

CLARK COUNTY ANIMAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

CLARK COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER
500 S. Grand Central Parkway, Commission Chambers
Las Vegas, Nevada 89121
October 18, 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)

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 August 23, 2012 Minutes

A motion to approve the August 23, 2012 minutes was made and seconded.

4. Discuss process and receive preliminary input to the draft changes to Title 10 regarding exotic animal standards

KL – if you wish to speak on this item please fill out the form outside. DON COBURN (DC), the new Chief of Code Enforcement, was asked by the BCC to address exotic animals in Title 10. We are here to get your input so we can put together a formal draft. This is not the final document that will go before the BCC. There will be lots of time for feedback. Comments and input is encouraged however we ask that you do not repeat comments. Once all feedback is received the draft will be reworked for the final ordinance. Comments and suggestions have already been made, after speaking with exotic animal owners and stakeholders. Advised that DC's business card, as well as the business card of the Assistant Director, Jennifer Lances is available outside the meeting room to allow for emailed comments and suggestions. All comments, whether made on the record or emailed will be included in the discussion. Once the discussion has been had and the ordinance has been written, it will be available online, a link provided in the paper and a copy will be sent to all interested parties for comments. A 15-day period will then begin for any written comment on the ordinance. During the 15-day period an Open House will be held for further comments and discussion on the formal ordinance. Upon conclusion of the Open House and the 15-day period, the ordinance will be introduced to the BCC and a public hearing date will be scheduled, allowing an opportunity for input. Deputy District Attorney Steven Swiekert (SS), is here to advise CCAC, for an overview of the ordinance, how it came about and what it currently covers. SS advised that the current draft ordinance was prompted by the escape of two Chimpanzees. These events resulted in an item being placed on the agenda for the BCC to consider. Direction from the BCC was to include Exotic Animals in the current Title 10 Clark County Code and to amend Title 30 of the Clark County Code, the Zoning Code, so that County Commissioners, not the Planning Commission, would have approval for special use permits to allow for Exotic Animals. This change has been approved. The next Legislative Session will consider the issue of Dangerous Animals. The current draft of the proposed law includes Exotic Animals. This current ordinance may or may not have an impact on the proposed law. SS believes now would be a good time to make reasonable accommodations for all stakeholders with local legislation so that we can lead in this matter. Prior County Legislative efforts to include Exotic Animals in Title 10 over the last decade have failed because of too much detail in the regulation for stakeholders, requiring more work for CCAC, resulting in the need for more staff, and in the view of many, unfair regulations. Since then the issue has been handled under the land use/zoning code. Zoning is a necessary part but planners and planning commissioners are not experts in Exotic

Animals. The issues are technical, not political. We are looking at a model in the Las Vegas Municipal code that has been successful. The text of this code was imported into the draft Chapter 10.18, modified for the best interest of the County. This requires some changes to other parts of the code and based upon suggestions and comments received, other changes will be made as well. Not everything needs to be changed or added to, for example Chapter 10.32 of the Clark County Code deals with cruelty of animals and already applies to all animals, not just cats and dogs. Further there are provisions in the NRS Chapter 572 that address cruelty. The major difference from the last effort is that most of the standards pertaining to the control and protection of Exotic Animals will be determined administratively, rather than legislatively and will be subject to judicial review to determine whether they are arbitrary and capricious. This will offer the flexibility to address the different circumstances that can arise with different animals, different real properties, different skill level of keepers and different uses of the animals. For this we must rely on CCAC to be the experts. In the private sector, there are experts on all sides of the issue of regulation, some for and some against. Many of the experts have more experience than an ACO. The process in the code provides for reaching out to the experts and the standards for which they have developed. This will allow and in part require input from the applicant. As the enforcement agency and the unit of Government with the most expertise it will be appropriate to rely upon Animal Control to judge issues on a case-by-case basis. This seems to be the most balanced approach. Clarification will be made to the code to address misunderstandings. Considering some of the suggestions, adjustments to the fee schedule may be made and a more extensive list of household pets may be provided. Intend to narrow the exception of zoos so that it applies to accredited zoos in addition to those regulated by the USDA. More discussion needs to be had as to what fits into the definition of exotics. There seems to be a reasonable working handle on mammals, reptiles and birds, however fish and the broad range of invertebrates has not yet been addressed. The public's advice on all such stated would be appreciated. KL thanked SS for his information and advised that it was now time for comments and suggestions to be heard.

KERRIE KELLER will submit her comments in writing.

SANDY NOFFSINGER – speaking on behalf of Stacia Neuman who is in full agreement with the document as it stands.

LINDA FASO – 10.18.010(b) where it states, “ what precautions shall be reasonable and necessary to protect the health, safety and general welfare of the public and of the animal.” Shade in our desert is critical. Specific provisions for adequate shade and what constitutes adequate shade must be included. For most exotics a doghouse or den box is not sufficient and too small to protect them from the sun and the many hours they spend in it to try and stay cool. I have many years of USDA Inspection Reports. Time and again people are written up for insufficient shade and oftentimes it is never resolved and the animal suffers in the heat of our long summers. A USDA licensee should not be exempt as having that license does not ensure the animal is properly cared for or safely confined. A perfect example is CJ and Buddy escaping several times from their enclosure. The Las Vegas Zoo for many years has been written up for poor shade for different species and still has the same problem today. A USDA license guarantees nothing. (c) A veterinarian's certificate and a yearly exam from the vet should be included in the permit renewal for each animal listed. (2) Regarding the knowledge/background of the person keeping and handling the animal, they should be required to submit a letter from a zoo, sanctuary, animal park or from whoever they acquired their knowledge concerning the animal they will be caring for. Verbally stating their experience should be not acceptable. They should at least have 2 years of experience. You need to be specific about what species you intend to regulate. Saying not a household pet is only setting yourselves up to argue with someone who claims their tiger, monkey or whatever is indeed a household pet. That argument goes on today about servals whose owners claim them to be household pets. List the species and be precise. 10.18.030 says “shall keep animal restrained by a fence, cage, coop, chain, leash or other adequate means” would allow someone to keep a tiger or bear chained to a tree in a backyard. Chain and leash should not be listed.

