

CLARK COUNTY ANIMAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
DESERT BREEZE COMMUNITY CENTER
8275 SPRING MOUNTAIN ROAD, Town Board Conference Room
Las Vegas, Nevada
September 11, 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 6:38 p.m.

2. Approval of agenda

A motion to approve the agenda was made and seconded.

3. Approval of June 19, 2008 Minutes

A motion to approve the agenda was made and seconded

4. Amendment to Title 10 of the Clark County Code concerning the Managed Care of Feral Cats

Motion to approve and bring to County Commission. TP – opposed. Motion carries.

5. Amendment to Title 10.08.130 of the Clark County Code to Regulate the Ownership of Unsterilized Dogs and Cats

Tabled until next meeting

6. Approval of Application for Spay/Neuter Funds

Heaven Can Wait and We Care For Animals petitioning for APL funds. Currently have \$6,156 available. We Care asked for \$4,000; HCW \$10,000. HAROLD VOSKO, yesterday we did 68 s/n. Next week probably do 100; 2 Sundays ago, did 273 in one day. We are on pace to do between 7000 and 8000. Anything we can get helps us. We have gotten over \$30,000 from vouchers last year and we did 8100 s/n. Only way we can do it. AR – give whole thing to HCW. Motion made to give all monies to HCW. Motion approved and seconded.

Would like to see We Care at next meeting

7. Information-sharing by Committee Members

None

8. Comments by the General Public

JAN SLANKARD (JAN) – from Sandy Valley here to ask Board to do something for the victims of dog barking. We have a terrible issue, renter moved in with 12 dogs, bark from 4:30 a.m. to midnight, which makes every other dog in neighborhood bark. Landlord said she was cited for the number of dogs, not the noise. She is down to 6 but still a mess. After 2 ½ months we are starting over. Asking for something for victims on the site. Complaints put in electronically rather than phone calls to system. Video has been taken. We have logs and video to go to court. Is there anything for victims of dog barking? DAVE MARCH (DM) – difficulty with accepting video evidence is inability to testify when it was taken. We have to witness barking to establish the problem. It is very difficult to establish. We see snap shot in time. If dog doesn't bark, we don't observe violation. We go out once. If no barking it is referred to mediation to work out issues. If unsuccessful, we request criminal complaint packet be filled out by person who is disturbed by barking and ask DA to prosecute. JAN one of the supervisors was there and did take the tape and the log and at this point in the process of being forwarded to DA. The video is time and date stamped. But 2 ½ months of nothing is distressing to be on receiving end of that. One of the things I have done was to write an article for the Sandy Valley paper that will appear next month about what a dog owner can do to discourage barking. Why could some of that not be available? I got it off of the Internet. I am sure I am not alone. DM – will give business card and give me a call. JAN – do you have a website with info on how to file a complaint. There is an FAQ page (DM) we can work on it to expand.

KEITH WILLIAMS is in favor of feral cat ordinance. On the verge of a significantly larger problem than we already have. TNR method has been proven effective. There is no guarantee.

COMMISSIONER GIUNCHIGLIANI (CG) had to be convinced in meeting with various groups. This is part of a 3-legged tool. Would like to offer my offices to work with all CE to update policies and make enforceable. On the TNR, it is in 38 different jurisdictions. Not answer to everything. Bring to light individuals who are caretakers. They will do it to take care of the animals. They have every opportunity to walk away and have chosen not to. S/N vaccinate and re-release. We cannot kill our way out of the situation. This is the most humane way to deal with feral cats. One component. Would love to work with people to better educate students. Channel 4 should have regular education pieces. Bring caretakers out so they are not fearful and begin to shrink population. Will be before commission next week. Apologize for not bringing it before this Committee. Thank you to all who have educated me. First step is to start with urban core and not in the rural counties. We never wanted this in wildlife areas. I am going to suggest that no cat colonies can be established in a forest, a wetland, etc. Hopefully that will take care of the most issues. Overwhelmingly it has been supported.

JB – we are requiring sponsors to spay. Understand there will be grants. Who handles money? CG – Maddie's fund will provide education. They prefer to work with no kill. Individuals that are currently paying will continue to do so. Jana from her office assisted HCW with the 273 cats that were s/n. They will be working together. We have 10-20 years of fighting. Not enough money but I pledge to work with other organizations. Voucher system should be revamped – doesn't cover s/n. Don't have an answer but will do whatever I can.

