

CLARK COUNTY ANIMAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

CLARK COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER
500 S. Grand Central Parkway, Commission Chambers
Las Vegas, Nevada 89121
February 28, 2013
6:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: DAVIS, RICK (RD)
 GIPAYA, MARY (MG)
 LAYNE, KAREN (KL)
 PRATER, MICHAEL, M.D. (MP)
 WHITE, DEBBIE DVM (DW)
 VALENZUELA, ALMA (AV)

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m

2. Approval of agenda

A motion to approve the agenda was made and seconded

3. Approval of October 18, 2012 Minutes

A motion was made to skip agenda item as new members were not involved with prior meetings. Motion carried.

4. Selection of Chair and Vice-Chair

A Motion was made for KL to be chair and for MG to be Vice Chair. Motions carried.

5. Receive a report from the Equestrian Rescue subcommittee

MG read the update into the record. Document is attached to the Minutes. KL asked if people were paying for their own gelding. MG reported they are paying a reduced price that included some vaccinations.

MADLINE FRANCO – wondered if any consideration was given to getting adolescent kids involved in the care of the horses. MG – Horses for Heroes is a local non-profit that works mainly with the military but they are starting a program for the youth. We are helping 4H get off the ground. We had the first meeting last Monday. Until we get consolidated services under control for the animals actually in the pens, insurance and that kind of stuff, you really can't do anything. They are just being fed and cleaned. It is a great idea. Y Ranch is doing that too and it is a project we would like to get more involved in. We still need to work on that. It is one of our discussions in the Subcommittee but we haven't gotten any further.

6. Receive a report from Carly Scholten from AFI on their 2011 and 2012 statistics.

Carly Scholten (CS) is the Director of Operations at the Lied Animal Shelter. We are the largest shelter in LV and one of the largest in the country. We are a private, non-profit organization that contracts with CC, CLV and NLV. We have worked on several different projects over the last few years. CS has been here about 4 years and we offer several different services to the patrons of those jurisdictions. Any animal that is brought to us from any one or any of those AC jurisdictions, we have to accept by contract and provide care for those animals. We have a low cost vaccination clinic that is open 7 days a week as well as a low cost s/n clinic that is open 3 days a week. We have a 7-day a week adoption program and have staff on site 24 hours to provide continuing care to the animals. We have seen some exciting improvements. We have a long way to go but we

like the direction we are headed. The committee members have a copy of the statistics I brought tonight. If anyone would like a copy, I will leave my business cards here and you are welcome to e-mail me and request a copy at any time. They can be run for any time frame, compare any 2 time frames and we can also look at specifics if you are interested. Tonight I provided a breakdown by jurisdiction. You have the total numbers comparing 2011 to 2012. From 2011 to 2012, we saw a 9.6% decrease in total animals brought to our facility. There are a lot of factors that may account for the decrease. We are starting to see the benefit of the s/n. We have more messaging out about responsible pet ownership. The standardized s/n ordinances have been a great help as well. People like to focus on outcomes. Unfortunately we saw a decrease in our adoption number this year compared to last year. We don't know why and have not been able to find the answer. We have a Marketing and Development Department now so we are doing more promotions to get the word out about the services we are offering. We revised our plan for 2013 since what we did in 2012 didn't make a big difference and are excited to see some improvement this year. We saw a decrease of 10.8% in adoptions for dogs and 6.1% for cats. We are participating in the ASPCA \$100,000 challenge this June, July and August and we are competing against other shelters and ourselves to improve our live release rate, the number of animals that get to leave our doors, whether going back to their original home, going to a rescue organization or being adopted into a new forever home. We are very excited about that. We are also working to improve our RTO number when a stray animal comes in and the owner is looking for them. We don't believe enough people in this community understand they need to come to the Animal Foundation to look for their lost pets. Of the 15,000 stray dogs that came to us last year, only about 3,900 were RTO'd. We are working on getting the word out about microchipping, putting ID on your animals so that if they end up at our facility, we have a way to contact you to get the animal back to you. We would like to see those numbers increase and our strategic plan sets goals to see those numbers increase at least 3% year over year until we get to a point where we don't have to euthanize animals any more. That is also our goal for adoption numbers. Transfers to other organizations refers to rescue groups we work with in town. We work with about 30 different rescue organizations; most of them are breed specific and we have a few that are all breed rescues that will take anything they think they can find a home for. Most of the animals that are recommended for rescue are animals that have minor behavior; minor medical issues that due to our sparse resources we are not able to care for. We are fortunate to have great working relationships with the rescue groups in our community and are excited to see that those numbers continue to increase year over year. We saw over a 19% increase in the number of dogs sent to rescue last year. We are also looking for alternative sources for placement of rescued animals, outside this community, possibly communities that don't have overpopulation issues with small dogs. I am from the Midwest and there would be people lined up halfway down the block anytime you had a dog under 10 lbs. If you come to the Animal Foundation we have about 20 to choose from and still not enough people to adopt them. We are looking at opportunities to give our animals a better chance of finding homes.

