with the pet food bank's request for donations. Rob Miller indicated the ASK Foundation runs the pet food donations in Riverside, and the program keep pets in homes and is a resource that is needed Countywide. Tamara stated that the City of Palm Springs gives their shelter \$1,000,000 a year, and they raise \$800,000 a year to keep their shelter running.

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next meeting is scheduled for May 12, 2017 at 9:30AM at the Coachella Valley Animal Campus: 72-050 Pet Land Place, Thousand Palms, and CA 92276.

ADJOURNMENT Chairman Mayor Ty Peabody adjourned the meeting at 10:38 a.m.