

CLARK COUNTY ANIMAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Paradise Community Center
4775 McLeod Drive, Town Board Conference Room
Las Vegas, Nevada 89121
March 27, 2008
6:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: BIGGERSTAFF, JAN (JB)
ENGSTROM, CLARISSA NELSON (CNE)
POOLER, TOM (TP)
RIVERA, ALFREDO (AR)
RUIZ, JUDITH (JR)

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 November 20, 2007 Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes was made and seconded.

4. Selection of Chair and Vice-Chair

Tom Pooler was nominated as Chair. Billie Young as Vice Chair. Motion seconded and approved.

5. Approval of Application for Spay/Neuter Funds

Two applications, HCW and Golden Retriever (GR). TP would like to hear from them. Katie Moses (KM) president, Golden Retriever Rescue. Last year rescued and found homes for 175 GRs. We already brought in 40 and are projecting more for this year. Almost 400 if it continues. We are a non-profit with charter through state of NV, all volunteer, no paid staff. CNE – is there an adoption fee. Yes KM \$200 for GR under 8, \$150 for 8 or over, includes spay or neuter, vaccinations, microchip and immediate medical needs. (CNE does \$200 go back) KM yes. JR seems like a large number of GRs. KM have a lot with the housing industry the way it is. Yesterday we had 3 come in. TP are all CC or CLV animals. JR concerned GR receive this many vouchers then every rescue group will want this much. As humane society we take a lot more animals in but I am concerned about the number of vouchers for a breed rescue group. KM we are happy with what we can get. We know that may not be the amount we will be provided. There are many good rescue organizations in town. We work as hard as we can for the good of the dogs. JR other groups are taking cats and dogs and doing rescue on the street. KM understands concerns. JB how much money is it? DM – we have \$11,000 unassigned. CNE - concerned will it be used for s/n? KM yes.

KAREN LAYNE (KL), LVVHS, when we started this HCW and LVVHS were first recipients and were asked if we were going to use this money for adoptions. We said no, to s/n low-income families. Some discussion at one of the previous meetings, money not to be used by animals put

up for adoption. My understanding is to be used to provide low cost s/n for families who cannot afford. Always behind in terms of turning in vouchers. Don't have any paid staff. If you provide that source of money to groups using for adopted animals reducing money for other groups. HAROLD VOSKO HCW thank you very much gotten \$30,000 feel terrible to say anything about another rescue group. Comes down to what is best with the money. If you have x amount of money, how many lives can you save with that money? Last year, we s/n 2100 cats and dogs. Where you do want the money to go to save animals. GR – love, my favorite dogs. Are they the ones dying in the shelter? Answer phones for 7 years, maybe 8 get turned in. We don't get many calls so they are not the ones dying in the shelter. We don't spend money on toy poodles, on Pomeranians but on the ones that will die in shelter and spay every pit we can. Same with the cats, we s/n no questions asked. 21,000 cats died in the shelter and 10,000 dogs. We don't talk about cats. Where is the money best spent and what will happen once we open it up for adoptions instead of targeting s/n that we do? Have to look at where money is better spent. CNE how much is adoption fee? HV \$200 dog; cat \$80.

JOAN BURTNETT – HCW and humane society are doing thousands and GR doing hundreds

MIKE CONNELL (MC)– want to ask humane society do you charge adoption fee. KL – we charge but vouchers are not used for our adoptions only used for people who own animals. MC – do you have for seniors on a fixed income for this? They do charge to get dogs, seems no different than GR for charging dogs. Just want relief on the s/n side. No different. CNE both have said they don't use vouchers for adoptions only owned animals. MC they still receive money for adoptions. They have been doing s/n on their own.

HAROLD VOSKO – we do 1000 adoptions and 8100 s/n. Not even close. Goes to the targeting of the less fortunate. We do homeless cats but don't use vouchers for that. In areas where people have no phones, sometimes no windows. We transport animals back and forth. Have to have a schedule, person knocking door to door. We did 60 s/n last Wednesday, took 13 people on payroll to do that.

