

# CLARK COUNTY ANIMAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## MINUTES

Paradise Community Center  
4775 McLeod Drive, Town Board Conference Room  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89121  
April 19, 2012  
6:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: AMOROSO, ROXIE (RA)  
CONNELL, MICHAEL (MC)  
GIPAYA, MARY (MG)  
LALOR, DIANA M. DVM (DL)  
LAYNE, KAREN (KL)  
GOTHARD, KAYLA (KG)  
TEJERO, JOVONIE DONOVAN (JDT)

### **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 with a request to move Item 7 to Item 6.

### **3. Approval of February 23, 2012 Minutes**

A motion to approve the minutes was made and seconded.

### **4. Receive a report from the Educational subcommittee; and take appropriate action.**

RA – students and I will get with Harold from HCW and start working different events like First Friday, the overpopulation conference that happens annually and develop some media presence. KL – we also want you to look at the educational component as we look at the strategic plan.

### **5. Receive a Report on Horse Issues; and take appropriate action.**

MG – we asked CCAC horse stats be separated out at the last meeting. We see a huge increase in the number of horses impounded. We have rescue groups helping with horses that are being taken in by CCAC or left estray. These numbers probably don't reflect the estrays from the Department of Agriculture (DoA). GREG WALLEN (GW)– do you mean horses CCAC picked up and then turned over to the DoA or that Agriculture may have taken themselves? MG – yes. GW – this is strictly horses CCAC had to deal with. MG – another problem is the DoA has a brand inspector down here. They had to take in quite a few estray horses in the last few months. They are kept at the park until they can find a place to foster them. They are not included in the numbers here so it is an even bigger problem. KL – I know the estray issue is a big problem in Northern NV. How many horses do you have right now? Are you running out of space? MG – if we didn't have the great network that we have been developing with the Equine Rescue groups, we would have a huge problem. GW – Right now we have 4 in the pens. It is 4 or 5 rotating constantly, in and out; sometimes more, sometimes less. As you can see from this report, it reflects animals impounded during the calendar year. There has been an increase over the last few years. The numbers for this year reflect about one horse a week. We have had 18 horses and are just now into the second quarter of this year. We may have a cluster of them at any one time but those are not impounded in a given week. We have one that was outsourced recently and then one coming in, two going out and a couple more coming in so it may give the appearance that there is a greater number but it turns out to about one a week. The NV Brand Inspectors don't have the facilities; the manpower or logistics to do the kind of work that CCAC does so anything you see in the county corrals that has been impounded has been the result of CCAC action. The Brand Inspectors may become involved either by notifying us or we notify them after the fact. They are not involved in impounding the animals. We use them as a possible source to place the animals with temporary keepers which their regulations allow. There may be other opportunities with the other groups but it is CCAC that is doing the actual work there. KL – there is cruelty impound and cruelty not impounded, can you talk about a situation when you go out to a call and it appears there is a cruelty issue. What questions do you ask yourself to make a decision on whether to impound or not impound that animal? GW – often times it is simply a matter of whether the owner is present or not. We are categorizing these for

statistical purposes. If we are investigating a cruelty issue, we may not have impounded it because there is nobody there or we located the owner and they are taking steps or actions; following our instructions. We follow up with them. A cruelty impound would probably be nobody's there or they refuse to take action so we have to intervene. MC – are there charges filed on those cruelty impounds if they don't take appropriate action. GW – if you look at CY 2012, we are in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter and have written 11 citations for criminal prosecution. MG – we have found an increase in the horrible conditions we are seeing there. Most of them are literally skin and bones. It is not like before when you would get a horse that was RAL. These horses are in such poor condition and GW knows about the one I spoke of on TV that was actually euthanized because his condition was so poor and he was in somebody's backyard. GW – the statistics show last year we impounded fewer animals compared to the number for this year already. We impounded 36 in all of last year. We are just barely into 2012 and have already impounded 18. If this keeps up, we are looking at 50 impounds. As I said, we have been averaging one a week. With citations, in all of last year, there were 15 citations issued and in the first quarter of this year we are up to 11. MG – we are hoping this Committee can do something with education. Some different cultural backgrounds and language barriers seem to be in place. I don't know if they understand what can be done. There is help available. GW – it would be in everyone's best interest if you expanded the education concept to include all creatures great and small. It is not just a s/n, dog and cat issue. Like MG said, we have some horse issues and some other animal issues that education will always help with. KL – you impound the horse and bring it to a facility. Is that an interim facility until you can make a determination to move the horse someplace else? How is that decision made? GW – CCAC does not keep animals. We don't keep dogs and cats; we don't keep horses. We are not in the business of housing animals so everything we do is interim. We pick up dogs, cats and small animals and take them to Lied. The same thing happens with horses and livestock. Lied does not have the facility for them; CCAC maintains custody, care and management at our county operated facility at Horseman's Park. State law says if you pick something up, you are responsible for it so we impound it, whether it is an stray or a confiscation. We take it to our facility and then for whatever period of time we have the animal, we provide it with care. We buy the feed; take care of the vet bills. We have an animal there now being treated twice a day by my staff. I have licensed veterinary technicians on my staff that work with Desert Pines. The vet comes out, leaves instructions, leave supplies and we take care of the animal on a daily basis until we can coordinate through MG and the other groups to place the animal. We have a lot of folks that call us but we hope to be able to centralize the coordination so it is more organized, less chaotic and less time consuming on me if I can notify MG and she has the network to get the animals placed. CCAC would like to keep animals the shortest time possible before we get them to a good home. MG – is there a statistic that shows the average stay at Horseman's Park? GW – not for this report. Anecdotally it is about a week. We have had some stay longer. We had some come in and out because the owner was located and came forward in a couple of days. We have one on a legal hold that has been there at least 30 days on Court hold. KL – so if the animal is on a legal hold, do they stay there? GW – they stay with us. KL – so they stay with you and I assume that will be an issue because in a cruelty case you have to deal with that situation. GW – not always. In this particular case, the judge ordered the animal held. In most cases, we move quickly to get the animals released or surrendered by the owners and then out processed. MG is working with 2 groups right now. One of the other groups is full to the limit. One of the groups we are working with has a representative here today. They don't have a place to keep them. They find homes; they foster and find forever homes for these animals. There is no animal rescue place we can go to drop a horse off to live for the rest of its life. There is one out in Sandy Valley but it is full so it is hard to find someplace to put them. It is a little harder to find a home for a 1,000 lb animal. They have to be zoned properly. RA – I want to give Roseanne a lot of credit for bringing these statistics. She did very fast work in a very short amount of time but I also think the work you are doing MG is extremely important because as you look at any of the information that is coming out right now, most of the horse groups are having a very difficult time. They don't have the space; they don't have the money to take care of the animals so the fact that we are able to deal with it is pretty significant. GW – one of the things I would like you to consider in the education program is we know the shelters network with the rescue groups who network within themselves to private individuals to foster animals that may or may not remain in the legal custody of a particular organization. We would like to do that with other animals as well. In the area of livestock we refer to the foster people as keepers. If we can get the education and outreach the network and get to people who understand the plight of the animals, the need that is out there, that have a stable and an extra stall and might be willing to be called to see if they have extra room at that inn, we would have this foster program set up. We have Spartan living conditions at the County corrals. It is bare minimum. They get good quality food, regular care and fresh water but it is not like living down in the Kentucky bluegrass. There are some pretty nice stables around here where the animals can get out and stretch. If you are concerned about keeping your dogs in cages for long periods of time maybe you can look to expand the keeper concept to get the horses a place to stay while permanent locations are being arranged for them. RA – to clarify, the 2 goals GW and MG are aiming for is getting the word out there so people know there is help and strengthening the foster area for the horses so there are more places to put them so they can be more

