



# Coachella Valley Animal Campus

## COMMISSION AGENDA

### Animal Campus Commission

#### Cathedral City

Council-member Rita Lamb  
Council-member Ernesto Gutierrez  
(Alternate)

#### City of Coachella

Council-member Denise Delgado  
Vacant (Alternate)

#### City of Desert Hot Springs

Vacant

#### City of Indian Wells

Council-member Ty Peabody

#### **Vice-Chair**

Council-member Dana Reed (Alternate)

#### City of Indio

Mayor Pro Tem Lupa Ramos Amith  
Rob Rockwell – City Rep. (Alternate)

#### City of La Quinta

Council-member Steve Sanchez  
Council-member Kathleen Fitzpatrick  
(Alternate)

#### City of Palm Desert

Mayor Pro Tem Karina Quintanilla

#### **Chair**

Evan Trubee (Alternate)

#### City of Rancho Mirage

Councilmember Meg Marker Councilmember  
Lynn Mallotto (Alternate)

#### Animal Samaritans

Len D. Betz, President  
Tom Snyder, CEO

#### **Ex-Officio**

#### Palm Springs

#### Animal Shelter

Dan Rossi Executive Director  
Tamara Hedges - President

#### **Ex-Officio**

#### County of Riverside

V. Manuel Perez, 4<sup>th</sup> District  
Alexis Perez, Board Assistant

#### County Staff

Director DAS, Erin Gettis  
Asst. Director DAS  
Dr. Kimberly Youngberg  
Executive Assistant  
Kasey Saldarelli

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:

### Commission Meeting

Thursday, February 01, 2024

9:30 a.m.

### **In Person:**

**Coachella Valley Animal Campus**

**72-050 Pet Land Place**

**Thousand Palms, CA 92276**

### 1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

### 2. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL (CHAIR)

CHAIR: KARINA QUINTANILLA, CITY OF PALM DESERT

### 3. FINALIZATION OF AGENDA

IF YOU HAVE ANY ITEMS, YOU WANT ADDED TO THE AGENDA, THE BROWN ACT REQUIRES THAT YOU DO SO AT LEAST 72 HOURS PRIOR TO THE MEETING.

### 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

APPROVAL OF AUGUST 03, 2023, MINUTES

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 02, 2023, MINUTES **No Quorum**

### 5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

THIS IS THE TIME AND PLACE FOR ANY PERSON WISHING TO ADDRESS THE ANIMAL CAMPUS COMMISSION ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA. COMMENTS ARE LIMITED TO 3 MINUTES PER PERSON.

### 6. CORRESPONDENCE

### 7. ACTION ITEM

➤ CONSIDER ADDING ADDITIONAL NON-PROFIT EX-OFFICIO MEMBER TO COMMISSION.

# Coachella Valley Animal Campus

8. **ANIMAL CAMPUS COMMISSION MEMBERS AND DIRECTOR COMMENTS:**

THIS IS THE TIME AND PLACE FOR ANY MEMBER WISHING TO ADDRESS THE ANIMAL CAMPUS COMMISSION TO DO SO.

9. **RIVERSIDE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL SERVICES:** DR KIM YOUNGBERG; ASST. DIRECTOR.

➤ DEPARTMENT UPDATES (STANDING AGENDA ITEM)

10. **ANIMAL SAMARITANS:** TOM SNYDER, CEO ([Ex-Officio](#))

➤ ADOPTION ALLIANCE UPDATE (STANDING ITEM AGENDA)

11. **PALM SPRINGS ANIMAL SHELTER:** DAN ROSSI, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AND TAMARA HEDGES – PRESIDENT ([Ex-Officio](#))

12. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE ANIMAL CAMPUS COMMISSION IS SCHEDULED FOR:  
**Thursday, May 2, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. (In Person) Coachella Valley Animal Campus.**

13. **ADJOURNMENT**

For copies of agendas and past meeting minutes please visit  
: [www.rivco4.org/web/cvacc](http://www.rivco4.org/web/cvacc)

Accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act are available upon request.

Please contact Kasey Saldarelli via email at [Ksaldare@rivco.org](mailto:Ksaldare@rivco.org), 72 hours before the meeting, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.



# Coachella Valley Animal Campus Commission Meeting (Minutes)

Thursday – August 03, 2023

9:30 a.m.