Some of the most exciting numbers, even though they are still too large, is the decrease in our euthanasia numbers. We saw 11.5% decrease in dog euthanasias and a 13.9% decrease in cat euthanasias. Approximately 10,000 dogs and 14,600 cats were euthanized last year. That is still too many. As a community we still need to work on that but we are excited to see those numbers going in the right direction. That obviously is a direct result of fewer animals coming to our facility. Even with the decrease in adoptions, we saw a substantial decrease in euthanasia.

The other category of animals includes anything that is not a cat or a dog, which includes horses, cows, goats, alligators, snakes, you name it, we see it. Luckily, CC has been kind enough not to bring us any apes or panthers but the day will come, I am sure. MP – what criteria does your organization have as it relates to euthanasia? CS – it is a case-by-case basis. When an animal comes to us, they are put on a legal hold, depending on why the animal comes to us. Stray animals, the vast majority of the animals that we see, are held for 72 hours. The dogs receive 2 different behavior evaluations. The first one is what we call an aggression screen. The second day they are there, we do general handling just to make sure they are safe for a basic medical exam. Do they let us pet them? Do they let us put a leash on them? If they are small dogs, do they allow us to pick them up? Can a general staff member or veterinarian handle and exam the animal if necessary? As long as they don't show any signs of aggression, the following day they will receive a placement examination. They are actually removed from their kennel and brought into our behavior

evaluation room and we do additional handling to make sure they are comfortable. We check to see if they know any commands, if they like toys, whether they have any manners, if they walk well on a leash and we introduce them to 2 different dogs – one as they are entering the room and one as they are exiting. It is not an in depth dog introduction, it is to see if their initial reaction to another dog is aggressive. It is just a cursory test. As long as their first reaction is not aggression, we would consider the dog adoptable. The cats only receive one behavior evaluation to make sure they allow basic handling, that they will allow adopters to handle them in order to determine if they want to take them home and allow a medical exam. It sometimes takes cats a little longer to adjust to a shelter environment so as long as they are not actively fractious or aggressive, we give them time to adjust in the quieter adoption area if they are reserved and not necessarily seeking attention.

Medically it depends on the breed of the animal. Unfortunately about 60% of the dogs we see are either a Pit Bull or a Chihuahua. It is important to offer a diverse population for our adopting patrons and there are fewer rescues able to take the sheer number of those breeds that we see. Unfortunately, something as simple as an upper respiratory infection might qualify the animal for euthanasia. Because of the wonderful rescue relationships we have most of the dogs with minor medical issues like that or that need their teeth cleaned, even some with broken legs that either need to be pinned or amputated always get a chance to go to rescue before we choose euthanasia. We have 2 cat rescues we work with that do a great job taking animals from the public so they are not coming to us. You can see the Transfer to Other Organizations for cats is quite small; only 46 cats last year were able to go to rescue. For cats, we euthanize if they don't allow us to handle them or if they become ill and we don't have a foster care or rescue organization able to take them.

MP – these are still pretty depressing figures. Do you consider that the illness is what is making these animals not able to handle human interaction? CS – we take that into consideration, especially if the animal is injured and in pain. However, if they are injured and in pain and it is not a condition we can treat or a rescue is able to accept or treat, we understand that putting an animal, as an example, with a broken leg that is painful and unable to be handled, in adoptions is not a good representation of the animals that we can find homes for and it puts our patrons and staff at risk of being injured. It also puts the animal in a very stressful, uncomfortable environment so our options are rescue or euthanasia. MP – so it is basically a death panel that makes that decision? What are the top reasons owners surrender their animals? CS – one of the top reasons is they are moving; another one is they no longer have time or money to care for the animal or they lost their home. They tell us they are moving and cannot take the animal with them and we can't turn them away. There are plenty of people in this community who won't take the time to bring the animals to our facility. ACOs see this every day. They just let them go, they leave them in their backyard, so as hard as it is and as many questions as I would love to ask that person, our staff is very grateful when people bring us the animals because at least they took the time to bring them to a place where they will be housed in a clean, comfortable environment and receive food and the care they need while they are with us. MP would like to establish an animal abuse registry. They have done this in several counties in NY. People who leave their animals in their backyards are abusers. They should be classified and pointed out. KL suggests we discuss this with emerging issues as we can only address this issue at this time. She thanks CS for coming and bringing the information and as a humane organization they too are grateful when people bring them to the shelter.