comfortable. Are there any other goals you would like to throw out there that I am missing? GW – the standard line about rules and regulations that all animals have to have certain standards of care. Some are not getting it. KL – that should be part of the educational component. GW - while you are talking to them, educating them and inviting them to join your program, it spreads by word of mouth. You talk to some folks and they talk to some folks. “Oh, geez I didn’t know that was required. Does your horse have shelter? Mine does? Well, maybe I better put up a shelter.” KL – is there any one in the county or rescue group that provides food on a temporary basis? We get calls all the time. Something has happened, I just need a bag of food. We try to provide that. I am curious as we have never been called and asked about providing food for horses. MG – a program has just been started called LEAN which is a local equine assistance network. We are trying to raise awareness, funds and foster homes. There is no central clearing house or central place they can go. There are no hay banks.

KG – do people need a license for the rescued horses? Can you say I will take in the horse or do you need a specific license? KL – a private individual who owns a stable and has an extra stall can take in that horse. GW – keeping a horse is a land use issue. It is about zoning, how many square feet you have. It is about people being willing to reach out and help. KG has a horse of her own; she boards at 3 different barns. Each barn has had incidents where an abused horse would come in or a horse that has had problems. They will pick it up and take care of it. I feel we have a good handle on that problem; it is not out of control. People need to be better educated because there are some things going on even in our neighborhood where horses don’t have shelter. They will be sitting out there in the heat. The problem with the horses needing a home is pretty well covered. MG begs to differ and others can attest to the need out there. KG – so there is nobody willing to take them in? MG – it is a situation where they have to be willing to foster and/or be a permanent forever home. There are not a lot of people out there that have the financial resources or appropriate zoning. It is a lot easier to foster a cat or a dog. A horse has to have the proper zoning.

PAULA EISENBERG (PE) with LEAN, Local Equine Assistance Network, also with the HUPPI Syndicate. The HUPPI Syndicate has been operating in the Las Vegas valley since 2006. The beginning of this year I took a mare from CCAC that had been there for 30 days. No one was able to get their hands on her. She was a very difficult case; she was frightened. It took me 2 hours to get my hands on her the first time. Last week I sent her into a trailer from 20 ft away. She wasn’t adoptable; she would have had to be euthanized or taken to Fallen and sold. Maybe she would have gotten a good place, maybe not. KL – when you say taken to Fallen, can you explain? PE – I think what happens and GW can tell you more, if they are stray or turned in and after so long a period of time, they are turned over to the DoA, they have an agent that comes. GW – all stray livestock are the property of the State of NV. As first responders, we go out and gather them up. They are still the property of the State of NV even though CCAC has taken them in and put them in the County corrals. I am talking stray, not cruelty impounds. We immediately contact the DoA to notify them we have their property and ask them to come get it. They don’t have the resources, the people, the trailers to haul animals away, they don’t have a place for them so they have these keepers. Occasionally, in the past they would come, take the animal and place it with one of their keepers. CCAC is acting as the pickup to get it off the street and provide for its immediate needs but there are inherent problems in that system that may get more difficult as time goes on. PE – the HUPPI Syndicate and LEAN would like to work with CCAC to help alleviate the problem of the horses in CC holding. What we do as LEAN is outsource to the community. Let’s say you like horses but you live in a condo and think there is nothing you can do. Well, \$10, \$20 will buy a bale of hay. Ten dollars will buy almost a bag of grain that will feed a horse. You are doing something. We stress to the community that nothing is too small. No act of kindness is too tiny and we have been able to get foster homes by mobilizing the equine community. When we get a foster home, you have to fill out an application. Once the application is filled out, we do a barn check. We want to make sure the place the animal is being kept is acceptable and meets county codes for the keeping of a horse, that the place is clean, neat and orderly and that the animal is going to be safe. We also check back on our foster animals. Once the barn inspection is complete, one of our volunteers signs off and the foster application is approved. During that time if the animal needs medical care, we try to match it with a foster home that can give it the medical care or exercise or training or whatever that horse needs so the horse can be rehomed properly. We match the horse to the home. Once the horse is in our system and we have done a Coogins, vaccinations and taken care of medical needs for that horse, we start the application process for adoption. Adoption applications go through the same procedure. You submit an application. We check your references; we come out and check your property. If you are renting a horse property, we verify with the landlord you are allowed to keep horses on that horse property; even though you might be renting a horse property, the landlord may not want the liability of horses on his property. We verify all of those things. We are doing our best to make sure when these horses come into our care they go out of our care to a place that is able to take care of them properly, they get a permanent home and don’t come back into the system. We have experienced people in the horse