Commission Meeting  
In-Person

## Animal Campus Commission

### City of Indian Wells

Councilmember Ty Peabody

#### **Vice – Chair**

Councilmember

Dana Reed (Alternate)

### City of La Quinta

Councilmember Steve Sanchez

Councilmember Kathleen

Fitzpatrick (Alternate)

### City of Cathedral City

Councilmember Mark Carnevale

Mayor Ernesto Gutierrez

(Alternate)

### City of Coachella

Councilmember Denise Delgado

Vacant (Alternate)

### City of Desert Hot Springs

### City of Indio

Councilmember Lupa Ramos Amith

Scott Trujillo (City

Representative)

### City of Palm Desert

Mayor Pro Tem Karina Quintanilla

#### **Chair**

Mayor Kathleen Kelly

(Alternate)

### Palm Springs

#### **Animal Shelter**

Ex Officio Dan Rossi

Executive Director

### Friends of Palm Springs

#### **Animal Shelter**

Tamara Hedges- President

Ex- Officio

### City of Rancho Mirage

Councilmember Meg Marker

Councilmember Lynn Mallotto

(Alternate)

### County of Riverside

V. Manuel Perez, 4<sup>th</sup> District

Alexis Perez, Board Assistant

### Animal Samaritans

Len D. Betz, President

Ex-Officio

Tom Snyder, CEO

### County Staff

Director DAS, Erin Gettis

Asst. Director DAS

Kimberly Youngberg

Executive Assistant

Kasey Saldarelli

## 1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Ex. Officio Tom Snyder, CEO Animal Samaritans

## 2. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The Animal Campus Commission Meeting was called to order on Thursday, August 03, 2022, at 9:36 a.m. in person by **Mayor Pro Tem; Karina Quintanilla (Chair)**, City of Palm Desert.

A roll call was conducted by the **Mayor Pro Tem; Karina Quintanilla (Chair)**, City of Palm Desert., and it was determined that there was a quorum. The following were present:

### Members in Attendance:

Councilmember Denise Delgado, City of Coachella

Board Assistant Alexis Perez, Riverside County

Councilmember Kathleen Fitzpatrick, City of La Quinta

Assistant City Manager Scott Trujillo, City of Indio

Mayor Pro Tem Karina Quintanilla, City of Palm Desert (Chair)

### Staff in Attendance:

Erin Gettis, Director, County of Riverside Animal Services

Kim Youngberg, Assist Director of Operations, County of Riverside Animal Services

Michelle Bergeron, Animal Samaritans, Coachella Valley

Dr. Sara Strongin, Chief Veterinarian, County of Riverside Animal Services

Kasey Saldarelli, Executive Assistant, County of Riverside Animal Services

Ex. Officio Dan Rossi, Executive Director, Palm Springs Animal Shelter

Ex. Officio Tom Snyder, CEO, Animal Samaritans

## 3. FINALIZATION OF AGENDA:

The agenda was approved.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

The Minutes from February 02, 2023, were approved.

**5. PUBLIC COMMENTS: (Speaker 1: Kim Hardee)** Thanked RCDAS for their S/N process and for the 2 new buses on order. Recently did a bus on the reservation, a little challenging. Participates in two clinics a year in Indio, the hottest months of the year. Jeanine does 7 throughout the valley. I feel like we had control before COVID, but not anymore. We are making a huge effort but need to do better. I had 6 feral cats but now have 16 and they all need to be altered. City of Palm Springs animal shelter does not clinic with Traveling Paws Rescue. **(Speaker 2: Brad Anderson)** I reside in City of Rancho Mirage. I am glad we are hosting this meeting in person. I was sad that the last meeting was canceled. I understand the Commission is limited. The city should draw all its resources and fund RCDAS. I have no solutions and only one person. The commission needs to advocate with City Counsel and bring this up.

**6. CORRESPONDENCE:**

Correspondence was not received.

**7. ANIMAL CAMPUS COMMISSION MEMBERS AND DIRECTOR COMMENTS:**

- **Councilmember Denise Delgado** City of Coachella mentioned that they are facing many challenges with cats in multiple neighborhoods which are not altered and now forced to deal with non-responsible owners. They are experiencing lots of folks who are backyard breeding which creates a huge problem. We need to update our policies on breeding. Working on providing incentives. Denise asked a question to Animal Services regarding their policy on breeding. Kim Youngberg replied that animal services have a mandatory spay and neuter. We do have ordinance, but this is found with hoarding cases.
- **Ex. Officio Tom Snyder** Animal Samaritans is opening more spay and neuter appointments, 15 slots per day. They have two doctors that stagger back and forth to accomplish S/N, working so far. Thrilled to hear of the two new buses on order. We received grant money for S/N in East Valley, but that has been postponed until fall. I look forward to leaning more about RCDAS S/N bus. We received some grant money for cats and used it all up. We are expecting more soon. Animal Samaritans has been in the process for the last few years with a campaign for a new pet adoption and education center which will be placed next door. It will roughly house 40-50 animals. Michelle Gear with Animal Samaritans also mentioned that she is also concerned with backyard breeding in the Valley, and it has become a problem that we need to address.
- **Asst. City Manager Scott Trillio** The City of Indio contracts out \$30K annually to the Coachella Animal Network for S/N. City of Indio also has community grants available, in which entities can apply up to 4 times per year, up to \$5K.
- **Councilmember Kathleen Fitzpatrick** The City of La Quinta has community grants every year up to \$5000.00 which help fund resources for our communities such as S/N or other pressing issues. All Information is posted on our website.