MARK ROMANSKY (MR) is the current president of the So. NV Herpetological Association. The legislation has a lot of vague language. When it talks in the first section about reptiles, “non-venomous reptiles and amphibians that typically reach not more than six feet in length at maturity, but not including their young less than three months old,” I think you are referring to large constrictor snakes. There are a large number of reptiles that exceed six feet in length that pose no threat to anybody. There are 63 million pet owning households in the U.S., the numbers of incidents of exotic animal problems are very low. Lumping animals based on size is not a good way to go. It needs to be more specific. On the next page we have the determination made on “welfare of persons and animals,

including but not limited to the spread of diseases, temperament, strength, weight, difficulty of maintenance and alternative regulation.” None of these terms defined. What is the weight of a dangerous animal; what is difficulty of maintenance? Some of the animals I keep you may think are incredibly difficult but I don’t think so. There are a lot of terms that are not defined leaving interpretation to Animal Control who can’t know everything about all animals in all situations. It needs to be defined with the advice of people who are experts in the different animals you want to regulate. Page 3 “purpose of keeping such an animal, with particular emphasis on the knowledge of the person to be keeping the animal about the animal in question.” Who determines whether or not you are knowledgeable about an animal, especially when it comes to exotics. The average person in this county does not know a lot about exotics animals. Most vets don’t know that much about exotic animals. Who determines whether or not an individual is qualified to keep that animal and has the proper knowledge? For a lot of reptiles very little is known about the health and welfare of the animal. When I take my animals to the vet, they look inside their mouth and other than that if there is an illness, you get baytril and sent home. We need to determine standards as to what is required as far as veterinary care. The bottom of page 3, it is the considered judgment of the animal control officer as to whether or not they will issue a permit. That is putting a lot on an individual person to know everything there is to know to fairly treat the owner as well as the animal. My concern is always the animal first. Page 4 in the middle section “If multiple inspections are required because of failure to pass an inspection or the use of multiple locations for keeping the animal, an additional payment of \$100 shall be applied to the fee for each additional inspection required.”

KEN FOOSE (KF) owns Exotic Pets in Las Vegas and would like to see all reptiles, except for possibly venomous reptiles eliminated from this regulation altogether. To arbitrarily say any snake over 6ft. is dangerous is ridiculous and due to ignorance and misinformation. A Honduran Milk Snake gets up to 9ft long. They are a member of a family of snakes called colubrids. Colubrids also include garter snakes, bull snakes, gopher snakes, whip snakes, many of which are common and native to NV. This is considered a large, harmless reptile. In this ordinance you are talking about a \$100 fee per animal per year for a license for this harmless animal. On top of that you are also talking about another payment for a special use permit for this animal which can be upwards of \$150 to \$200 so now we are up to \$300 and you have to go through all the inspection fees and who knows when the fees will end. I sell this snake in my store for \$35 and now I have to tell my customers that to pay \$35 for a completely harmless snake that is kept worldwide, they have to pay almost \$400 in fees to own it. That seems unfair. On the other hand, I would be more than willing to pay the \$100 fee per snake and keep in mind I own about 30 milk snakes which would be about \$3,000 a year. I would be more than willing if the lady 2 doors down with the Rottweiler also has to pay the \$100 a year. Otherwise this is arbitrary, prejudiced and unfair. It is not my fault you are afraid of snakes. In the last 100 years, can anyone in the room tell me the last time an exotic, whether it be a polar bear, a lion, tiger or a large constrictor has escaped from its property.

MELISSA ASHWORTH is just starting as a reptile breeder and this will nip it in the bud before I even get started. It is cutting down the small businessperson. Where does it stop? I have 100 milk snakes. They are harmless animals. I have a 5-year-old daughter and I wouldn’t have anything that will harm my own child so I wouldn’t have anything that will harm other people. This all started because of the chimpanzees. It should be held as a personal accountability to people instead of taking away everyone’s rights.

MADLINE FRANCO is the Executive Director of the So. NV Parrot Rehoming Society and is also a language expert. I have made my living for 30 years with language. MR has already expressed concerns about vague language. I would like to reinforce that. On page 4 I want to draw your attention to the requirement for microchipping. There have been some cancerous lesions found at the site of microchips and I think that needs some looking into. On page 5 it talks about keeping an animal free of waste and flies. Try it. It can’t happen. On item (b) posting the notice could make owners of exotic animals targets. We know how people dial numbers, assess whether you are home or not and then decide to enter your premises. I have concerns about when an animal involved is in a pending legal case and it has been confiscated, what is the outcome of that animal. Some people have been unable to get their animals back because the maintenance fees prescribed by the organizations that have kept these animals have been so high; they have not been able to afford their animals back. The idea that an animal control officer can enter a yard with no prescribed requirements and take an animal gives me extreme concern. This is due to lack of specificity on the language. The language needs to be reined in and made quite specific. On page 8 it says it is more desirable that animal rescue organizations pick up these animals from a contracted shelter, there needs to be someplace to make this happen. There needs to be some kind of organization of that effort. I have

to look more at agriculture aviary because I don't know what that means. Household pets, it looks to me in the bracket that they took out birds and then put in parrots and parakeets. I appreciate them having included parrots and parakeets in household pets but there are canaries, finches, whatever which need to be reinstated because there are many people who keep those. It is not appropriate to take out birds and just include parrots and parakeets. I would be happy to help in creating more specificity to this document. Things that are overly broad and cast a big net scare the life out of me.