7. Discuss emerging issues and information among Advisory Committee Members

KL - we brought the humane groups together last year. We have regulated s/n and are trying to make this a community effort. The Animal Abuse Registry you were talking about has to do with felonies and it was only in the last legislative session that we have had a statute on the book that makes cruelty a felony. I am not even sure that anyone has been convicted. DON COBURN (DC) does not think we have any locally yet. We have a few cases that have been upgraded to a felony. Our charges go forward and then the DA determines whether it is a misdemeanor, gross misdemeanor or felony. They just recently upgraded a couple cases to a felony so we may be seeing some of those pretty quick. KL – we have had a lot of people say we need a registry but without the statute in place we couldn't. MP – why do we need the felony statute to describe animal abuse? KL – most registries that are out there now only have to do with felony animal abuse. I am not aware of any

states that have instituted a misdemeanor registry. MP – Suffolk County, Albany, NY – it is not a state but a county registry. KL suggests MP should take a look at who is out there doing that and bring back the information to the Committee so we can look at it. MP will do it. KL – everyone should have a copy of the work we did last Committee on the Gold Standards and the Strategic Plan. We are moving forward with that, is that correct? DC – put together a Manager’s Information Report and submitted it to the Assistant Director. We are waiting for the final touches to get submitted to the Commissioners. KL – we would like the BCC to approve the Strategic Plan. We want to have rescue groups use microchips on the animals they adopt out. Most of the groups that I am familiar with and the groups that came to those meetings are all microchipping those animals. That is probably one of the best ways of getting the animal back to its owner. We are trying to have AC, rescue groups and AFI working together to have a more comprehensive approach in dealing with the overpopulation problem. We have been able to work really hard on this issue the last few years since we have regulated s/n ordinances. I am proud of work this Committee has done and hopes we keep moving in that direction with some of the issues.

MG would like to see the consolidation of services for horses go forward. We have spoken with AC and AFI and everyone is on board. What do we need to do to make that happen, getting the shared services between AC, AFI and a contractor so we can go to the next step? This would allow them to come in and evaluate and train the horses, do things to make them more adoptable.

JANICE RIDONDO (JR) - Have we talked with DC about this? DC – this came up before I came on board but I have had a couple meetings with AFI and the Director but I don’t know where we are with this. Meeting, sit down and talk with the players, get an MOU or interlocal. I am so proud of Don. I am so happy that DC was promoted. We are very excited to work with him. Carly has been great. Hopefully she will stay at AFI for a little while. We have had pretty good meetings with some decent turnout and we just need to bring that focus back that we left last year into this year. You already know you have my commitment. We need to schedule meetings to pick up where we left off last year. KL is going to let DC deal with that issue as she knows he is still getting his feet wet and handling all the legislative stuff. Is that something you can get back to us on at the next meeting where this committee needs to go or if it needs to get involved as a part of that just let us know and we can take it up as an agenda item at the next meeting. DC will look into it and report back to you.

8. Comments by the General Public

TY SALAZAR (TS) with Logistical Solutions is new to this arena. We recently took over the deceased animal pick up for the unincorporated CC area. We wanted to introduce ourselves. We work primarily with Public Works and that is where we get our calls. MG asked if they also do horses or larger animals. TS said that under the contract they do. Anything through Public Works and I am not sure who contacts Public Works. It is roadways and we can be anywhere. We have had some off the wall calls over the last month, as long as we can find the animal. We had a bag of 5 roosters, a coyote or a fox. If it is out there, we will pick it up. MG asked if it had to be in the public right-of-way. TS believes it is anywhere in unincorporated CC. KL – were the fox/coyote look like a vehicle had hit it? TS – don’t really know.

ANOULA WYLDERICH regarding the animal abuser registry, she works with a number of animal welfare organizations. The Animal Legal Defense Fund is a national organization comprised of animal rights attorneys who will work with any community that wants to establish a registry. I would be happy to share that information with you.

JR asked if there was anybody to talk about Title 10.32.250. Commissioner Collins asked me to come here tonight and speak for him regarding horse tripping. I was under the impression someone came to his office.

ALEJANDRA GALINDO (AG) was recently elected President of the Mexican Federation of Charrerria for the State of Nevada. I have done a lot of equine work and organized a lot of rodeo events. There is currently a big misunderstanding and culture barrier between what actually goes on in our community and what it is

translated into. MG knows who I am. We have worked together on a lot of projects and she knows where I stand personally and as an organization. Commissioner Collins and I spoke about legislation that will be presented at the state level of which he is fully aware of and is nothing that comes against us. I am here to clarify any issues that might arise or questions you might have that involve the Hispanic community that you might not be aware of. When wording on certain things is presented, the only reason we oppose it is because the wording is so out there. If it were just restricting the act of horse tripping, which we actually try to prevent, we would be totally for it.