- **Mayor Pro Tem Karina Quintanilla (Chair)** stated that reimbursement for adoption fees is currently taking place with the City of Palm Desert. They are extending their foster programs. Trying to strategize with housing commission to find homelessness task force. Karina requested that we possibly add to the agenda (at large member) in compliance with the Brown Act.
- **Ex. Officio Dan Rossi** explained that Palm Springs Animal Shelter is at high population with over 500 animals. They are at critical capacity and shelter tension is rising. They are needing a creative solution. PSAS recently transferred 20 dogs to Canada. The spread of Panleukopenia is out of control.
- **Board Asst. Alexis Perez** with District 4 (County of Riverside) mentioned that spay and neuter clinic in Northshore was successful. District 4 moved offices to 78015 Main Street, Suite 205, La Quinta, Ca 92253

## **9. RIVERSIDE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL SERVICES:**

### **Erin Gettis, Director:**

The end of June this year, Department of Animals Services received 3.4 million which has allowed us to reopen our San Jacinto Animal Campus. This shelter is currently taking the overflow from our Coachella Valley Campus. Our shelters are faced with challenges such as over population, younger population coming in, and keeping up with spay and neuter. We have two spay and neuter buses that were ordered in June of 2022 and expecting the 1<sup>st</sup> bus towards the end of November and the 2<sup>nd</sup> bus in early 2024. More offerings in unincorporated areas and other cities. Our department is looking to expand the foster program which is another option that helps animals exit our shelters. Another option for animals is our Wellness Clinics which provide vaccinations, microchips, flea treatment and deworming. We offer low-cost clinics every Thursday at our Coachella Valley Campus. We believe this relieves the load off local vets. Our new Public Information Officer Kerri Mabee and Graphic Designer Sarah Castro have created a seasonal tool kit with helpful information such as statics and information on owning a pet. RCDAS participated in a community value survey which was performed outside animal services with an independent group. Reclaiming fees are often a burden for people. We offer funding to reunite pets and their families.

### **Kim Youngberg, Deputy Director of Operations:**

We currently have started a pet support table to divert animals from being impounded at two of our locations (Riverside and Coachella Valley). This has opened a position for an Animal Service Counselor. The pet support table is aimed at offering resources and support. We are encouraging to keep the pet found and post online. This support table has reduced our impounds by 54% with no complaints. Most of what we are dealing with is the lack of knowledge but the will to want to help. This process has reduced 1000 animals from entering our shelter. Currently working with Petco LoveLost on facial recognition for lost pets. Mobile clinics get huge requests because many residents comply.

## **10. ANIMAL SAMARITANS (Tom Snyder, CEO):**

Tom inquired on the cost of the spay and neuter bus and wanted to know if large breeds can be accommodated on the bus. Animal services responded that the bus cost \$3000 and that they could accommodate 2-4 large dogs in one day. The bus is not set up to service a day of large dogs.

**11. PALM SPRINGS ANIMAL SHELTER (Dan Rossi, Executive Director):**

Dan Rossi mentioned the idea of having a large adoption event to help the overpopulation that everyone is experiencing. PSAS has free adoptions the month of August on Saturdays 10-4pm.

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

Tamara Hedges was not in attendance.

**13. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next meeting of the Animal Campus Commission is scheduled for November 02,2023; at 9:30 a.m. at the Coachella Valley Animal Campus.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 10:49 a.m.