SUSAN RILEY echoes what everybody else has already said. I have ferrets, chinchillas, snakes, birds, fish. I don't have any dogs or cats. Don't take my pets away from me.

TONY MONDA is a 50 year resident of CC and is one of the few animal professionals in town. Has 2 little capuchins at the CC Renaissance Fair and currently working every weekend at the Broad Acres market in NLV. On the professional side, it is vague and restrictive at the end. I like to see the professionals get a little more leeway with what they are doing. The young people coming up who want to be animal trainers come to LV and want to work. I am 71 and have another 10, 15 years in this business. CC has been very good to me.

ANN BAIDDOU owns a business called Desilu Entertainment. I am also a professional snake charmer. I own over 30 snakes, several lizards, a couple sugar gliders and hedgehogs. My purpose is to educate people about these exotic animals. I have been here 15 years and not one person in this room can tell you that I have ever had an incident with my animals. I do hundreds of kid's shows; my snakes have had shows on the strip. We have done videos. I do quite a bit of work. I have worked with KF, with the S. NV Herpetology Society. My issue with this is that it is vague. The majority of people are afraid of snakes. For me as a woman to live at home with 30 snakes, not one incident in 15 years. My neighbors are well aware of what I do. I have been on TV; I have been in films. I do this because I love the animals. I like to educate people so there is no fear. I have never been hurt. The thing that has put me in the hospital twice is a cat, not a snake and I have a 6ft albino Burmese Python, never a problem. If I can do 100 kid shows a year and never had an incident. CCAC has never been to my house. Education is the way to go. The language in this proposal is very broad. I don't want the government in my house to regulate what I do because people are afraid. I have a 6ft snake that is a pussycat. You are going to tell me that my snake and the cute little sugar glider that fits in my hand is a danger to the population? You have to be kidding. It can't be that dangerous if I am doing 100 parties or more a year. Zoomanity just called me and I am doing their Halloween party so how dangerous can my snakes really be? CCAC is overworked with cats and dogs and now you are going to heap the exotic population on them. There is no way for them to keep up and they are not educated enough to know. What do you do with a snake that has a respiratory infection?

KIM ANDERSON – in the last 100 years when you talk about exotics escaping from their enclosures or their property, you have not had any attacks off that person's property. The person who owns those animals takes that risk. It is not a hazard. How many times in the last 5 years have people's dogs got out and hurt people? Lions and tigers, if people come on to their property, that is a risk they take but off the property, they are going to run from you. Why are you going to overburden the ACOs with something they are not prepared to work with? I have a problem with the \$100,000 insurance policy. People like Ann and myself have been doing parties for 20 years and never had an issue. I have an insurance policy but what about the lady who keeps her animals, snakes that are not dangerous, she is going to have to have \$100,000 insurance policy. The dog next door doesn't have to have a \$100,000 but my snake that is never going to chase anybody, never leave my house needs one. Some of these animals cannot be microchipped. On page 3, the purpose that I keep my animals is we enjoy them. Who decides if that purpose is good or not and whose fears and biases are going to interfere with that? Page 5, having to mark the place where I keep my animals, we don't want to advertise them. This makes us a target for people who are afraid and for theft because some of these animals are worth a lot of money. The permits, \$100 per animal, if I have 200 milk snakes, that is \$2,000. Who is qualified to say how we are keeping them. We have been keeping them for years. I have a friend who has a wallaby and Animal Control called it a dangerous animal. It is not any more dangerous than someone's Rottweiler or Pit Bull. What decides what is dangerous and what is not? It is very vague. ACOs are already overworked; they don't have the knowledge to decide this.

BRIAN CHEEK has a problem with how vague it is written. I don't have an income that would support the things I have. Nobody has been bitten, chased. I do a lot of education things. I do a lot of schools, the Natural History Museum. People call me to take an exotic they can't care for, out of pocket, I take care of it if it needs medical

care, needs to be fed and find it a home. In the last 14 years here in LV I have taken in thousands of reptiles that people have decided were too much, they are moving, they can't take care of it anymore and I have taken that on. I couldn't afford the expense of that on top of the regulations and if you look at the numbers and what is common for CCAC to deal with, they are overwhelmed. My phone does ring to help them with something they don't have time for because they are overwhelmed and busy. I have driven as far as Sandy Valley to take care of stuff for folks. I would like to see input from KF and MR. I would like to see the experts have as much input as possible and not take away the pets that nobody ever sees or has a problem with.