community that have stepped up. We are also partnering with Desert Pines Equine Center. We have people coming on for hay banks that are our partners. We are making a systematic, calm and logical approach to handling the number of horses that come in and assisting CCAC. We are available to do education. We can go into schools. We have little ponies we can bring. We can put something together for you. We have people that are very good at public speaking. We have a Facebook page for both LEAN and the HUPPI Syndicate. Public opinion for what happens at CCAC for horses is kind of crazy. They think if a horse goes to CCAC, the horse is destroyed. This is not the case. We want to work with CCAC for whatever they need as far as educational purposes. I already have breakaway halters on order for you guys so when those horses have to be haltered in the corrals they have a breakaway halter so for any reason should that halter get stuck on something, the horse can escape the halter. We are trying to do as much as possible by mobilizing the community, having meetings with the horse community in the Las Vegas valley and we are going to be writing some grants. We are applying for a 501C3 that will be retroactive to January and we will be working with communities to try and set up a hay bank. The HUPPI Syndicate has delivered truckloads of hay to people who had gotten down on their luck and just can't feed their horse this month and they don't know what they are going to do and they want me to take their horses. So we just load up the truck, deliver the hay and tell them if you can pay it back, fine. If you can't, just move on. We have had very positive responses. We try to keep those horses in homes if possible. If the owner can't keep the horse, we will try to network that horse socially for the owner so the horse can stay in the owner's home until we can find a resource or an outlet for that horse. We do use social networking to find places for these horses. We have been pretty successful so far. Last month, we took 5 from CCAC, 3 are adopted, 1 was a 27 year old gelding. The other 2 are on medical hold; both are ponies and have been gelded. We don't adopt out any unsterilized male horses. All stallions are gelded. The other pony had knee surgery because he had a locked cycle. He is recovering and ready to be adopted. Because he is such a darling little guy, we talked about keeping him as our mascot because he loves everybody and everybody loves him. He would be a good pony to take for educational purposes.

KG thinks education is a great idea. People want to get involved with it but don't know how to start. A lot of people want to rescue horses; they want to help but don't know where to go. KL thinks idea of educational component dealing with horse area is worth pursuing. RA has that area and it may be good for MG to sit on that subcommittee with you.

DL wants to know about the other goal. What are you going to do to strengthen the foster network? PE - that goes hand in hand with education. We have a good start with social networking. We have to get the word out; that takes time and money. There is a good campaign for the dogs and cats; s/n but there is no campaign for horses. DL thinks this is the time to create a campaign. It is a very important issue and something we need to keep on the table and not just let slide.

**6. Discuss the framework of a strategic plan on dealing with the animal overpopulation problem to be presented to the BCC and take appropriate action.**

KL - we talked about meshing educational component with strategic plan to look at overpopulation last time. Wants to set out a framework of looking at this. Thanks Harold Vosko. She plagiarized a lot of his 5-year plan. We are working with s/n and we can use many of the concepts he has already taken advantage of for the framework of a strategic plan in CC that would look at the animal overpopulation issue. We have emphasized dogs and cats but we can broaden that perspective. The issue is overpopulation and how we deal with that. This is just a start. We have talked about 6 components. First of all, s/n of cats, dogs and horses. We want to look at how many animals are being s/n. That is a big points of what we are doing to try to understand the issue and the measurement would be the number of animals sterilized and that would impact shelter impounds. The whole effort of developing a strategic plan dealing with animal over-population in CC is to reduce the number of impounds going into local shelters. You might say why can't we look at reducing euthanasia? The shelters handle the issue of euthanasia. Those are policy decisions the shelter makes and we can't impact that but there is a direct correlation between the number of impounds and the number of euthanasias. The more animals that go into the shelter, the more likelihood there will be more euthanasias. We can impact the level of impounds and that is what we want to do. We see some reduction in cat impounds due to the efforts made in the last 3 years in terms of s/n of feral cats and TNR. We know some of these issues work so that would be the first area we would look at in terms of getting the s/n of animals up. Second issue would be feral cats. Feral cats probably comprise the largest number of animals going into the shelters. County has made major steps in terms of the s/n ordinance and Title 10.06 that allows for feral cat colonies as long as they are s/n. We have seen a substantial reduction in those areas so we would measure that effort by looking at the number of feral cats that are s/n, the number of colonies. Registered colonies have to be s/n so that might be a good indication as well as looking at target areas for trapping. We know targeting particular areas helps to reduce the population faster than just s/n throughout the valley. We have efforts going on now