# Coachella Valley Animal Campus Commission Meeting (Minutes)

Thursday – November 02, 2023  
9:30 a.m.  
Commission Meeting  
In Person

## Animal Campus Commission

### Cathedral City

Council-member Rita Lamb  
Council-member Ernesto Gutierrez  
(Alternate)

### City of Coachella

Council-member Denise Delgado  
Vacant (Alternate)

### City of Desert Hot Springs

Vacant

### City of Indian Wells

Council-member Ty Peabody  
**Vice-Chair**  
Council-member Dana Reed  
(Alternate)

### City of Indio

Mayor Pro Tem Lupa Ramos Amith  
Rob Rockwell – City Rep.  
(Alternate)

### City of La Quinta

Council-member Steve Sanchez  
Council-member Kathleen  
Fitzpatrick (Alternate)

### City of Palm Desert

Mayor Pro Tem Karina Quintanilla  
**Chair**  
Evan Trubee (Alternate)

### City of Rancho Mirage

Councilmember Meg Marker  
Councilmember Lynn Mallotto  
(Alternate)

### Animal Samaritans

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

### Palm Springs Animal Shelter

Dan Rossi Executive Director  
Tamara Hedges- President  
**Ex- Officio**

### County of Riverside

V. Manuel Perez, 4<sup>th</sup> District  
Alexis Perez, Board Assistant

### County Staff

Director DAS, Erin Gettis  
Asst. Director DAS  
Dr. Kimberly Youngberg  
Executive Assistant  
Kasey Saldarelli

## 1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – City of La Quinta; Mayor Pro Tem, Steve Sanchez

## 2. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The Animal Campus Commission Meeting was called to order on Thursday, Thursday, November 02, 2023, at 9.38 a.m. in person by **Mayor Pro Tem Karina Quintanilla (Chair)**, City of Palm Desert.

A roll call was conducted by the **Mayor Pro Tem; Karina Quintanilla (Chair)**, City of Palm Desert., and it was determined that there was **NO Quorum**. The following were present:

### Members in Attendance:

Councilmember Ty Peabody, City of Indian Wells  
Assistant City Manager Scott Trujillo, City of Indio  
Mayor Pro Tem Steve Sanchez, City of La Quinta  
Mayor Pro Tem Karina Quintanilla, City of Palm Desert (**Chair**)

### Staff in Attendance:

Kim Youngberg, Assist Director of Operations, County of Riverside Animal Services  
Jaclyn Schart, Deputy Director, County of Riverside Animal Services  
Kasey Saldarelli, Executive Assistant, County of Riverside Animal Services  
Ex. Officio Dan Rossi, Executive Director, Palm Springs Animal Shelter  
Ex. Officio Tamara Hedges, CEO, Palm Springs Animal Shelter

## 3. FINALIZATION OF AGENDA:

No Action Taken – **NO Quorum**.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

The Minutes from August 03, 2023, No Action Taken - **NO QUORUM**

**5. PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

**(Speaker 1: Kim Hardee)** Founder of Coachella Animal Network. Has provided spay and Neuter for the past 11 yrs. in Indio. The number of animals that are unaltered is out of control due to lack of veterinarians. Currently doing two clinics a month. Cost of S/N is too expensive. Currently have a waiting list of 500 people waiting for services, not just from Indio. There is a major epidemic with Panlukemia, its nature's way of reducing the population. Partnered with Traveling Paws which currently does two feral cat clinics a month. Excited that the RCDAS bus is coming soon. Doesn't understand why the shortage of vets!

**(Speaker 2: Janeen Bahr)** Societies Outcast Animal Rescue – During Covid, people did not deem it essential to S/N. If we ever shut down again, S/N should be at the top of the list of essentials for animals. Thanks to the City of Coachella who just donated \$16K for 5 low cost spay/neuter clinics. Purchased a building in DHS in hopes to store our S/N trailer in the summer and use the new building for S/N.

**(Speaker 3: Janet McAfee)** Private citizen who works for Loving All Animals – (Media Rep). Article coming out next week in Coachella Valley weekly about Dick & Harry from the CVAC shelter. Want to ensure animal lovers across the valley to know about offered services, educate, and put CVAC on the map. Also writes for the Pet Companion Magazine regarding pet retention. Magazine supplied. Please send any suggestions regarding animal welfare to Janet with Loving All Animals.

**(Speaker 4: Brad Anderson)** I reside in City of Rancho Mirage. Wrote an email to the shelter regarding an animal put down within a time frame that should have been extended. Euthanasia is an issue that needs to be addressed. County needs to be more transparent to the public. Unaware of a solution, requesting the county needs to do more. More coupons, and grants might contribute to a better outcome.

**6. CORRESPONDENCE: **NO QUORUM****

Correspondence Received from Brad Anderson for actions 5 & 7. Documents provided.

**7. Action Item: **NO QUORUM****

Consider adding additional non-profit ex-officio members to commission.

