



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, JAN. 12, 2012

9:30 a.m.

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

Animal Campus Commission



City of Cathedral City

Councilmember Sam Toles

City of Coachella

Councilmember Gilbert Ramirez Jr.



City of Desert Hot Springs

City of Indian Wells

Councilmember Mary Roche



City of La Quinta

Councilmember Kristy Franklin

City of Palm Desert

Councilmember Cindy Finerty
Chair



City of Rancho Mirage

Councilmember G. Dana Hobart
Chairperson

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



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

Chairwoman Finerty called this meeting to order at 9:34 a.m.

Members present:

Councilmember Mary Roche, Indian Wells
Councilmember Cindy Finerty, Palm Desert
Councilmember Kristy Franklin, La Quinta
Supervisor John J. Benoit, Riverside County- 4th District
Lieutenant Earl Moss (proxy), Cathedral City

Members not present:

Councilmember Gilbert Ramirez, Coachella
Councilmember Dana G. Hobart, Rancho Mirage

Others present:

Jacqueline Berman
Susan Jacoy
Karen Esposito
Sam Esposito
Rob Miller, Director of Riv. Co. Department of Animal Services
Dr. Allan Drusys, Chief Veterinarian of Animal Services

2. **FINALIZATION OF AGENDA**

Commission member approved agenda as is

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

Coachella Valley Animal Campus

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jacqueline Berman talked about concerns at the City of Indio Animal Shelter. She was contacted by the Animal Defense League because they are interested in working with the Indio animal shelter and would like to start working on animal education programs in schools.

Lindi Biggi updated the commission members on the Super Pet Adoption Fair that was held in late 2011. People adopted 230 pets at this event. Lindi also informed the commission that Loving All Animals will be using their white limo to drive people who are interested in adopting a pet around to different animal shelters.

6. ANIMAL CAMPUS COMMISSION MEMBERS AND DIRECTOR COMMENTS

Supervisor Benoit provided an update on the county budget. The county is looking at cutting the budget by 28% for the 2012-2013 fiscal year. Director of Animal Services, Rob Miller, was praised by Supervisor Benoit for being able to do so much for the department even though his budget keeps getting cut.

Supervisor Benoit also provided an update on what is going on with the Redevelopment Agencies. He will be meeting with representatives from each Coachella Valley city to discuss how to move forward.

Jacqueline Berman asked Supervisor Benoit what the 28% budget cut will affect first in Animal Services. Supervisor Benoit told her that the county does not yet have an answer to that question.

Councilmember Finerty asked Supervisor Benoit if the Coachella Valley cities will have higher contract fees with the Department of Animal Services. Rob Miller said that the Department of Animal Services has recently developed new city contract rates. Cities are now pay a flat rate per animal impound into the facilities. Some Coachella Valley cities fees went down while cities fees went up. This is the first time a Department of Animal Services contract falls under the county's Title VI ordinances. In order for a city to qualify for the hardship clause they must currently be in contract with the county. Supervisor Benoit also said that the county has multi-year contracts with Animal Services and at this point the county will not be asking the cities to pay more to keep the level of service.

Councilwoman Finerty mentioned partnering with businesses and all of the Coachella Valley cities on animal services. Rob Miler said that the Department of Animal Services will be meeting with the City of Indio next week (1/16/12) to discuss a proposal for the City of Indio to contract animal services with the county. The proposal has all of the Indio impounds going to the Animal Campus in Thousand Palms and the Indio shelter would be used for off-site adoptions and would provide animals services (purchase pet licenses, vaccinations clinics, etc.) in mid-valley.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

None

8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Members unanimously approved the November 10, 2011 minutes

9. ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2012

Councilmember Franklin nominated Councilmember Finerty for Chairperson.
No other nominations.

Councilmember Roche nominated Councilmember Franklin for Vice-Chair.
No other nominations.

M/S: Councilmember Roche/ Supervisor Benoit
Vote was unanimous

Councilmember Finerty will continue serving as Chairwoman for the Coachella Valley Animal Campus Commission.

Councilmember Franklin will serve as Vice-Chair for the Coachella Valley Animal Campus Commission

***Quorum was lost**

10. COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES

- Publicity: John Welsh, Public Information Chief, Animal Services

Each commission member received a handout from John with the Department of Animal Services website and facebook page printed on it.