JB – do we have a policy about how the vouchers can be used. DM – can be given to 501c3 for purpose of sterilizing animals. JR Concerned about giving money to breed rescues. Funds should go to orgs that focus on all animals and all breeds of animals. Should not be utilized for breed rescue groups. KM – understands, however, if GRs weren't rescued they would be going to all breed rescues.

JOE BOTEILHO (JOE) – wants to clarify. When discussed in beginning to award to groups, one stipulation was made was they wouldn't go to Lied. That was the one thing that came out in the discussion. Discussion about boy scouts could come in and have moneys. Was intended for animals groups but was left at your discretion.

CNE if we do for GR where does it end. Would rather it go to poor people than rescues. AR should go to poor people but we can allot a percentage to these orgs cause they are providing services and should be directed to the size of the rescue. CNE agrees with that. TP any animal s/n is an animal s/n don't care if pit or pet, money specifically set aside for s/n of animals. Lines should not be drawn whether assistance to get adopted out or not. Help to cut down breeding of unwanted animals. Don't see there is any difference. Money is sitting here and am not going to hold it back. Be fair you have to give people who are using for what it is intended. They are using for intended purpose. AR maybe other rescue groups don't know available. Still think we should allot percentage of size so other groups should be aware of opportunity. Only two groups using is unfair to the rest of the animals.

KEN SONDEJ, do rescues know about it. They are not 501c3 which is why they have not applied. ADR adopts over 2,000 dogs a year.

JR – any org that requests voucher should furnish previous years s/n verification in writing from vet with receipts. Org has to have a track record. DM code does not require it. You are setting a standard a new 501c3 would not be able to meet. Important to keep in mind, runs on a 10, 20, 30, 40 dollar voucher amount. They get reimbursed when sterilization is done. Dollar value is assessed. They only get money after service is provided. SOS has vouchers they have not picked up. They have \$3000 outstanding and they would make a report. CNE they request more funds we give you a report on what they have done.

MC very few rescues do have a 501c3. GR are one of the very few done probably and think they deserve it. AR in a nutshell, we have the money. JB moves to approve applications for funds, seconded by AR. CNE opposed to amount. Can we amend to 100 or to 75? DM - Can't change once motion is on the floor. JR opposed, motion carries.

TP had a request to ask about the board members if they would give a brief description of themselves and what area they represent.

AR is president of Sit Means Sit; training dogs for 22 years and represents animal handlers. JB this is my second go around representing general public. Was in circus for 20 years. TP animal conservation group; Clarissa Engstrom veterinarian. Do emergency practice and masters in tropical veterinary will s/n anything for any rescue group in this town on my days off. JR was founding president for LVVHS have been fighting battle for sometime. We need to get as many animals as possible. She represents humane community. BY – is the equine owners.

6. Report on proposed amendment to Title 10.24.030 to regulate unsterilized dogs and cats impounded at the animal shelter

DM - followed up with DA is in final review and will have within week. TP wants another update for next meeting.

7. Change in show requirements for Fancier Permit

MC – spoke about clarity on fancier permit. Break down into two categories, one show dog fancier permit allows person to keep and maintain more than 3 but not more than 6 intact dogs registered with a licensed registry for showing pure bred dogs at licensed events where they can earn titles.... (Attached)

Pet fancier permit... (attached) People are taking to Strut Your Mutt, Walk In The Park and getting a receipt. This was originally designed for purebred show dogs. Want to clarify permit. CNE – how many retired show dogs? MC – 6. I have a 13-year-old Akita, took to a licensed event to become a champion. JB how do you know a retired dog? AC knows a retired dog. An 8 10, 12, 15 year old dog don't want to run or show. But leaving that open for option. MC we have veteran dogs shown at 13 or 14. AR there are still obedience champions, a Companion Dog, Utility Dogs, tracking titles; AR there are others such as protection sports; there is dog fanciers that do outside of confirmation. You don't want to n/s a champion protection dog. Can't use pet fancier for protection champion. You have to include all groups that show dogs not just confirmation. You don't s/n champions. MC – Schutzhund, is there a license? AR absolutely. There is further clarification that needs to be done. DM – it is a discussion so there is no vote.