with HCW and the grant they have with PetSmart charities. That will impact shelter impounds as well. One of the areas that HCW is looking at and one we have not spent a lot of time on is trying to increase adoptions. We are not just talking about adoptions from the shelter but adoptions from rescue groups, humane groups, horse groups throughout the valley. Everyone is out there taking in animals and trying to adopt them out. Is there a more comprehensive way to look at this? We can look at are the number of animals being taken in by groups, number of animals adopted and the number of animals returned. That will impact shelter impounds because if those animals are being adopted out, they are not going into the shelter. One area HCW addressed was legislation. Three years ago when HCW did their 5-year plan, the big effort was to do s/n through regulated legislation. Except for Boulder City, all the localities have regulated s/n and we are working on getting TNR feral cat colonies similar to 10.06 in other areas. CLV has just passed an ordinance similar to the County's where there is a central sponsor. One of the things we should look at in terms of legislation is AB 15, passed in 2009. At the time only NLV had a regulated s/n ordinance. It was a state statute that required any locality with a regulated s/n ordinance to have signs posted to that effect in public parks and at vet's offices. The suggestion is now being made that we should include other areas such as apartment complexes, with the management company providing the people with something saying if you live here, your animal has to be s/n or you have to meet the regulations for the appropriate ordinance for the locality that you live in. That would expand the area to mobile home parks, apartments and into other areas so that people are aware of the ordinance. In CC, rescue groups are required to s/n their animals before they put them up for adoption. Last year, this Committee requested CCAC send out a letter to all the rescue groups operating in CC sending them a copy of the s/n ordinance because we had a rescue group that came in saying they did not know they needed to s/n their animals. One of the things that could be proposed in terms of legislation might be to get the ordinance statewide that all rescue groups have to s/n their animals prior to adoption. We have a lot of groups from out of the county who come in to do adoptions here and their animals are not s/n so that might be an area we should look at. In terms of education, I know HCW has looked at education a lot in terms of the schools but as we heard here tonight, it seems like there is a real effort to educate the public in general about some of the issues with horses and s/n. When we talk about how we measure that, we can look at tabling events by going to things like Pet-A-Pooloza, Strut your Mutt. There are so many local activities now that you can spend every Saturday from March until June at an event. This is a good way of getting out information at these kinds of activities and I hope the education committee can look at some ways of doing that. We had one over-population conference; this Committee may want to look at that as an opportunity to talk to people and address the issue of overpopulation. The other area that is important, and I am hoping our high schoolers will help us out in this area, is social media and how to use that to our advantage. We talked about cultural issues and how you get that information out to everyone and provide diversity in terms of your message. KG – you can get the youth excited pretty easily. If you did a video or something exciting for the youth to see what happens to the animals and why they should be s/n and why they should help with rescue efforts, they would want to get involved. The youth would be motivated if you gave them a reason like a slogan, they would be happy to get involved because there are a lot of kids that really like animals. KL is counting on both students to work with RA on this issue. JDT - my Paws for Change group does a lot of events. Last month we went to a feral cat clinic and once a month we help out in the s/n of all the cats they capture. We invite people from school and post flyers at the school, put it on the announcements and kids always come and ask about it, try to help us at the animal shelter. My club would be very interested in the education on horses because one of our big goals that never ends is education. KL is looking forward to the educational component. We are trying to look at things we can measure. Any time you develop a strategic plan, you want to be able to say what it is we want to accomplish in the upcoming year so if you have some suggestions, I hope you will provide those as well.

MG – about expanding AB 15 to other areas, I am not that familiar with it, but it probably does not include the horses or livestock types. I feel that if a horse has been impounded by CCAC, if it has not been gelded, they just impounded 2 stallions last week, that before they are released to their owners, they need to be gelded unless they can prove they are a legitimate breeder along the same guidelines for dogs and cats because it would curb a lot of the problems. It is a little different than cats and dogs but there are a lot of cultural reasons for horses to be kept intact especially stallions. If we could address that it would be helpful. GW can give you an example that might help to incorporate this horse issue into your educational component. Even people who have horses, and I am not talking about aficionados or real horse advocates, I am talking about folks that have horses, many of them don't know there is paperwork involved, kind of like a car, you have to have a registration. You don't have to carry it in your saddlebags when you are out there riding down the street but you can't just be giving horses back and forth willy-nilly. There are brand inspections involved, legal transfers that have to occur; it is not about paying inspection fees. There was a time when they would hang people in this state that took a horse without proper documentation. We find that a lot in CCAC. Within the last 7 days, we had a horse that was tied to a fence in a school playground that was called in as an abandoned animal. Just as we were loading

the horse into the trailer, a fellow comes up saying, “Hey, that’s my horse.” We asked for paperwork, told him to call the Brand Inspector to prove ownership and took the horse. Folks need to know there are legal documents involved in the horse business,

GINA GRIESEN (GG) is excited the Committee has undertaken this plan. We worked very hard for the last 5, 6 years on s/n and hope we can urge NLV and Henderson to follow suit with CC and CLV when it comes to feral cats. When it comes to legislation we also wanted to include PetSmart, PetCo, anywhere we can notice pet owners that s/n is required in So NV unless you are a breeder or have medical documentation and also in real estate closing documents. One of the things we might add is the cruelty component. Cruelty is something that captures peoples’ attention and certainly when they are a kid, cruelty is something they feel strongly about. They may not understand s/n but if they can see it from the point of view of cruelty, that these animals are hoarded or living in bad conditions and whatever I can do to add to that, I will be glad to do. One concern I have from the groups’ standpoint is what I just saw on Craig’s list today. There are a lot of people calling themselves animal rescues and it is pretty scary. There is a very fine line between rescuing and hoarding. A lot of these groups are not 501C3s. They think they are helping and end up becoming part of the problem. I don’t know if there is a list of reputable, credible, legitimate groups that meet certain criteria but as you were saying there was a group that didn’t even know the animals were supposed to be s/n before they are adopted out. I talked to a guy this morning that is on Craig’s list saying they will take any dog for whatever reason. I asked if they were a 501C3; he said they were trying to be. I asked if the animals were s/n before they were adopted and he said “we try, but we really don’t have the money to do that” and I thought they were going to become part of the problem.

MARY ANN GOTHARD (MAG) has been listening. One of the biggest problems I see is people think dogs come trained. I see so many people get dogs with expectations that they are going to blossom somehow into these well behaved animals and when it doesn’t work out, they tie them up in the backyard and just let them sit. It is important to tell people dogs are great animals but they need training just like children and they can become great animals. I noticed at the vet’s office when we got a puppy a couple years ago, they are doing a lot better job giving information out about how to train your dog. I hope people take that more seriously. KG has been blessed to be in some great barns and some great people who are just the greatest horse people that do take in abandoned animals when they can but it sounds like it is increasing a great deal. The horse community seems so great at word of mouth; they talk to each other, spreading the word. I think there are more barn owners that would offer to be more involved if they are made aware so the social networking might be really helpful.