GINA GREISEN (GG) is glad to see a large turnout. I just checked my phone for exotic incidents and there has not been a huge amount of incidents here but they are occurring and with more frequency. On the two pages I scrolled through on Born Free USA from September 28 there were a lot of incidents that had to do with ball pythons and boa constrictors. The biggest reason we are here is what happened with Buddy and CJ; what is going on in Pahrump with the ligers and the tigers. There are a lot of issues and it is about getting control of the situation before it is out of control. For a long time, NV was the Wild West and now things are changing. In the news over the last few weeks, I have seen so many stories about animals. Minds are changing. People are tired of seeing animals kept in deplorable conditions and with the passage of Cooney's law that makes animal cruelty a first time felony in NV there is a heightened awareness about animal issues. Things are changing quickly and we have come a long way in 5 years. There have been a lot of good comments tonight about the exotics. This is a good start. I hope the folks that have made comments tonight will come back, bring some recommendations to the table so we can get some good language. It is time. It is not going to be business as usual. The public is not going to stand for things to stay the way they are. It is not going to be the status quo any more. It is good a lot of people have a lot to say and I support something being put in place to address the exotic issues in So. NV.

ASHLEY ACKERMANN will submit her comments in writing.

RIGOBERTO RUIZ will submit his comments in writing.

FINES LAMBERT has 2 snakes, one of which is 10ft. His snakes are non-venomous and doesn't think they are a threat or a danger. This whole thing needs to be redone.

JAY HOLT owns Animal Kindness Veterinary Hospital in Las Vegas and sits on the Wildlife Advisory Board and is here to tell people about the exotics he treats and deals with. There was a meeting a few days ago with Chief Coburn and gave some good information on what should be considered an exotic pet. I believe there were 23 on the list that should be exempt, household pets. These are animals I treat routinely and should be exempt from the permitting process. It is very straightforward and does not include any dangerous animals by my definition as a veterinarian for 22 years in this valley. My wife and I own Roos N More Zoo in Moapa, NV. We are a ZAA accredited facility. We do assist CCAC. We do assist the County. We have offered our services to help rehome many animals. My purpose here is to see that we do have regulations but that those regulations are fair and just for everyone. We made a lot of comments and recommendations at the last meeting and hopefully these are going to be looked at. I want to offer my assistance on both sides of this fence. I see them professionally as a veterinarian and can thoroughly recommend who is dangerous and who is not in that respect. Also being an accredited facility with the zoo, I can tell you about the ordinances and laws. A lot of these animals under consideration already fall under jurisdiction of people like NDOW that need permits. We need to tie this together and make this a uniform thing where people can call and say I have XYZ animal, what is needed. We give them some rules and regulations. The USDA has a formal book that has every regulation you need on how to house an animal appropriately and safely. We also have that book that simplifies and spells out what those definitions are, i.e., if you look in there and look up a Kinkajou and what is required to safely house a Kinkajou, it would be spelled out instead of trying to read the USDA book.

VALERIE HOLT has been a veterinarian in Las Vegas for over 20 years. I currently don't practice but maintain the zoo out in Moapa and care for the animals. When we were at the meeting the other day, we did look over some of this. There needs to be clarification. Household pets as it is written right now include 9 animals. In going through what is commonly seen, we did some modifications and suggestions and increased it to 23 animals. Chief Coburn had said something under the number 25 would make it easier. That was to include the list attached. One of the problems I see is the way things are right now, there are so many animals that are illegal as it is and if we

make these fees the way they are set in the draft, a lot of people are going to try to hide them. If you look at what is being required, you have the \$100 permit fee per animal, the animal needs a veterinary exam and the average exotic animal exam is \$60, the microchip is \$40 and the registration of the microchip is \$20. If it is something like a Kinkajou, NDOW has to issue a permit as well. You start adding this up and you are well over \$240 per animal. If you start doing it that way, people are just going to hide under the rug. A lot of people have been saying there were not a lot of incidents and their animals never got out. How many people actually knew the chimpanzees were here until they got out. That becomes one of the problems so I am in favor of a bill just not the wording as it is right now. USDA has a fee schedule and their fee schedule right now is if you have 1 to 5 animals, it is \$40 a year; 6 to 25 animals, \$85; 26 to 50 is \$185; 51 to 500 is \$235 and then they have 500 and up. It is trying to make it fairer and reasonable but a couple hundred dollars per animal per person, I can see people not doing it. The whole purpose of this is to get some control. I understand we all have rights and don't necessarily want people in our houses.

MIRASA LOYD works with larger snakes and currently has one 8ft and another 17ft. None of these animals has ever posed any problem to people in fact they love them. Most of them have been abused and I have taken care of them. The people didn't treat them right. I have never had a problem with them getting out of my house, out of their cages. Needless to say, I would notice a 16/17ft snake going down the stairs. You are looking for ways to get people and in this economy; I don't think it is right. By doing this you are hurting a lot of the local pet shops. You are making someone pay almost \$400 for a snake that is only \$35. Some of us use the breeding as a way to pay for college or pay our bills and I think you are just trying to start a problem. I have had more damage done to me by dogs than snakes. When I was 3, a Siberian Husky tore my entire top lip off and I had to have plastic surgery. My 17ft Burmese Python has never gone after me once. He is tame; he is scared of my cat. I am not able to come up with a few thousand dollars in fees. This is how I pay for college. This is how I pay for where I live and to say you are going to smack us with a few thousand dollars in permits, you will put me out of my house. You are hurting local small business but also PetSmart, PetCo that sell small pythons, boa constrictors and saying you want to do this at 6ft is not fair because most of the snakes out there, be it a corn snake, a bull snake, a Burmese Python, most things exceed 6ft.

