



Coachella Valley Animal Campus

Animal Campus Commission

City of Cathedral City
Councilmember Mark Carnevale
Mayor Stan Henry
(Alternate)

City of Coachella
Councilmember Magdalena Zepeda
Councilmember Betty Sanchez
(Alternate)

City of Desert Hot Springs
Councilmember Joe McKee

City of Indian Wells
Mayor Ty Peabody
Mayor Pro Tem Dana Reed
(Alternate)

City of Indio
Councilmember Elaine Holmes
Jason Chan
(Alternate)

City of La Quinta
Councilmember John Pena
Mayor Pro Tem Kristy Franklin
(Alternate)

City of Palm Desert
Frankie Riddle

Palm Springs Animal Shelter
Dr. Shayda Ahkami- Shelter Director
Friends of Palm Springs Animal Shelter
Tamara Hedges-Vice President
Ex- Officio

City of Rancho Mirage
Mayor G. Dana Hobart
Chairman
Mayor Pro Tem Ted Weill
(Alternate)

County of Riverside
John J. Benoit, 4th District
Patricia Cooper, Board Assistant
Vice-Chair
Marion Ashley, 5th District

Animal Samaritans
Len D. Betz, President
Ex-Officio

County Staff
Carol-Ann Myers
Executive Assistant I

Thursday, September 10, 2015
9:30 a.m.

Commission Meeting
CVAC

72-050 Pet Land Place
Thousand Palms, CA 92276

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The Animal Campus Commission Meeting was called to order on Thursday, September 10, 2015 at 9:32 a.m. at the Coachella Valley Animal Campus, 72-050 Pet Land Place, CA 92276, by Ted Weill, Mayor Pro Tem for the city of Rancho Mirage.

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

Members in Attendance:

Ted Weill, Mayor Pro Tem, Rancho Mirage (**Proxy for Mayor Hobart**)
Patricia Cooper, County of Riverside
John Pena, Councilmember, La Quinta
Ty Peabody, Mayor, Indian Wells
Elaine Holmes, Councilmember, Indio
Joe McKee, Councilmember, Desert Hot Springs
Mark Carnevale, Councilmember, Cathedral City
Tamara Hedges, Vice-President, Friends of Palm Springs Animal Shelter
Dr. Shayda Ahkami, Director, Palm Springs Animal Shelter
Fred Saunders, Animal Samaritans, Ex-Officio

Others in attendance:

Jason Chan, Sr. Management Analyst, Indio
Earl Moss, Police Captain, Cathedral City
Tom Snyder, Chief Operating Officer, Animal Samaritans
Robert Miller, Director, County Animal Services
Frank Corvino, Deputy Director, County Animal Services
Dr. Allan Drusys, Chief Veterinarian, County Animal Services
Veronica Ramos, Customer Service Manager, County Animal Services
Jaclyn Schart, Animal Behaviorist, County Animal Services
Deanna Burnett, Operations Chief, County Animal Services
Carol-Ann Myers, Executive Assistant, County Animal Services

3. APPROVAL OF JUNE/JULY MINUTES: minutes approved as submitted m/s Pena/Cooper Mayor Pro Tem Ted Weill abstained.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Kim Hardee (Coachella Animal Network): Kim Hardee provided a flyer for a clinic taking place on September 18th, 19th, and the 22nd at the "ABC Recovery Center". There will be low cost vaccines, and microchips given as well as spay/neutering appointments. Kim requested the department waive the late fee for licensing

Coachella Valley Animal Campus

PUBLIC COMMENTS CONTINUED:

for those attending the clinic. Robert Miller the Animal Services Director approved this. This will be discussed further offline between Animal Services and Kim Hardee.

Janet McAfee (Loving All Animals): LAA will be hosting their 7th “Wizard of Paws” adoption event on November 14th & 15th at the Palm Desert Civic Center Park. October 7th will be their 6th annual “Spayghetti No Balls” fundraiser dinner and silent auction at the “BG Bird Gardens” in Palm Desert. Mayor Pro-Tem Ted Weill suggested Ms. McAfee provide event information to the City of Rancho Mirage in order to advertise.