JR is curious if they add something there, can we show it to you? AG presents the articles of his organization. He is here to make you aware of our stance and it is always the way it is worded that affects other rodeos. Our Article 183 within our Rule Book states:

“Article 183. The following will be disqualified, whether it occurs during the foot or on horseback events:

- The fore footer who intentionally trips the caught horse will be suspended from competition for 365 calendar days, beginning on the date the action was committed.”

This has been established since 1995, it is in our rulebook and we follow it. RD asked what a caught horse refers to? AG – the actual event is fore footing. The way Title 10 is worded and was amended to add “or lasso or rope the legs of”. When it was first put forward it read “No person shall intentionally trip or cause to fall any equine.” When it was amended those words were added which basically means they cannot be lassoed. Depending on who interprets this ordinance, all rodeo events are subject to this ordinance. It is not just limited to that action. RD – it does state “the legs of” so what contention is that to there? AG – you just can’t rope it. It is not directed to the act of horse tripping. It is directed to just lasso. RD – it is directed to “lasso or rope the legs of” specifically. MG – I don’t think people understand what your sport is. You may want to explain exactly what actually happens during that event so people understand where this is coming from. AG –our whole rodeo event came from Mexico where it started on the haciendas. It is also where the American rodeo derived, even ranching practices. Unfortunately in our event, there was an event called horse wrangling that involved handling a wild horse. As time evolved, the actual event with its point system would score you by your trick roping style and difficulty. As soon as you present the lasso it was to catch the fore foot of the horse. This is where the unfortunate part came because in order for that event to even count for a score, you would have to bring the horse down. We eliminated that in 1995. Bringing down the horse is not in our point system. We do not depend on bringing down the horse to be judged. Due to previous laws in CA about animal cruelty, we took what happened in CA and applied it nationwide to provide equal competition throughout the nation and to take proactive measures. We had consultants from other rodeo organizations advise us as to our next step. MG – to clarify you will still lasso or rope the front legs of the animal but you do not trip them. AG once you present the rope and you catch the front leg, the rope is left slack so there is no tension put on the rope so there is no actually bringing down the horse. DW can understand the derivation of the skill but what is the chance for injury with even practicing a mock of this behavior. What are the statistics or animals becoming inadvertently injured? AG – we have had incidents where they have been accidentally tripped and the incident rate has dropped tremendously. We have been made aware of one in our competition and two that have actually happened since this rule has been in place. We only have a total of 6 teams. DW questions an action that has the inherent potential risk for an animal’s welfare. AG – like any other rodeo or sporting event, there is the potential for injury. We are aware of it and this is the measure we took for the protection of our livestock and our rodeo participants as well.

JR – Commissioners Collins asked me to come here tonight to tell you he supports this gentleman to remove what you see in yellow in Title 10. This evening is probably not the night to have that discussion because it was not posted and properly notice on our agenda. Whatever is happening in the Legislature is out of your realm. They will have to tackle that if they choose to do so but for the AAC it is certainly for Title 10 and I am sure Commissioner G would like to have a discussion about this as well. KL – you want this Committee to take a look at this item and exclude the part that is in yellow. You want to be able to lasso the horse. AG –

this is my first time at the meeting and I didn't know what the process was. My intention was to introduce myself and let you know I am at your disposal; whatever questions you might have, not just related to my sport but to anything in general. MG knows that any Hispanic cultural event where there is a language barrier, she can give me a call and she knows I abide by any animal cruelty laws that are out there, even if they apply to rodeos as well. KL – is your group the only one running rodeos in CC? AG – we are the only organization that has Bylaws and Rules so whenever something happens within our Hispanic community, we are usually the ones that get the call. This is the reason I wanted to present myself to you. I am here. I want to be more involved in the animal community and to be aware of what is going on so I can go out without the language barrier. I am willing to assist ACOs as well as any other agencies here in CC. MG so you want to work as a liaison with some of those things. We have seen some groups come in that are not under any organization and horse tripping does occur but it is more of a rogue type deal, in someone's backyard, a vacant lot where they put these events on and we get approached to have them at the park so we are aware they are out there. There are legitimate organizations and just groups. MP would have to see it himself before making any type of recommendation. KL In public comments we don't make any decisions. If we decide to have an agenda item to discuss the issue, we can do that at the next meeting. Normally we listen to the public comment and then determine how we are going to deal with that comment at the next meeting. It is something we can take a look at for the next meeting but we cannot do anything with this now, as it is simply public comment.

9. Set date, time and agenda of next meeting

The next meeting is schedule for Thursday, April 18, 2013 at 6:30 pm in the Commission Chambers. DC – prior to the meeting instruction from the DA will be arranged for the members to handle Vicious Declaration Appeals.

10. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:31 pm