CHAD NEU owns Reptiles-N-Reefs in Henderson. Being a lifetime resident of So. NV. I grew up going to KF's store. Because of KF's store and seeing what some call the strange and unusual is what pays my bills today and what some people call strange and unusual, I call wonderful and amazing. How frequently does an exotic attack happen? Not too often. The lady previous had googled exotic attacks. I googled dog attacks, 2 hours ago a dog chewed on a car; 3 hours ago a dog gets a lawyer after attacking a child; 11 hours ago a postal worker died after being attacked by a dog. I don't know of a single instance where a mailman was attacked and killed by a snake or a big lizard or something with scales. The fear associated with anything exotic is an irrational fear. Once people are educated, it is not a justified fear by any stretch of imagination. I am a union electrician by trade. Everybody knows how the economy is. Since high school, breeding reptiles was a hobby of mine. It gave me extra money. It gave me freedom to go on trips and do fun things. Now my chosen craft is unavailable to me and I was able to fall back to my passion and that is taking care of reptiles. A lot of the people here are customers, people who come into my store, create commerce, create jobs. There is a lot of vague language. In addition to reptiles and snakes, I also sell fish at my store. Where will it end? What is defined as exotic? Is there a fish that someone is afraid of; there are poisonous fish but is that exotic or dangerous in a trained hand?

DEE ANDERSON – horses and dogs kill more people each year than any reptile that is non-venomous and not a crocodylian while they are in captivity. If you have a problem with them getting out and establishing here in the desert, a lot of animals everyone has named are tropical and will die. They can't hurt anybody above 3ft. A 5ft Burmese is not going to chase down anyone and kill them. Dogs hurt more people every year than anything else.

AYREONNA KEYES works at a snake shop. When children come in, I introduce them to the reptiles. They are excited to see them. If they want, with parent permission, I take them out and show them and sometimes they will buy them. If a kid is intrigued and willing to learn how to take care of a reptile, I think other people should be able to as well and not have the fear that most people do. It is an irrational fear. My father was recently attacked by one of my dogs, not intentionally, but it left quite a mark. He has also been bitten by one of my snakes. It was not his fault. We had been handling the rats and did not pay attention. The bite from one of these snakes was so minuscule he barely even noticed that it happened. The bite from the dog has been there for about a week. It is

ridiculous to take into account the largeness of the animal. I have 2 reticulated pythons. Right now they are babies. They will get over 20ft. I understand this and I have dealt with these large snakes before so I understand what it entails. As long as I am educated and willing to take care of these snakes, I did not buy them on a whim. I understood and educated myself prior to buying these snakes, I feel I should be able to keep them and not have to pay a ridiculous fine. If I want to buy something and keep it in my home, I am not going to take it out and show it to people who are unwilling to see it. It will be in my home, under my care and protection. If people don't like that I have the snakes, don't come to my home, don't come to my front door because most likely I will have my snake with me. If you don't like that I own snakes, don't talk to me, don't be associated with me because I have plenty of friends who love the fact that I have snakes. We are in the reptile community. It is a ridiculous law and a ridiculous fee that I am not willing to pay.

CHRISTINA CORDOVA (CCO) – no one has stopped and said what about the animals. Should you have a 17ft python in your house? No, it is ridiculous. These are wild animals; they need to be free. Breeding of animals and making a profit is disgusting. It is atrocious. A wild animal does not live in your house. It should not even be in your backyard. These animals need to be free. It is disgusting that people want to keep 17ft snakes in their house. These are wild animals and should not be locked up in cages. People need to stop and think about the quality of life for these animals. Animals shouldn't be locked up; they shouldn't be in cages. No one should have a lion or a chimpanzee in their backyard. This is what this community is trying to do. I have never attended any of the other meetings and I really appreciate all the work you do but this is about the animals and we need to keep on topic. Maybe a python never bit someone but does this python need to be locked up in a cage in your house. You live in Las Vegas. I wish people would talk about the animals. Who cares if your animals have never bitten anyone, they are wild animals.

TAYLA HART works for a state facility where we have endangered species. We introduce these exotic animals into the wild without having them in captivity. We had an endangered species at the facility that I work for, a Brush-Tailed Bettong, and it was reintroduced where it is from and the only way it could be done was through being in captivity. Without being in captivity, those animals would never have the chance in the wild. We have a lot of critically endangered animals and without captive programs, we would not be able to introduce them into the wild. I also agree with having animals in captivity as far as large reptiles. I understand having fees in place to be able to have them and having them registered. I agree with that. My concern is with the cost. I think \$100 an animal, people have 20, 30, 100 animals, especially reptiles, and the cost after microchipping, vet fees and all those other fees, is too much for any one person to handle. There are other government agencies that do group prices and things are a little more affordable so we don't have animals being pushed out of homes with no where to go. I don't think the city is prepared for the overload that will cause. I am for education, allowing facilities to be open and be able to share with the public and teach kids and families how to care for these animals. Facilities like the one that I work for aren't able to do that. There are so many kids that won't respect the animals in the wild. How else do kids learn about desert tortoises and to know not to pick them up and not to do mean things? They learn from going to these facilities to learn about the animals. We have facilities I have never seen anywhere else in the U.S. We need to continue to share that with our city, our community so kids can continue to have that education. I am all for it.

ISAIAH RIDGEWAY – most 16-year-old kids have dogs and cats. I have cats, snakes and lizards. I had a tarantula. I have been taking care of snakes and my lizard since I was 11. Most people say a dog is man's best friend. I have a lizard that is my best friend in the animal world. If we have to pay fines, it will push so many animals out onto the street. They will release them because they are not going to be able to do anything else. It is taking away someone's pet. There will be so many families who can't afford to keep them. The cost of food, the cost of living is already super high for these animals. To tack on more money is just throwing it out the window and basically saying don't get these animals. Until we can have regulations on dogs, cats and every other animal, we shouldn't have regulations on animals that don't hurt people.