STACIA NEUMAN (SN) – as far as s/n requirements, we should include rescue groups and pet stores. They are a big problem not only with cats and dogs but also rabbits and pot bellied pigs. Anything they can sell for a dollar. Their money is not in the animal itself but in the product. That is where they make their money so we have to safeguard the animals being sold. Pet stores many times use Craig’s list as a resource and any place they can get cheap products. Many of the pet stores even bypass the regulations by including kitten free, conveyed, past trade, give. In the past, they would include the kitten free with a 60 lb. bag of food and the same thing now with the rabbits and small animals. Would like to see AB 15 expanded. There is a problem enforcing that. I have been in major pet clinics and it is not there. The last time I was at Tropicana, Dr. Nave sits on the Veterinary Board of NV; it is not there so I haven’t seen them in too many places. We need to find a way to enforce it or require it. I would participate in the program for the realtors to expand documentation at closing of escrow that along with the proceeds, a lot of them are short sales so we are not getting as many documents to refund money because we are dealing directly with the bank so we can’t tie it in with the refund, but there has to be a way for that seller to disclose where he is going because the realtors are bombarded trying to find homes for everything from chinchillas, minks, guinea pigs, rats, birds, fish and of course, dogs and cats tied up outside for someone else to deal with. We need to focus on enforcement. I can sit on any committee to deal with the foreclosure aspect of what is going on with our homes to make it a requirement.

KEITH WILLIAMS (KW) – in 2011, the Lied Shelter took in 20,000 cats. They adopted 2,000 cats out. What would they need to do to adopt out 10 times more cats. The answer is they couldn’t. There are not enough homes for them and if they did find homes for 20,000 cats, what would they do with 20,000 cats next year? How many s/n are we doing? Can we increase the number of s/n by a factor of 10, or even a factor of 5 or a factor of 2? The number we are doing now is making a difference; admissions are going down. The more resources we put into getting more animals s/n, the fewer animals will go into the shelters, the fewer animals will need homes; and fewer animals will have to be euthanized. There are never enough resources. We have to be very conscious of where our resources can be put to the best use, to the best advantage to help the most animals and the most people.

HAROLD VOKSO (HV) thinks it is a great idea. I have been coming to these things for about 10 or 11 years and don't know how much has ever been accomplished by the AAC. This gives it structure. First we have to stand here and say, is there a problem? How bad is it and what is being done? A 5-year strategic plan does that. It keeps you focused. If we get it right, when GW comes here, he can say hey this is what is going on which allows us to keep score. Are the numbers of animals going into the shelter lower? Maybe target areas, but we can talk about everything and it keeps you focused on it. HCW will do whatever he can to help.

KL wants to make sure the Committee is willing to pursue this. KG - it is a good plan but would like to see it broken down in steps we are going to do, like the social networking and education and then the increase in the s/n program. KL – that is a really good point. I think DL will talk about coalition building and that might be something you (KG) want to look at in terms of getting breeders involved. How do we deal with the backyard breeders? What kind of steps do we need to take? We outlined some areas here but we can look at this as we move forward. Right now we have a subcommittee on the education portion of this; DL is handling the humane groups and maybe we need to define some of these other committees. We have groups working on s/n right now. Maybe I need to come back next time and say let's take these specific steps. What I really want to do is make sure the Committee was okay with this framework. Can we agree to move forward in providing structure to the framework that we have set up? MC thinks the strategic plan presented is good and not overloaded with areas of endeavor. It is feasible.

**7. Receive a report from Dr. Lalor on how humane organizations would fit into a comprehensive plan for dealing with the animal overpopulation problem, what plan of action should be taken and take appropriate action**

DL presented an outline focused on key points we need to move through. I would like to discuss the animal overpopulation problem in CC and how local humane organizations fit into the plan for addressing the problem. I met with and spoke to several different people, some of whom are in the room, and I would like to thank them. They are not supporting everything I say but their ideas and input are much appreciated. I want to see the number of impounds and euthanasias in CC decrease. JDT goals are education and s/n. RA goals are to help the AAC through education hit a different demographic. I have a reach within the music community and the kind of subculture in Las Vegas that I think would respond to this information if presented in a way that they react to. KL would like to have the AAC deal with the issue of animal overpopulation. MC - Education committee can use Channel 2, Channel 4 or public announcements on local channels on s/n in English and Spanish to talk about health, welfare and safety of the animals. MG goal is to represent equine and livestock owners and increase education, awareness and adoption and decrease cruelty. KG goal is to help overpopulation problem and to introduce social networking. There is so much power to influence people through social networking. MC – there are lots of seniors not into this computer world who have cell phones where all they do is send and receive calls. My main source of knowledge comes from the TV. This is a big senior citizen community and a lot of them don't like those silly things you play with. DL – ads take funding so maybe we can take the PR angle and hit some of the news stations to just run the story. MC – if you could put it together and go to some of the senior citizen centers. I have donated a lot of movies at the one near me. They know me and I know them but senior citizen centers all over the city don't know about it. DL – the fight against overpopulation began long before I graduated from vet school at LSU. A small and very important group of people were already fighting this fight when my head was still in the books, while I was weathering Hurricane Katrina, while I was worrying about grades, probably even before I got into vet school. Due to legislation such as the s/n ordinance thousands upon thousands of s/n have taken place so an untold number of tragedies have already been prevented. That is very exciting; we are all winners because of that and we need not to drop the ball at this point. We need to keep going forward. With each success, more people have joined our cause and that is a cause for celebration. Where are we now and what is the score? We need to have something we can look at to assess where we are, where we are going; are we making progress; are we doing things we need to do to get where we want to get. This past week I had a woman come into the clinic to have her dog spayed. She was very excited to tell us the dog had had several litters of puppies, the last one 10 pit bull puppies. When my colleague asked where the puppies were, the woman told her she found them all great homes by dropping them off at Lied. This is just an example of ignorance. I had a very pleasant gentleman come in with 3 females. He owned up to having 6 male dogs at home. Usually that means there are about 5 more they are not owning up to. One of the females he brought in was about to give birth and I was afraid if I took her in, she would give birth before I got her on the table. He ended up taking her home but during the course of the appointment, we asked what he was going to do with her puppies. He said he would donate the puppies to HCW. These happened just in the past week. Is this 1 in a 1,000 that thinks this way, 1 in 50, 1 in 10? How does the public outlook compare to 10 years ago to what it will be 5 years from now? We need numbers. Who are the