This is a starting place – seems to go back to the old way, if you have 3 show dogs and a mixed breed pet I couldn't give you a fancier permit because you didn't qualify, so we merged the two to allow you have to have up to 6 w/o showing. They must be sterilized. A retired champ w/o a definition. I can go to someone's house say I have 6 retired champs and they are bred every time they go into heat. Don't have a problem trying to define what is a show, the current one allows having show and sterilized as well. If we need to clarify perhaps it can be simply defined. MC people take to Strut Your Mutt, A Walk In The Park. This authorizes you to have 6 intact animals but not show dogs. Breeding is to better the breed, believe in s/n but when you have pure bred show dogs, been in since 1949 don't breed under 2 years of age and don't breed large breed over 6 and don't do back to back. Had 2 litters of Akitas and 3 of Shibas in the last 15 years. Want clarified for only good purebred dogs and breed and shows. Trying to help the s/n and stop random industry breeding.

TP – creation of subcommittee for people to discuss and come up with ideas. Schutzhund (MC) not against any of that. All these areas could be taken into account but because you took your dog to Walk In The Park, is what I want to cut off so we have a good s/n and only purebred dogs being bred. Changing will penalize people who follow to the letter. MC people getting permit w/o following regs. I know people are not. AR make clear that Strut Your Mutt is not an event. DM it is the wording. It says dog shows w/o saying what is a dog show. From the legal side we can't go to court and say Strut Your Mutt is not a dog show. If you want to include you will have to define dog shows, working and hunting and could become a whole category as well. Subcommittee for that – Patti Pickerd, Melinda Schmidt, Mike Connell, Bruce Halstead. TP suggests you get together, kick it around and bring info for next week. TP will be happy to be part of this meeting. Go a long way to get it straightened out and then turn over to AC before we give to committee.

JB - Do you have manpower to enforce? DM we currently enforce in a number of ways. Simple fact is hunting and working dogs are not shown. It is not a show category. Field trials are a category. If we define terms we might be able to close loopholes so that they would apply to a majority of people participating in events. JB is this a big problem. DM once people saw this was a loophole we have people going to events like Strut Your Mutt. How much that group is involved in backyard breeding is less clear.

BRUCE HALSTAD I am disabled and have trouble getting around. I try to get every dog show I can travel to. Medical therapy dogs with records in doctor's office. Can't cut out disabled people who can't get to regular shows. TP- do you want to be on this committee. Don't mind but they have to include the handicapped people. CNE how many dogs do you have. Bruce – a female spayed – the 5 males are not neutered. TP people will show. Bruce they charge a ton of money.

MELINDA SCHMIDT breeds and shows Corgis and to best of my knowledge only Corgi breeder locally. Abuse of current permit is rampant. People told all over town if you want to keep dog intact, get a permit. This past weekend a family showed up at local handling class. A mom, dad, 3 kids each with a dog. When asked why are you showing your dog, lady replied to get my permit. One was an unaltered rescue dog, when asked why it was not altered she responded that it has papers. She had already bred one of the males. She had one of the pups there to qualify for permit. She is doing this to get permit. Using permit to legitimize what we are trying to stop. We need to close loopholes. I have worked hard. My family has bred for years. I worked hard when I decided to show. I went to clubs and learned how to handle and followed proper procedures to breed. It is financially difficult and has a great deal of respect for that permit. I worked hard and saw a person doing what it is supposed to prevent. Any day of week there are hundreds of ads, how many are showing and how many have permits. Called a Corgi breeder, said he has been doing for 15 years. Is not showing. There are only 2. He is not one of them. DM – if you can give

me address I will send an officer by. CNE do you want show or breeder? MC no breeding permit – they keep putting the word breed in there so it sticks in their mind. No, I am against the breeding ends of all this. I rarely breed. Breeding not a good thing