JOULEECE WHITE has 2 snakes and other animals. I don't want them taken away and I don't want anyone in my home that is not supposed to be there. I take care of them; I take them to the vet. I make sure they have everything they need. If I have to keep paying fees, it will be very difficult. I am thinking about my animals each and every day, if they are sick, I am going to take them to the vet. If something is wrong with them, I am going to take care of them. They are fed every day. My 2 snakes are above the 6ft limit and I am willing to educate anyone who wants

to learn about them and help them understand they are not as dangerous as people may think. Don't judge a book by its cover because you never read the book.

APRIL SUHR works at PetCo as a dog trainer. Ever since the s/n ordinance for dogs and cats passed, I have talked with hundreds of people a week who don't even know about this ordinance. They are shocked. My problem is that the fee for owning 12 cats is a lot less than owning one snake. I actually have a 6ft Red Tail Boa. I got her because somebody let her loose in the park, brought her to my vet and my vet called me and asked if I would take her in. At that time she was only 5ft. I had a CCAC inspection the other day, they did not even know I had her in my house. She was so well behaved. In fact the officer said, "you have a 6ft snake in your house?" I told the officer she was in the dining room and they had walked right passed her. I think it is \$50 to own 12 cats so as a property owner I can have 12 cats for \$50 a year but I can't have one snake for under \$100. It frustrates me because I think some of the members of the community actually called because I do animal rescue with exotics and I have animals come into my PetCo where I don't know what they are and I have actually called KF, sent him a picture of the animal and within minutes, he told me exactly what I needed to get and save the animal's life. I had a little colored lizard that just passed away a few days ago that somebody caught, didn't know what it was, brought it to our store and I took him in. It cost me about \$300 to set that lizard up properly and to have the right temperature and if it weren't for these members of our society, I wouldn't know what to do. As a board I think you should reach out and talk to these people. I know Reptile-N-Reefs manager and I have talked to KF although I have never met him, he has been a great resource and I know people in our community go to these people. These are the people I imagine when writing this law would help. Also, it doesn't make sense that I can have 12 cats or 6 dogs in the house for \$50 but one snake is \$100 plus if the officer doesn't feel that snake's confinement isn't perfectly right or whatever it is, then I have to pay another \$100 for them to come again. My understanding with the dog and the cat, they don't have that. It is not fair.

KL – there are a lot of opportunities for you to provide additional testimony if you would like to do that. MC – most everyone that spoke tonight was extremely knowledgeable in the exotic animal world and are well versed in the health, welfare, safety and security of these animals. What worries me, I have dogs and we have backyard breeders in the dog world. A male dog and 3 bitches and they breed them constantly and sell the puppies. Along parallel lines you can have someone come into the exotic stores and see a beautiful little python and little Johnny says "oh daddy I gotta have it." They buy it and bring it home and a few years later they have a 4, 5 or 6ft long snake that they don't know what to do with, are scared to death of it, so they take it down to the wetlands and turn it loose. That is what scares me. Are we going to end up like Florida, Mississippi or Louisiana where the ball pythons are taking over the natural habitat of other animals? There are insecure people who don't know what they are doing. The folks here know what they are doing. You are doing a good job and are doing it honestly and above board. It is the ones that don't know what to do with that snake that worries me.

MG - We are not trying to take your pet away. We do have mandatory s/n for cats and dogs in CC and I feel that any animal, reptile that could be s/n whether they are a pet store or a rescue group should have that done. Like MC said earlier unless you have a Breeder's license, you have that exemption here for the dogs and the cats. It is now required for both so if it is required for the dogs and cats should it not be required for other potential exotics also. I think that would help the backyard breeders profits because what are you going to get down to is what is the difference between John over there breeding his dog in the backyard and selling puppies twice a year to make a couple hundred bucks. You can't discriminate. If we are going to do it for one, how can we not do it for the other? We have a lot of professionals here and your input is going to be super important and I am all for that. Let's not discriminate in the opposite direction.

KL's view is similar. As the humane representative, we know we have an animal overpopulation here. It is very much dogs and cats but we are also getting a lot of exotics into the Animal Foundation. I am not a fan of people running a business by breeding animals and making money on those animals. I do have issues with that. We have very stringent regulations for dogs and cats and a regulated s/n ordinance. We limit the number of dogs and cats within CC at the current time. We are not out to take anyone's pet but we need to look at this regulation and deal with some of these issues. Some of the comments tonight have been very good and I appreciate you taking time to come here tonight and make those comments. It is important that we take into consideration both sides of this issue. My concern is the welfare of these animals. Tonight I heard a lot of people say they know what is best for their animals but I have also heard a lot of them talk about a lot of animals within a house so I think we have some

of the same issues we have for the domestic animals that we have for the exotics and we have to take a look at that because it is an issue we have to look at whether it is cats or dogs or different kinds of exotics.

MC motions that this be tabled until language put forth by District Attorney and CCAC is clarified and understandable to all. No one seconds. DL – we have a subcommittee with Humane Groups and we have a lot of people here with businesses and I wonder if it wouldn't be appropriate for the next year to have a similar group for the exotics to work on this project. DL thinks we need everyone as part of the rewriting process. KL – it appears to me that CCAC has defined a process. They have a business impact statement that needs to be done. I haven't heard anything tonight to indicate that we shouldn't move forward with the process they have already defined. SS – this does not appear to be an action item so I think the proper thing to do would be to close the hearing on this and move on to the next item. KL – on the advice of SS, we will close this agenda item and move on to the next item.