players? There are a lot of groups out there calling themselves rescue or humane organizations. They don't exactly know what they need to do. Their hearts may be in the right place but there are so many of these little groups coming and going, some of them staying. They are not coming to these meetings; they are not at the table. We are at a point right now where if we get some of these groups to sit at the table with us, we are not all going to be on the same page and we are going to have to deal with that as well, it is not all going to be pretty. We need to get numbers from them. We need to find out how many animals these groups take in each year. What types of animals? Is it a Bassett Hound rescue, is it the pit bulls, is it a golden retriever rescue, what groups are taking in cats? Where are they getting the cats and dogs? Are they bringing them in from CA, are they getting them from Lied, are they trucking them in from AZ? Where are they getting them and where are they going? When they go, are they being s/n before they are going? Last year it came out that some of the groups were pleading ignorance that they did not know this was a requirement. We need numbers. KW is the number man and I can always count on him to help us with graphs and statistics. The first step is getting these groups to the table, finding out who they are, getting them to back our goal to decrease the number of impounds every year. We need to differentiate between our goals and the tools we use to move toward those goals. I outlined key points on the list so that when we go home tonight before the next meeting we can refresh our memories as to what went on here. We need to differentiate between the goals which are to reduce impounds and the tools are s/n, adoption, legislation, education and so on. We need to know how to take it from our current place to our goals of decreasing euthanasia, decreasing impounds and my ultimate goal would be to someday see that the only euthanasias we have at Lied are for the animals that cannot be rehabilitated; they are too ill; too mentally ill. Wouldn't it be nice to sit here in a few years and say what can we do about the mentally and physically ill animals but right now we need to deal with the ones that are healthy that are ending up there for no good reason other than ignorance. We are already tipping the numbers. Is the committee on board with getting those animal and humane groups to come to the table and to incorporate them with our strategic plan? KL – we will probably have to meet the humane groups outside of this committee and get some sense of direction from them of what their views are and then bring that back to the Committee. There are 35 to 40 groups; that is why we asked DL to be in charge of this subcommittee for humane groups. We need a motion to make sure everyone is ok with having a group that will be noticed outside of this committee to meet and get a sense of what these groups are doing and get numbers from them. Motion made to accept KL's suggestion. Motion carried.

**8. Issue a resolution in support of the BCC's April 3, 2012 agenda item #49 on trapping (which was held to the first May meeting).**

KL – everyone should have a copy of the Resolution. I have been involved in this and am very supportive and would like to see this Committee support this resolution by the BCC. There are a lot of things going on right now and it certainly does impact our dogs, many have been trapped. There is not one report of domestic animals that have been trapped and that is one of the things NDOW is now looking at. I support this. The resolution is asking that the traps be numbered. The BCC cannot do it. It has to be done at the legislature.

GG hopes the AAC chooses to support the resolution put forth by Commissioner G. Some of the folks living in the Mt. Charleston area felt it did not go far enough. I hope this Committee makes a recommendation. At the last meeting there was a lot of testimony. Fur trapping should not be happening in the Las Vegas valley and certainly not in Mt. Charleston. The Wildlife Commission meeting I attended used the congested firearm map for Clark County but it never addressed where the real issues are occurring which is in the Mt. Charleston area where folks are recreating at the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation area where there is a dispute over where trapping is and isn't allowed right now. We really need to address these issues in Mt. Springs, Lovell Canyon area where people are out recreating with their animals. Strongly urges this Committee to support the Resolution.

SN – we are in full support of the Resolution.

MG motions to support Resolution. Motion seconded and carried. KL – GW how do we handle this. MC – Roseanne takes care of that for us. JENNIFER LANCES (JL) will let them know.

**9. Discuss emerging issues and information among Advisory Committee Members; and take appropriate action.**

KL – tried to incorporate public comment from last meeting in this agenda item. If you want to pursue anything not

included in this, let either Roseanne or me know so we can incorporate the information into the agenda. Sometimes you hear something and you may ask questions, for example, the horse issue, we wanted to get additional information so we pursued that.

MG wanted to let them know about a potential event about education. We are developing the biggest ever horse expo at Horseman's Park on Memorial weekend. If we have any educational groups or rescue organizations that want to participate in it, it doesn't have to be equine. If you want tables to pass out flyers, bring dogs down for adoption, we are open to all those kind of things. If anyone is interested, contact me. You can call us at our office, Equine Event Management, 455-8206 or you can e-mail us or we have a website, [lasvegashorseexpo.com](http://lasvegashorseexpo.com) or [equineeventlv.com](http://equineeventlv.com).

KG – wanted to comment about the club at JDT's school, we don't have one of them at our school. JDT attends LVA. JDT – we started my sophomore year. Canyon Springs was the second school we invited. It is hard to get other schools unless you actually know a handful of kids that go to another school. Every year we try to incorporate another school and get that club involved because the schools themselves work together at these events and it helps us to increase our numbers. KG - It would be cool to have it at my school and other schools and a great way to get kids involved. Kids need to have volunteer hours. They need to help and if they like it, they will stay with it. KL – that might be something you want to consider in the educational component to see how you can expand that program.