BRUCE HALSTEAD – there is nothing in here that says they are vaccinated. There needs to be some kind of record. Microchipping with special code or record so we see when cat was last vaccinated so duplication is avoided.

GINA GREISON- cats are there, multiplying, not vaccinated. People feeding cats and not sterilizing are perpetuating the problem. We had 25 cats reproducing, elderly couple was feeding cats. Momma cat was bringing kittens into their backyards. Neighbors got upset and got the cages. HCW did all the cats when they did the s/n clinic. Neighbors complained that cats were

brought back. I contribute my time and energy to make a difference. They are territorial. If killed, more will come in and will start cycle all over. No new kittens have come into our neighborhood. Only 1 new cat came in.

MIKE CONNELL, 6105 E. CAREY – could be useful to CC as long as the funding comes in and CC not get stuck with it and AC over burdened.

KAREN LAYNE, LVVHS– we tried to talk to AC and got nowhere. Applaud Commissioner for bringing item up. I pay taxes and the way we handle it is not working. Put down over 100,000 in the last ten years just because they are cats. 2007 brought in over 23,000 cats; 17,000 were considered stray, don't know how many are feral. In 2008 for the first 6 months, 12,000 cats were impounded and of those 2,500 kittens and 9,000 cats have been euthed. 13% of cats coming in have a chance of being adopted; 19% of kittens. Paying about \$80 per animal coming in We can spend much better by s/n and keeping with caretakers. We will have a better chance of stopping over population than what we are doing now. AC comes and tells them to stoop feeding animals. They will not stop.

SHANNON IPPOLITO, Commissioner made valid points, would benefit community to s/n. Caution committee we do care about the animals we have. Don't want to see responsible ones hurt.

TARA PIKE, Volunteer for LVVHS, trap cats for TNR. Does not like spending time trapping animals to get fixed and re-released and find out that someone else down street is trapping to kill and I have to start all offer. Trapped mostly 60 males near Boulevard mall and people I was trapping for would not let me leave traps. I sat in my car and waited. AC came 2 weeks later and told women to stop feeding. So they started feeding at 3 a.m. They wouldn't let me come anymore. Population is out of control. I missed 3 females. Needs to be allowed w/o being threatened by AC or neighbors.

SHIRLEY BRAVERMAN, Dir of SOS and we have been trapping feral cats. Teach colony caretakers how to handle cats and neighbors. We are responsible people. We have 300 traps and will not put where people will steal them. Deal with cat lovers. TNR has saved money in other areas. Because legal we can educate community. Oral rabies vaccine released soon. Audubon Society remains neutral on TNR. Would like to return monies from APL. JOE B – will look at what needs to be done to return money.

HAROLD VOSKO – 8 years ago didn't know what a feral cat was. First year we studied. Four things you can do with Feral cat, nothing, relocate, trap and euthanize, TNR. As a society, that is the only humane thing that can come out of it. Once a month we do a free s/n for everyone that traps. Over 200 get done when we done this. All the groups work together. 12 Veterinarians volunteer.

MYRA GLASSMAN has several problems with ordinance. No provision is made to deal with feces and urine from cats. Nuisance value in terms of odors and disease spread. As a physician, every day we discover new Zoonotic infections that can be transmitted from species to human beings and can exist in soil for years. Water supply cannot kill all the organisms. Another organism endemic in cats is toxoplasmosis. If we develop, we get mild flue. Pregnant women will either abort or have a baby with birth defects. Can give a list of 11 most common infections. This info comes from North American Veterinary Conference. Toxoplasmosis, Giardia and Cryptosporidiosis exist here and we have positive tests from Lake Mead with several instances documented this year by Health Department.

CHERYL PIERMARINI is in favor of TNR because I do on my own. Could use all the help I can get.

CE – if you understand litter box, you understand TNR. Applauds Commissioner.

TP - show of hands for people in support, 2 opposed, most for.

9. Set date, time and agenda of next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for October 9, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. at the Mountain Crest Community Center.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m.