5. **FINALIZATION OF AGENDA:** The agenda was approved as submitted.
6. **ANIMAL CAMPUS COMMISSION MEMBERS AND DIRECTOR COMMENTS:**
Councilman Joe McKee (DHS): Desert Hot Springs received a grant for 1000 free spay/neuter surgeries through Animal Action League that will be distributed to residents.
7. **CORRESPONDENCE:** Letter appointing Mayor Pro Tem Ted Weill to serve as the alternate for Mayor Dana Hobart, Rancho Mirage.
8. **COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES (Robert Miller, Director):** There was a dog attack in Northshore that resulted in 1 fatality and 1 victim seriously injured. The community voiced their concerns for their safety, and as a response the Department will be deploying their Animal License Inspectors and Animal Control Officers into the Northshore community to perform a sweep of an area. A two year old was brutally attacked in Coachella. Out of respect for the family the department did not send out a news release. Hannah Shaw with “Alley Cat Allies” will be visiting the Riverside shelter on October 7, 2015. Hannah will be assessing programs and policies currently in place pertaining to feral cats. Each commission member will receive an invitation once there is a set agenda. Rob discussed the current Bylaws pertaining to the commission, and the need to change them to better fit the nature of the commission meetings. Rob’s suggestion was for the members to direct Animal Services’ staff to re-draft the Bylaws and present them at the next commission meeting for approval as well as draft a policy pertaining to the commission meeting. Peabody/ Pena m/s all members approved and directed Rob to begin working on this.
Frank Corvino (Deputy Director):
Facility updates: Currently the department is working on upgrading the cat cages to “cat condos”. This will help serve as a better environment for cats waiting to be adopted.
Case updates: Recently some staff were summonsed to testify in court on behalf of the Bernadette Schwenn case. Mrs. Schwenn has filed several lawsuits against the county.
Cal Trans: Unfortunately the department was told they are not able to put signage for the facility on the I-10 freeway due to guidelines in place per Cal Trans. The department will be looking at additional options for signage on the streets leading into the shelter.
John Welsh (Sr. Public Information Specialist): “Clear the Shelters” was an NBC sponsored reduced adoption fee event that took place on Saturday, August 15, 2015. The department did a total of 297 adoptions county-wide. October 3rd the County will be participating in the Social Fair. Robert Miller commended the Economic Development Agency for their accommodations to the department during this event.

ANIMAL SAMARITANS (Fred Saunders, CEO):

Adoption Alliance Update (Michelle Bergeron): Currently the Adoption Alliance program does an average of 160-190 live releases per month. The program currently saves County Animal Services and the community a significant amount of money. Fred Saunders recently wrote a letter to the Board because they are in need of approximately \$40,000 in donations in order to continue the success of the program. The grand opening for the new Indio Facility was on September 9, 2015. There were many people in attendance to show their support, including Councilmember Elaine Holmes, who presented Animal Samaritans with a plaque. The facility is 3,000 sqft and is equipped with a practicing Veterinarian. They are currently recruiting for an additional Veterinarian. Animal Samaritans has spay/neutered 450 pit-bulls in the East Valley free of charge. Mr. Saunders also discussed the possibility of doing provisional licenses; tags will not be issued and the information will be given to county for processing.

9. **PALM SPRINGS ANIMAL SHELTER(Dr. Shayda Ahkami):** The shelter has accomplished a record breaking 279 adoptions. The shelter currently has a high inventory of animals due to "mating season", as well as a high-profile hoarding case where they received 100 cats. The summer was extremely successful for volunteers, they have over 10,000 hours logged as volunteer hours. They have several promotions taking place and participated in the "Clear the Shelters" event, from which 48 animals were adopted. "Go Big It's On Us" is a promotion for sponsored adoptions for older/ larger animals. "Single and Loving It", is a promotion for animals who do better in homes without other animals. The shelter has an average of 150 animals out on foster at any given time. Councilmember Pena inquired on the percentage of pit-bull breeds received in the shelter. Dr. Shayda Ahkami stated that about 1/5 of the dogs received are pit-bulls or pit-bull mix breeds. The shelter does require that those relinquishing an animal provide proof of residency; however they do accept any animal regardless on jurisdiction.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next meeting is scheduled for November 12, 2015 at 9:30AM at CVAG: 73-710 Fred Waring Drive Palm Desert, CA 92260

11. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Pro Tem Ted Weill adjourned the meeting at 10:32 a.m.