#### **10. Comments by the General Public**

SYLVIE GUERRERO (SG) – I came for the incident of the vicious dogs with my goats but I heard it would be on the agenda next week. I would like to bring up another problem we have in our community: steer tailing. KL – can you give us more information? SG – it has been going on for a while. We see lots of people coming right in front of our house. They have lassos, bring in bulls or steers and they go with their lassos, grab them by their leg and then just pull them up. What scares me the most is, I believe it was on Sunday when they had one of those events, on 2 occasions the bulls jumped the wall and were running on our street, Madge Lane, down to the end of someone's property while she was enjoying her Sunday afternoon. It is pretty scary when you see a steer running and the men are chasing them with their horses trying to catch the steer. It is very dangerous if cars are coming, kids are crossing the street. I contacted CCAC various times since December. SG has been requesting an activity report. They never get back in touch with me but I see there is an animal control truck, she asked for backup, police show up but I don't know what happened, what is being done and it is getting bigger and bigger every time. CCAC is out there and when they are there, they stop, they disappear but as soon as they leave, they keep on doing it. MG – we could approach it not only with CCAC but also as a Code Enforcement issue. I am sure these are illegally run events and there is somebody actually promoting them. This activity is against NV state law. I have done some research and don't think it is legal here. CCAC has been telling me it is a cultural event. I don't agree with that. I know that animals have been hurt and that is not okay. What is the scariest is to see the steer running down our street. GW – certain information about the ongoing investigation into the matter cannot be disclosed under SB 223, Cooney's Law, which involves a cruelty issue and the confidentiality provisions of that particular law. We pretty much have what we need. From a cruelty issue, we intend to file a prosecution. I can give you that information but I cannot give you details about the investigation and the prosecution. The animal got loose and ran at large. Because it did not happen in the presence of the officer, we were not able to issue a citation so we have to do a request for prosecution and that involves us gathering witness statements, which I just spoke to the folks in the hallway about. We get witness statements from those who saw it happen, put it together, package it up, send it to the DA's office and request the violator be prosecuted for, in this particular case, the animal running at large and various other things that we have talked about. Regarding the steer tailing, there is no provision in state law that addresses steer tailing per se. Horse tripping is specifically described but steer tailing is not described in state or local ordinances. However, as I have taught my officers and continue to teach them, there are sufficient ordinances within County Code Title 10 that describe general cruelty that can be applied. What is important in these investigations that is often difficult for people to understand is that we have to have evidence; we have to be able to prove something and because the act itself is not illegal, you have to take into consideration the totality of the event. What happened to the animal? Did it fall? Was there tripping? Was there an injury? Are there visible scars that can be seen? Do we have sloughing of skin? Do we have a broken bone? Do we have blood? All these types of things we will gather in the course of witness statements to determine if we can send this forward to prosecution. There will be a prosecution in both particular cases. KL – are you saying you don't see a need to add steer tailing to the horse tripping? GW – I will let the lawmakers decide. I provide the facts, information, data and statistics. I will let the lawmakers decide because you would have to define steer tailing. Is it the grabbing or is it the grabbing and knocking down? Horse tripping is pretty self-explanatory

but in some events, they have toned down the steer tailing to comply with local ordinances in various jurisdictions. There was a felony prosecution in CA for steer tailing based on quantifiable evidence but again in order to meet local requirements, the participants have toned down to get points for grabbing a tail or for grabbing a tail with 2 hands and have accommodated themselves to comply with local ordinances. That is not to say that as soon as the authorities leave something else doesn't happen. That is why we rely on the people that are there, the witnesses like any other crime. The police don't see every crime that goes on but there are witnesses, evidence. That is what we are relying on.

ROBERTO GUERRERO (RG) lives right across from the house where they do the steer tailing. There are anywhere from 20 to 60 cowboys inside this rodeo they built, putting up walls without a permit. The whole street blocked, all sides with the cars and trailers where they bring the horses. Forget about steer tailing, this is a residential area. I have seen 40, 50 cars on both sides of the street. The people that house these parties bring in portable toilets. I have seen them drinking beer all day. They deliver the bulls on a Saturday at about noon. There are 10, 12 guys doing that but the event is Sunday. These guys listen to different music, all with the volume turned all the way up, all drinking. I have called Animal Control and the police. They stop, go in the back, wait 20, 30 minutes and then start doing the same thing all over again. I go to work Monday morning, sometimes at 5 am. Sundays at midnight, these guys are still drinking, having parties, music all the way up. Over the last year, my life has changed dramatically. Animal Control keeps telling me they need proof. How can we take pictures when these guys put up tall walls I can't see through? The fence has to be at least 7ft or more. They don't have permits to put up these walls. This past Sunday, I was coming from Red Rock and my wife told me on my way back there was a bull that had gotten loose. In order for the bull to jump the 7ft tall fences, and I have seen the cowboys doing it, they use one of those guns with electric power. Sometimes they twist the tail so bad, the bull has to run. There is no choice. Can you imagine the pain the bull has to experience in order to jump a 7ft wall? Another problem, 40 cowboys, 7 to 10 bulls. These bulls go over and over and over again. This past Sunday, a bull jumped over a fence into a woman's backyard and she was there playing with two little kids in the backyard. There were 2 cowboys already chasing the bull and more cowboys coming. I didn't take any pictures. I have 3 daughters and my wife. I am afraid they know who is complaining. KL – I understand you spoke with Commissioner G at a town hall meeting. I know things sometimes move more slowly than you would like to see them move. We can certainly look at it here. I am sure the County is attempting to look at this outside of this particular area. We will talk about it as a Committee. GW – the structural and land use issues that he referred to have already been forwarded to Code Enforcement.

