



Coachella Valley Animal Campus

MINUTES

Thursday - February 8, 2018
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 Lupe Ramos Watson

Mayor Elaine 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

V. Manuel Perez, 4th District

Victoria Llort, 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, February 8, 2018 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:

Ty Peabody, City of Indian Wells

Joe McKee, Councilmember, City of Desert Hot Springs

Kathleen Kelly, Councilmember, City of Palm Desert

Mark Carnevale, Councilmember, City of Cathedral City

Steve Brown, Councilmember, City of Coachella

Ted Weill, Councilmember, City of Rancho Mirage

PJ Gagajena, City of Indio

Victoria Llort, Board Assistant, Riverside County

Others in attendance:

Frank Corvino, Deputy Director, County Animal Services

Dr. Allan Drusys, Chief Veterinarian, County Animal Services

Tom Snyder, Chief Executive Officer, Animal Samaritans

Tamara Hedges, Vice President, Friends of Palm Springs Animal Shelter

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 September 2017 MINUTES:

Minutes approved as submitted McKee/Kelly m/s.

5. **ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2018:** Ty Peabody was nominated for 2018 Chairman and Mark Carnevale was nominated for 2018 Vice-Chair.
6. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**
Kim Hardee: Over 50 licenses were sold at the last clinic, many of which were renewals and returning customers. The next clinic will be held February 15th-17th, 2018 at the ABC Recovery Center.
7. **CORRESPONDENCE:** Received a letter appointing City of Indio Councilmember Lupe Ramos Watson as the primary representative to the Coachella Valley Animal Campus Commission. The city's staff representative, PJ Gagajena, remains the same.
8. **ANIMAL CAMPUS COMMISSION MEMBERS AND DIRECTOR COMMENTS:**
- **Joe McKee, Vice Chairman:** Vice Chairman McKee introduced members of the new Desert Hot Springs Animal Care and Control, Project Manager John Holcomb and Animal Control Supervisor Tara Carper. Desert Hot Springs will have their own shelter and two Animal Control Officers. The shelter is designed as a temporary holding facility to allow pets to be reclaimed by their owners. Animals not redeemed by their owners will be transferred to the CVAC shelter to be placed for adoption/rescue. Desert Hot Springs will be offering licensing amnesty for 2018 (licenses at no cost to pet owners) for all altered, microchipped and vaccinated dogs. This no-cost license offer will be valid for one year, expiring on January 1, 2019. Hours of operation are 7 days a week, 10 hours a day. On March 1, 2018, Desert Hot Springs will take over County Field Services, and on March 3, 2018 will be hosting an open house.
9. **RIVERSIDE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL SERVICES:**
- **Frank Corvino, Deputy Director:** There are no case updates at this time. The Indio Date Festival is February 16-26, 2018, and the adoption goal for this year is 300. We have fewer dogs this year in our shelters. If we more animals are needed for the fair, we will reach out to our partners. The CVAC activity yard is now constructed and agility equipment is coming soon. Janeen Bahr with SOAR was able to fund the whole project, and the activity yard is open to all. Animal Services fiscal year budget has a \$700,000 deficit that we are working to overcome. The deficit is based on negotiated items with the unions relative to compensation that the Department must absorb. Staffing will not be increased, and some programs may be affected. At this time, we contract with Fontana and Colton out of San Bernardino County. The cities of San Bernardino, Grand Terrace and Rialto are considering contracting, which would help tremendously with our budget. Annual animal intakes is decreasing, and is a good trend we hope continues.
- Destiny Haney, Best Friends, Community Cats Program:**
Destiny Haney was invited to speak about her Best Friend's program. The program has been in effect since March 2017. It is a three year, public-private partnership between Best Friends, Palm Springs Animal Shelter, Riverside Animal Control and other key community partners to reduce both shelter intake and shelter deaths of cats and kittens in the Coachella Valley. Discussed strategies of the program, goals vs. actuals, shelter impact, community impact, and community testimonials. There has been a 53% reduction of euthanasia during the first year, with a save rate of 63%. A strategic plan will be left in place once the three year grant is completed to keep the momentum going. At the 2 ½ year mark there will be a discussion to transition to that plan. Best Friends can be reached at 760-507-1228.

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

Updates: The Date Festival begins February 16th. Our shelters have received calls from the public inquiring if we will be back this year. The CVAC play yard is open, made possible by Janeen Bahr through fundraising and donations.

Media: Discussed a powerful “feel good” story regarding a cat, named Kitty Bitty, who traveled from Georgia on a Pepsi truck to California. With the help of Kim McWhorter and Jill Buckley, we were able to use an ASPCA bond to send an escort and fly the cat back to its owner in Georgia. Discussed a story regarding a service dog biting a child in an Albertson’s store. The term “service dog” is used too loosely today – a true service dog would never bite.

- **Dr. Allan Drusys, Chief Veterinarian:** Dr. Drusys and John Welsh did a 30 minute Community Round Up radio interview with Gene Nichols in the Coachella Valley. It is recorded and broadcasted on six radio stations. Impound numbers, reducing pet overpopulation, Kitty Bitty, the Pepsi cat, advanced education of the veterinarian team, and the Date Festival were discussed.

- **ANIMAL SAMARITANS (Tom Snyder, CEO):**

Tom Snyder would like to give his appreciation to Jennifer Millard from the Western Riverside shelter; she has been assisting rescues with Michelle Bergeron. Michelle Bergeron was recently recognized by the Angels of Flight Academy. Feral cats are still arriving and their team is pleased to be working with Destiny from Best Friends. A Super Hero 5K run is scheduled for March 10, 2018 at the Rancho Mirage Park in Palm Springs. Register at runpalmsprings.com; racewire.com; active.com.

10. PALM SPRINGS ANIMAL SHELTER (Director of Operations): Not in attendance.

Friends of Palm Springs Animal Shelter (Tamara Hedges, Vice President): Tamara Hedges is pleased to announce the three year, \$50,000 spay and neuter grant. The grant will benefit low income families in the Coachella Valley area. A new program called Fix a Friend is in place for any feline an owner is willing to claim as their own. The program combined with TNR will hopefully make a difference in reducing cat overpopulation. Working in conjunction with Best Friends, TNR has assisted 1,843 cats to date. We have been working with Animals Samaritans, Coachella Valley Animal Campus and Bianca Rae on transports. Half of the animals in the Palm Springs shelter are now in foster care. The next event will be Pooches, Pussycats and Paris, held on Saturday, April 7, 2018. www.psanimalshelter.org.

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next meeting is scheduled for May 10, 2018 at 9:30AM at the Coachella Valley Animal Campus: 72-050 Pet Land Place, Thousand Palms, CA 92276.

ADJOURNMENT Chairman Ty Peabody thanked the commission members for a job well done. The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.