**8. ANIMAL CAMPUS COMMISSION MEMBERS AND DIRECTOR COMMENTS:**

- **Ex. Officio Tamara Hedges, CEO, Friends of Palm Desert:** We have the highest census numbers ever for our shelter. Thank you to everyone who spoke up. Times are bad for animals who are surrendered, come in as strays, and neglected. We need to get a handle on this crisis.
- **Mayor Pro Tem Steve Sanchez, City of La Quinta:** The population of animals is emotional and remains a hard issue. Suggested to possibly partner with high school track team/ Boys and Girls Club. Mentioned the veterinarian shortage creating this crisis.
- **Asst. City Manager Scott Trillio:** Thank you Kasey and Team for being attentive and responsive to an email regarding code enforcement. Is there a number that can be provided for pick up of deceased animals? Main line 951-358-7387. Clarification on number of ex-officious. Confirmed 2.



- **Mayor Pro Tem Karina Quintanilla (Chair):** We did start some of the conversation on what we can do as a region, we do however need the state to get the ball rolling on some of the programs and the tuition assistance for the veterinarian shortage. Volunteerism of a track team is a great idea and will mention this to the superintendents. Palm Desert is having a large event November 18<sup>th</sup> called Party in the Park celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Expecting 7,000 people.
- **County Staff Responses: Dr. Kimberly Youngberg, Asst. Director of Animal Services and Jaclyn Schart, Deputy Director of Animal Services.**
- We currently started a program called Riding with Rover (seasonal); we are needing volunteer growth.
- Vet Tech programs options: remote learning, Mount San Antonio college in Pomona, and Plaque college. We work with both colleges. An RVT Compensation package is up to \$100,000 plus when including benefits and a sign on program.
- We need advance notice for big events as we will try to pull something together (staff and volunteer team). Promotions in house are more successful than external events. Animal control trucks are 6 bank units. We have 3 Petco/PetSmart stores we are currently doing cats adoptions out of.
- Animal Services participates in community outreach type efforts. We just hired a new foster volunteer coordinator for our Coachella Valley Campus. The shelter is hoping to expand their volunteer efforts. We have some exciting new roles that we hope that will help with our ongoing challenges with animal welfare. Funding, community outreach and population of large dogs remains an up-hill battle. Prevention of animals coming into the shelter points back to spay and neuter. We are open to all partnerships to assist with animals. We would like to implement new programs, but with limited staff and the over population of dogs and caring for the animals, it leaves little time. We are faced with hiring issues and retaining staff since COVID. Our neighbors Arizona is offering tuition reimbursement with great benefits for veterinarians. There are 35,000 vets opening in the US. Statistics lead to 18 jobs for every vet.
- Commission Board Members who receive citation complaints should send it to Kasey Saldarelli and she will streamline to the appropriate department to get resolved. Public constituents should use our main line at 951-358-7387. We will be outsourcing licensing which will help streamline service.
- **RIVERSIDE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL SERVICES:**
- **Dr. Kimberly Youngberg, Asst. Director:** Recent hurricane in the valley impacted Lake Varner Street blocking access into the shelter. The community stepped up. A big thank you to Ty Peabody for the generous donations as well as East Valley Republican Women's Patriot Club. Lindi Biggi provided us with a space for an offsite adoption event which provided a shot clinic. She also helped put us in contact with some volunteers and donors which helped us due a flight to Wisconsin. Ventura Humane assisted by taking 52 animals during this crisis. We are still experiencing overcrowding. We have had an intake of 6,000 animals at this location alone. We are part of an Animal Welfare Coalition which uses data collectively. Michael Phipps with Loving All Animals stated that 49% of animals coming in

are under 120 days old. We are experiencing a huge spike in young animals which are not leaving the shelter fast enough. Our San Jacinto opened on October 1<sup>st</sup>. Our Grand re-opening takes place tomorrow.

- **Jaclyn Schart, Deputy Director of Operations:** Everyone's help relieved the overload the shelter was experiencing and helped the animals tremendously. The public was appreciative that we were still able to have an offsite wellness clinic available when shelter access was blocked due to the rains.
- **ANIMAL SAMARITANS (Tom Snyder, CEO), Ex. Officio:**
  - **Not in Attendance**
- **PALM SPRINGS ANIMAL SHELTER (Dan Rossi, Executive Director and Tamara Hedges, President) Ex. Officio:** In our last meeting we reported an all-time high with 511 animals in census. We have been working very hard over the past couple of months, down to 326. Spike in strays. Still way over our heads but it's not critical. TNR going well and we are stable with clinics. Trying to hire a second vet to focus on high volume S/N. City only funds 25% of funds and the other 75% of funding is raised by the board. Inflation makes funding needed. Implementation of housing ordinance (HOA's) need to allow pets, change is needed.
- **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next meeting of the Animal Campus Commission is scheduled for February 01,2024; at 9:30 a.m. at the Coachella Valley Animal Campus.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 10:34 a.m.