PE – You are very brave to come forward. Before I was involved with horses, I did rescue with HCW; I trapped cats. I am from back East and ran a German Shepherd rescue and have done rescue work here with dogs. Back East we sterilized the dogs, did training programs and involved dog trainers. Most of the time people turn in dogs because they don't know what to do with them. They outgrew the dogs; they picked the wrong dog. We felt if we educated that person, if we were able to get some training, that dog can stay in the home. Recently, somebody contacted us about a boxer. They didn't want their boxer any more so we networked that dog. I talked to them about training the dog. They decided to keep and train her rather than rehome the dog. They also decided to spay the dog. Back East, if you adopted a dog from a rescue and you came to us for training, you got 50% off the training fee. They worked with the SPCA in New York City. They have a program for dog trainers to go into animal shelters, to work with the shelters to provide classes for people adopting a dog. There are people who specifically deal with cat behavior problems. Most people who get rid of cats do so for behavior problems. Education would keep animals in their homes and if trainers got on board, that can be an invaluable resource for the canine and feline community. We have trainers in the LEAN program that give us free evaluations and help us keep horses in their homes and help us take horses that need training and put them in homes.

SN sympathizes with people coming forward. It is more common than you think. It just doesn't happen in isolated areas. It happens and is almost like a fighting rink. They know ahead of time where it is going to be. We have a responsibility to protect animals, not put them at risk. This situation is risky for the animals. Steer tailing should be outlawed along with horse tripping. Even though they say it doesn't happen, it does. I have been through this in CA many times in rural areas. In fact, one of the horse tripping horses escaped from an event only to go into traffic. He was in a dead run; you couldn't stop him; you couldn't save him. I watched him get hit; he flipped way up in the air; he was just screaming. When police got there, they had to shoot him in the head. We shouldn't have to put these animals through that. It is our responsibility to enact an ordinance so this, horse tripping, steer tailing, is not legal.

MG – we are Equine Event Management and manage the park as far as putting on events. I concur with you. It is a lot

more common than you think. We have people coming in almost weekly wanting to put on cultural events we find cruel so we don't allow it. There are a lot of people who want to do this and will do it almost anywhere. They do it in Bonnie Springs. We will put on cultural events. We are going to have one as part of the Las Vegas Horse Expo but ours are done under circumstances that are totally humane and follow professional rules and organizations, like the PBR so we can control the cruelty aspects. It is a lot more prevalent than you know. It is a huge issue. If you don't think it exists, go on YouTube. It is all over Las Vegas. Even if horse tripping is illegal, it doesn't stop them.

KW – some jurisdictions have made urinating in public illegal. They did that because prior to doing so, the only way they had to deal with it was arresting them as sex offenders. So if you urinate in public, you spend the rest of your life having to register as a sex offender. I am not sure what the CC laws are but if they haven't changed, that might be an interesting venue for you. KL – actually I think urinating in public is actually a law. MC – it is a misdemeanor.

GG thanks Robert and his wife for showing up tonight. Some neighbors are here as well. I got an education when we stepped out while other folks were leaving. This needs to be looked at. There may be some fairness issues if you look at what happens in other rodeos and what is happening here. I am totally against anything that involves cruelty to animals but I am sure we can open up a whole Pandora's Box when we start looking at some of the other situations that are going on. Maybe reaching out and getting more information from some of the folks in regular rodeos, maybe representatives from the Mexican rodeos or something like that might be worthwhile because I think that is the issue and at the state level that is an issue with the horse tripping that is going to happen in the next legislative session. I know CCAC resources are stretched thin and that needs to be recognized. We want to pass all these laws; then we have more laws and less CCAC officers. I would ask the Committee to look into what resources CCAC does have to do the job we ask them to do. I too was at Tropicana Animal Hospital putting up notices on a dog we found running down the street that the LVVHS ended up taking and adopting out. There was no posting and I mentioned it. As KL and I have discussed, one of my issues for this legislative session is about getting back to basics and enforcement. We really need to look at how we enforce rules already on the books. I am hard pressed to pass more laws when we are not enforcing the ones we have. I hate to hear that on CCAC because they are out there trying to address all these issues, horse tripping, steer tailing, dog bites, dog attacks and all this other stuff so maybe the Committee can look at how they can help. I don't know if the AAC can help do some of these things. We can report back. I know Flamingo Pet Clinic puts the notice on the back of the door that they open up toward the wall. It is an inside joke, yeah, it is posted but the bad check notice which is supposed to be like the posting is conspicuously posted. I noticed it is always right up at the front at the register but the s/n requirement is posted on some back wall in a dark room. I don't know how we can help but maybe we can look at that.

MG - Metro had a program with a liaison group, non-paid volunteer Metro representatives would walk up and down the street, being the eyes and ears for Metro. Is there some way they can start a liaison group for CCAC where they were trained and they would be the eyes and ears. Maybe they would drive around and let CCAC know because they are understaffed and can only be so many places at so many times. Is that something we can encourage? GW – we do have a group of CCAC volunteers. We have had them for a number of years. There are more volunteers than officers. The volunteers are limited in what they can do because of various county rules. They can't drive vehicles. They are not officers so they can't write tickets but they do provide us with extra manpower, extra eyes when we are out, an extra body so if we have two people in a truck, an officer and a volunteer, we don't have to send another officer to help. I would love to expand it and buy them shirts but we don't even have money in the budget to do that. There are a lot of issues that involve resources.

JL, Assistant Director of Administrative Services, wants to give some good news. Our resources are tight and I am not saying this will answer all the problems we have, but we did add a new officer. We were able to do some reorganization, take from one division and move to another. We also had an officer leave and we are replacing that person so we have two officers starting in May. I believe one is Spanish speaking as well.

#### **11. Set date, time and agenda of next meeting**

KL – we have a vicious declaration so we need to meet next Thursday, April 26, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. We have four members that can be here.

#### **12. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:41 p.m.