5. Receive a report from the Educational Subcommittee; and take appropriate action.

No report.

6. Receive a report from the Equine Subcommittee; and take appropriate action.

MG is the chair of the Equestrian Rescue Subcommittee. We had a meeting on September 5, 2012 and I was in attendance along with Carly Scholten from AFI; Windy's Ranch and Rescue, Janice Ridondo (JR); Karen Cartwood (KC) from LEAN, Local Equestrian Assistance Network, and Kimberly Burton (KB) from the same association and Jannice Penney (JP) with HHA. We discussed many topics dealing with the rescue operation in the equine community. Suggestions were made on various topics. Here is a breakdown of some of the areas of concern from the groups that were present. KC would like to work on network building with the equestrian rescue groups that exist in CC. She would also like to develop ways to bring all the groups together for a common goal, which is helping abused, neglected and unwanted horses which is a growing problem here in CC. JP would like to look at ways we can slow down the population of unwanted horses. We discussed the possibility of having all intact stallions that come through the animal control system be gelded before being adopted out. Suggestions were made that we allocate funds, possibly from the fines paid by offenders, to these horses and help them pay for the gelding. We also talked about working with vets to hold a low-cost gelding clinic that might be able to accommodate some people that cannot afford that process right now. JR talked about the frustration she and many others feel about the offenders not being held responsible. There are always excuses being made and nothing seems to be happening once the horses are taken into custody. KB would like to see some accountability and wonders where the money is going. Is it in the general fund? Also discussed was many of the horses that CCAC impounds are coming from Hispanic communities and maybe we can get a bilingual person to advocate and educate this portion of our community. We also looked at the possibility of consolidation or shared services. Right now the equestrian animal control services are being handled between CC, LV and NLV. The suggestion is that we contract with a group to come in to do the feeding and care of the confiscated animals which would be a shared cost between all the entities and possibly reduce the cost to take care of these animals. We will be having another meeting but we wanted to make sure we had the new person in charge and at that time Don Coburn wasn't there. We are going to have another meeting and ask Mr. Coburn if he would like to attend. KL – maybe we want to pass on the report to CCAC to take a look at some of your suggestions and see what the possibilities are for implementing them. The gelding is a great idea. The LVVHS recently attended a Hispanic health fair and we had some students from Paws for Change, which is one of our student groups who speak Spanish, and they did a fantastic job talking to people about s/n. We offered free/low cost s/n to people and we got a lot of people signed up. They were wonderful in terms of talking to people and educating them. We really need to move forward with some of these tabling events to get that kind of education out there. We don't need to do anything right now but I wonder if it is something we could look at in terms of some of the proposals that have come out of this Committee. MG would be happy to get the information to them.

7. Review Strategic Plan and Gold Standards for Rescue Groups created by the Humane/Rescue Group subcommittee; and take appropriate action.

KL – we have two documents to look at tonight. First, the Strategic Plan and everyone should have been able to obtain a copy. The rescue organizations met multiple times on this issue and she thanks Chris Robinson and all of those organizations that have taken time to discuss these issues. We have gotten to know each other and this has been a useful method of pursuing this. We identified proactive measures to reduce animals going into the shelter. We tried to define who is responsible and we hope we will get feedback on CCAC's issues. We have had some discussion about the Return By Officer to owner in the field as opposed to owner reclaim at AFI. Other areas were increasing proactive measures by CC working with the rescue organizations. We tried to commit the rescue organizations to being a part of solving the problem of animal overpopulation in the valley. Increasing public/private partnerships. We talked about the need to get out there and talk to people. We want to increase the number of animals coming out of the shelter. AFI indicated they wanted to be a part of this plan.

REBECCA HORVATH (RH) owns Pet Kingdom in Las Vegas and is for s/n of dogs and cats. We sell puppies and kittens. We do a lot of rescues, mostly local family puppies, local family kittens. If somebody has a litter of kittens we take them in. We give them their shots, deworm them, offer a free vet visit and a coupon for low cost s/n with Tropicana Animal Hospital. We also inform them it is the law that when they are four months old they need to be fixed. We educate people on the importance of doing that and I have noticed that since the law passed in 2010 that we do have a lot less dogs and cats. I haven't had puppies in my store in a long time. We don't use puppy mills. We try to do rescues. We sell ferrets that are already fixed and if people buy a pot-bellied pig, we encourage them to get them fixed. Animals are better pets when they are fixed. When you talk about getting a rabbit fixed that is about \$100. We sell our rabbits anywhere from \$24 to \$44.99 so when you tell people you have to get the rabbit fixed and the cost is \$100 that is a little hard for people. If we had a vet that would on weekends maybe do it for free, I know they are for profit as well, but if we could find somebody that would work with us maybe lower the cost. We do encourage people to just buy one rabbit. We don't want people to buy males and females. We don't encourage breeding. You said the ordinance covers dogs, cats, rabbits, pigs and ferrets. We are a responsible pet store. We educate people to s/n their animals. We also do a lot of rescues. If someone can't keep an animal, we take them back. We don't refuse any animal. We are a pet store but we do a lot of rescues. When we sell an animal, we make sure the person is educated regarding the animal they are getting. We don't just randomly sell animals. We don't want animals to come back. We want animals to go to homes that are proper for them. We also let people know that if for some reason, they can't keep the animals don't just take it to Sunset Park. Bring it back to us. We do a lot of rehoming.