8. Information-sharing by Committee Members

CNE would like to visit director of shelter and see what biggest problems are and has a survey she would like to send out to all the vets in CC. Have seen rise of resistant infection should scare all of you. She wants to send out to see if they are seeing new things and questions about s/n and what age they recommend. Ask if they offer low cost s/n programs. If you would like to add questions, we can send it out.

TP – had to renew license plate for his vehicle on Tuesday. When the clerk saw my registration, she said, “I see you have one of these too. I just got my daughter to get one. I wish I knew where that money went.” So I told her who I was, about this committee, what the money goes to. By the time we got through, she was overwhelmed. She was going to share info with her coworkers. Can’t have too many people beating drum. TP – if vehicle registered in CC it goes to Clark County.

JOE – license plate. We have been working with Harold Vosko. For the next County Critters we will highlight the plate to show where the money goes, how they can access HCW or LVVHS and GR rescue. CNE – rescue groups w/o 501c3 seems a new rescue group every two groups. Do they have to register with you? TP 501c3 registers with state but not county. NV dog fanciers guide new book in July/August and you can advertise. CNE – generally breeds. Are rescue groups monitored at all, do you check to see if there are really rescues? DM there are no regs regarding them. They can have 3 dogs providing they are giving proper care. Could open up a rescue when I go home and another one next week. Even the 501c3 if you jump through the hoops.

KEN SONDEJ – a lot of people can’t qualify or won’t go through the expense. There are hoops you have to jump through to get and maintain. When you apply for these vouchers you must supply this to AC to even qualify to put in a request for funds.

TP – best program we have no matter how small it is. What are you doing to try to get more personnel from the county commission? DM - We received one additional person. A lot through the efforts of past members of committee and humane orgs who have gone down and told CC that we need more. TP do they have meetings? DM - this happens at the annual budget hearings where we have had past committee members or humane group members attend. CNE when is the meeting? DM meeting in May 19 at 10 a.m. in commission chambers.

JB if we have more people bringing in more animals, shelters will be full. DM is there likely to be an increase. Conceivably, not a bad thing if they are running loose, causing a threat to the public, 7 days a week, 14 officers. On a shift if we have 3 officers on duty we are lucky. TP stuff goes unnoticed or undone because there isn’t the manpower

9. Comments by the General Public

BRUCE HALSTAD – restraining animals in back seat, would like to see ordinance passed. It was tabled but never brought back. DM committee tabled it. TP lets bring it up for discussion on next meeting.

KAREN LAYNE – Wag A Tail Walk A Thon on April 6 - registration form.

MIKE CONNELL newspaper out on desk is an up and coming national press. Ken helps write legislative info; inside cover is a place for subscriptions or ads; very informative by one of the top dog show people.

GINA GRIESON – clarification on a cruelty issue. She was told leaving dog in a garage through the summer is not considered cruelty. It is shelter as long as they have food and water. Last summer we fostered 8 puppies. One of the dogs was adopted to a young girl. They named him Lucky and he lives in a garage. Was disappointed he was going to be an outdoor dog. We drove by and brought him a bunch of toys. He lives in a garage, stuck his head out of the garage door. My daughter was hysterical to see his head sticking out and doesn't get human contact. Is it cruelty? Can we do something about that? DM we can investigate situation, difficulty becomes we can't see into garage to establish that animal doesn't have access to come and go or is not cooled. If we go out and see it is cruel we can obtain a search warrant and take action. We would try to contact owner so it is not in an unclimated-controlled situation. Give us address and we will send someone out. DM always call AC for info on how calls are handled.

10. Set date, time and agenda of next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for April 24,2008 at 6:30 p.m. at the Paradise Community Center.

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.