Website: www.rcdas.org

Facebook: Coachella Valley Animal Campus
& Riverside County Animal Services

John asked the commission members to help spread the word for the Coachella Valley Animal Campus Facebook page.

- Update: Rob Miller, Director of Animal Services

If the City of Indio enters into an animal services contract with the county the Coachella Valley Animal Campus Commission will have accept the new member.

Rob also told the commission that there have been some discussions at the state about eliminating the Hayden Law which relates to animals. This law has been suspended for two years. This law required animal shelters to hold stray animals for five days. Since this has been suspended and if it gets eliminated the required holding time will remain at 72 hours. Riverside County does not count the first day, the 72 holding period begins on the second day. The average stay for animals in Riverside County shelters is 7 to 10.5 days; this is more times than what the Hayden Law requires. It is unknown at this time if the average stay for stray animals will be lowered since the department will be going through more budget cuts. Rob will continue to give the commission budget updates as the process moves forward.

The Department of Animal Services has secured a \$10,000 grant from the ASPCA to host a mega adoption event. This adoption event will be held on March 31 at both the Riverside and Coachella Valley shelters. The department has an animal alliance with the cities of Norco, Corona, and the Mary S. Roberts Humane Society and the adoption events will be held at facilities in those areas as well. All animal adoptions will be free at this event. Rob will be meeting with Fred later in the day to work on pre-altering some animals so that they can go home with their new owners on the day of the event. Animals that are not altered by the date of the event will be taken care of by Animal Samaritans when someone is interested in adopting. This grant from the ASPCA will be underwriting the cost of adoption, micro chipping, and spay/neuter.

The Riverside Shelter is working on hosting a fundraiser car show. The department is looking into fundraising ideas for the Coachella Valley. Rob is open to anyone's suggestions.

Cindy asked Rob to let the commission know if any additional commission meetings need to be scheduled to discuss including Indio in the Animal Campus.

11. NUISANCE BARKING

Councilwoman Finerty asked what the county rules are for nuisance barking. Rob said he will email a copy of the ordinance to Councilwoman Finerty. She was also told that if there is a complaint a notice will be sent to the pet owner. The person who made the complaint will receive a declaration and that person can send it back to the department if the pet continues to be a nuisance. No time frame is set for an animal to adjust to a new home; it depends on when the complaints are filed. The department rarely receives declarations back. The complete packet for barking complaints will be sent to Councilwoman Finerty.

12. ANIMAL SAMARITANS – Fred Saunders, Executive Director

The original Adoption Alliance program goal was to adopt out 1,000 animals by April 2012. The program has already exceeded that goal; to date they have adopted 1,100 pets. Pets have been adopted out to all over the country and to Canada. Michelle Burgeron is the new Adoption Alliance Program Coordinator. Animal Samaritans is quickly running out of money for the program. They began applying for grants and in December they received \$30,000 in grant funding for the Adoption Alliance program.

Animal Samaritans had a great 2011. They had a net income and pumped the money back into their animal shelter. They did 8,300 spay and neuter and nearly 40,000 vaccinations.

One of the grants that Animal Samaritans received is for behavior modification for animals that they will be pulling from the county shelter. This will allow them to pull more unadoptable animals so they can be worked on while in foster care and can then be sent to animal rescues. Animal Samaritans has over 50 foster families.

Animal Samaritans has been working with their humane education program and they have offered their services to the Indio shelter.

Councilwoman Finerty asked about showcasing adoptable dogs at the council meeting. She would like to see animals brought to the meeting rather than showing a video. She has also asked that each city that is represented in the Coachella Valley Animal Campus Commission invite animal groups to their council meetings so adoptable animals can get more exposure.

Animal Samaritans won the Humanitarian of the Year Award at the City of Palm Springs Special Commission on Humanitarian Efforts.

13. **FRIENDS OF THE COACHELLA VALLEY ANIMAL CAMPUS**

None

14. **COACHELLA VALLEY ANIMAL CAMPUS INSPIRATION GARDEN**- Sam Esposito

Sam Esposito invited commission members to follow him out to the Inspiration Garden after the meeting so he can show everyone what the plans are for the garden.

15. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next meeting of the Animal Campus Commission is scheduled for Thursday, March 8, 2012 at 9:30 a.m. at the ***Coachella Valley Association of Governments, 73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Room 115, Palm Desert.***

16. **ADJOURNMENT**

Councilwoman Finerty adjourned the meeting at 10:18 am