KL – we moved this quickly, meeting 7 or 8 times within 3 months to get this completed. We can propose to send this to the BCC or have the Committee next year look at it one more time. RA – this seems like a final document and we should move it on to the BCC if the Committee agrees to it. RA motions to send the documents to the BCC for review. DL seconds motion. Motion passes.

KL – the Gold Standards were developed as a part of the Strategic Plan and the rescue groups attempted to define standards for rescues. This has not been looked at as much as the Strategic Plan but it is hard to move forward on the Strategic Plan without agreement by the rescue organizations in areas such as microchipping and registering the animals they adopt out. They will be willing to take back their animals that end up in a shelter. These are issues the members of the rescue groups at those meetings agreed to. What we are trying to do is to reduce the number of animals from rescue groups going into the shelter. Some of these will require ordinance changes so the only thing we can ask is that the BCC consider these changes. RA motions to send forward the Gold Standards for rescue groups to the BCC for ordinance changes. DL seconds the motion. Motion passes.

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

KG is there a way to declare certain breeds dangerous. MC - breed specific is one of the worst things you can do. I have grandchildren with Pit Bulls and they are fantastic buddies. Rottweilers are fantastic animals. It is not the dog; it is the owners. If you have a dog not being properly cared for, the dog is going to be a bum. KG- Why can we be specific with snakes but not dogs? KL – there is no desire to take a look at that issue. I know it will be brought up at the state level but I don't think anyone on this committee is willing to pursue that. The legislation is very controversial. There are other cities that have done it and there is no indication that it resolved the problem. KG has several vicious dogs in her neighborhood. We are scared to walk our dogs in the neighborhood. We have

scary Rottweilers and Pit Bulls that can do incredible damage to people. KL – if you have a vicious dog in the neighborhood going after people, that is not breed specific. You need to advise CCAC. KG – these dogs get loose. KL – vicious dogs are not breed specific. This year we have seen all kinds of dogs that had been declared vicious. It is important for citizens to understand if they have a situation where they are fearful of dogs running loose in their neighborhood that is a separate issue from breed specific legislation and that is where you need to get AC involved and have them come out and look at what is going on. KG – the issue was resolved but I feel like the incidents that occurred were Pit Bulls, Rottweilers or a couple others. Those are always the top breeds. You don't have Chihuahuas killing other dogs. MC – a lot of people that own Pit Bulls or Rottweilers think it is macho to put a big chain on this guy and drag him around and make him a vicious dog. It is the owners, not the dogs. I have Rottweilers and Pit Bulls that are the biggest babies in the world. It is how they are raised. Even the exotics, they have the morons there too that do not know how to take care of the pets and they become outcasts or throw offs just like in the dog world. KG - How is it right to say these snakes are aggressive or dangerous but we can't do the same for dogs? In both cases I believe it is the owner. MC – you will have the Good, the Bad and the Ugly in all breeds whether it is dogs, cats, guinea pigs. I ran across a few pot-bellied pigs I was thankful I got away from. It is how they are raised. If you raise them in a healthy and safe environment with a lot of love, you can have these big kitties be the biggest babies. KL - we do cover that with our dangerous or vicious declarations for dogs. We don't have that for other animals at this time. In some respects we are dealing with the issue. We don't have dangerous and vicious declarations for snakes. RA in a previous vicious case we had a member of the public stand up and say that most times it is the owners and lament there was no way to more specifically punish the people rather than the animal. I really wish there was a way that people who don't take care of their animals could be more appropriately targeted and held responsible.

9. Comments by the General Public

VH agrees it is the way the animals are raised but some of the problem is the actual size of the animal. In 22 years of practice, I got bit or almost bit more by Chihuahuas and small dogs than any Rottweiler or Pit Bull. Being married to a veterinarian and raising our children in a veterinary hospital, I would let them play with a Pit Bull or a Rottie rather than a Chihuahua or other little dog for the reputation of biting. The problem is when a Rottweiler or a Pit Bull bites, it is the size of the bite and the damage that is done. That is our problem with the exotics. Maybe with the snakes, focusing on the length is the wrong way to go. Maybe it is the weight of the snake because a 6ft corn snake is not going to hurt anybody. We have snakes at the zoo now and there isn't one that exceeds 20lbs. I take them to kindergarten or preschool classes on a regular basis and allow the kids to crawl around on the floor, more or less on top of the snakes. I instruct them, the snake is not going to bite you unless it is hungry or you are abusing it. Maybe we are focusing on the wrong thing by going on the length of these snakes; maybe it is the body weight. It was not the bite but the strangulation that killed the infants. A 2lb corn snake is not going to hurt anybody. Maybe we are going about the exotics the wrong way and the size and the breeds looking at it as inherently dangerous; it would be the size of the animal and the damage that it could do whether intentionally or unintentionally.

CCO thanks the chair for comments about not having 30 of anything in your house. There is a difference between breed and species. Some species are venomous, cobras, rattlesnakes, versus corn snakes. We can say this snake is dangerous because its species is venomous. In biology there is a big difference between breed and species.

GG thanks the Committee for the work they did. Pahrump staggers the appointment of their Committee members. Some have longer appointments; they happen at different times. It is not a good idea to do one year appointments and have them all end at the same time because if the work that is being done all year long is not done by the end of the year, it just stops. We need to look at how we can allow this Committee to keep working. You have come too far to just stop because the year is over. We need to change that. If you look at the felony animal abuse cases they have been young people. We really need teenagers to get involved and is glad for the student member on the Committee.

10. Set date, time and agenda of next meeting

Next meeting will be set after new members are appointed.

11. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm