

**CLARK COUNTY ANIMAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES**  
**MOUNTAIN CREST COMMUNITY CENTER**  
**4701 N. DURANGO, Town Board Conference Room**  
**Las Vegas, Nevada 89129**  
**October 9, 2008**  
**6:30 p.m.**

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

**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 September 11, 2008 Minutes**

A motion to approve the agenda was made and seconded

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

DAVE MARCH (DM) read proposed changes.

JB notes that most of the comments were from those not in favor of this ordinance. TP – about a year and a half ago, we tried a s/n ordinance and at that time I asked for anyone with any ideas to come up with something. Nothing came up and this ordinance is patterned after the North Las Vegas ordinance enacted a few months ago. Has this been working for NLV? DM – it is so new they don't have a lot of statistical information. They are enforcing but it will take some time before they have any statistical info. JB – Karen Layne and I brought a change and were told it would be difficult to be enforced so was not brought forth. DM – the ordinance referred to actually dealt with the sale of animals and was substantially different from this ordinance. TP – we need something to stop all the killing. We need everybody to be responsible.

MIKE CONNELL is against early s/n, 3 to 6 months is unnecessary. No provision is made for free or low cost s/n for low-income families or senior citizens. Against his constitutional rights to own private property and to take care of as he sees fit. HSUS and PETA do not want us to own animals in any form. Vets know when they s/n early in life, they will have long term medical problems.

KEN SONDEJ submitted a list of cities that tried and had to stop because of impossibility of enforcement. Euthanization across the nation went up 47 to 71 percent. Costs for counties and cities increased from 50 to 387 percent. Costs are astronomical to enforce. Educational program needs to exist for general populace. S/n should be between client and vet, not decided by a

politician who is trying to buy votes. No policy for low cost of free s/n for people of low income.

Will force people to turn over their animals and you will have more animals killed in the shelter. Education is the answer. Unless county is coming up with monies for low cost or free s/n, this should not even be considered.

BRUCE HALSTEAD is against this. It discriminates against therapy dogs.

KEITH WHITLOCK wants to know the status of low cost s/n clinic. Not enough resources to enforce the laws in any meaningful way. Laws should be designed to solve problems not create more.

JOE BOTEILHO (JOE) has worked at CCAC for 28 years. NLV has done this for 5 months. No wholesale turn in for euthanasia. A lot has been said about sterilization program. County has had one since 1999 between the license plate and unredeemed impound fees and local groups, over 47,000 low cost s/n. In 2000/2001, we impounded 20,000 animals; 2007/2008 we are down to 17,800 in a time when our population has grown. If you are breeding, selling or doing any of the activities, we can force you to sterilize your pet. This will make it where if you have a fancier permit, you can engage in this activity.

LIZ ARMITAGE believes it is her right to decide whether to sterilize her animals or not. In Europe the ban on the sale of dogs and cats in pet shops has been successful. Learn from others; don't make the rules up as you go along.

KATHY ZAHN lives in NLV. There was a cover story on the View of a senior couple whose cat got out and it cost them \$1,200 to meet all the requirements of the ordinance. The ACO basically told this couple the ordinance would not be able to be enforced. They are cutting jobs. Animals are real property, are valuable, are insured and I object to anybody telling me what I can do with my real property.

SUZIE SUSTLER, owner of Suzanne's Kennel, and have been in dogs since 1963. Was a charter member of the NV dog fancier and started this to make sure we can have our show dogs. We know you have a problem with overpopulation. What I have done is give special discounts to any dog that has been s/n. I tell them it is responsible ownership but I hate to see the laws passed that prevent us from showing. This is a building block. PETA is trying to use this as a stepping-stone. They start in little towns and then move up. They want to see it nationwide. AKC will not be a part of it. There should be something that can be done without worrying about the early sterilization.

DM there is a misunderstanding. Anyone will still be able to obtain a fancier permit which will allow you to have an intact animal. \$25 for up to 6 dogs or 12 cats. You can have those animals. Can buy an intact animal and not show it until one year of age. This only goes after those people who do not or will not show their pets or engage in field trials. If you are not in those categories, you should not be breeding.

KAREN LAYNE, LVVHS, says it is her right as a taxpayer not to have her taxpayer dollars go to put down all the animals at Lied Animal Shelter. We would like to stop rescuing the huge numbers of dogs and cats we see at this time. It is a huge problem at this time. This is one solution. We provide low cost s/n for quite some time.

ZEE MARIE has spent close to \$25,000 defending her rights to have an unaltered dog. Great

Danes they don't fully mature until 3 years of age. There needs to be some explicit wording as to what qualifies you as a dog fancier. Agree about constitutional rights, about reasons for s/n. Cannot show in AKC agility unless dog is 15 months old.

DEBORAH MASTER, DVM, most dogs relinquished to the shelter are not s/n. Early ovario hysterectomy can prevent mammary cancer in dogs. Dogs not used for breeding purposes should undergo early ovario hysterectomy. Anyone who breeds their bitch cares more about selling puppies than the health and longevity of their dog. Most people do not care about the overpopulation crises. Killing needs to stop.

STACIA NEUMAN thinks we are getting off track. This is about stopping mass slaughter of helpless animals. Irresponsible ownership created this and we need to step up to the plate and do something for the animals.

CHRIS GIUNCHIGLIANI - I did not sponsor this ordinance. This just brings us to closing the loopholes and we need a better definition for what a pet fancier is. It still allows for a vet determination that animal cannot be sterilized. Appears we only have 157 people who have applied for the pet fancier permit. Have a cost breakdown from Lied that from January to July of this year \$257,431.71 was spent to put animals down. We have to have low cost or no cost s/n. We can brainstorm to raise some of that revenue. Has to be part of our priority. Education is the key. Lied is in the planning process for a low cost s/n clinic. We need to stop puppy mills. We need to be responsible pet owners and need to educate others. Work together to better define pet fanciers and involve school children.

LUCY BOBECK heard a lot of folks against mandatory s/n talking about their rights. I care about animals. They are not chairs and tables. They are living breathing creatures. Would like all the people against mandatory s/n to go look at the freezer at Lied and see what is there.

ALEX STOKES states animals are our property. Have run animal clinics in the military. We strive for the betterment of the pets. My dogs don't even come into their own until 3 years of age so we can't compete until then. Had 3 litters in the last 6 years.

AL CASTANEDA would like the ordinance renamed to the antipooch ordinance. They are not just pets. They are like my kids. About the only logical thing to do is to work on the low cost or no cost s/n program. Inspecting our homes is a violation of the 4<sup>th</sup> amendment.

PIETER deBEER believes the big problem is education of the public. We need to run TV ads and take the TV cameras to the shelter. The general public do not understand what is going on. They need to be confronted by this on a regular basis. Take the kids from school to the shelter.

HAROLD VOSKO, HCW, has been rescuing animals for almost 9 years. Quote from Joseph Stalin, "One death is a tragedy, a million deaths is a statistic." That is what it is here every year. Over 31,000 animals die in the shelter. Answering the phones you hear tragedy after tragedy after tragedy. We are all here acting like we love animals and yet 31,000 die every year and we say it like it is nothing. We as humans have not done a good job for the 4-legged ones. We need a low cost s/n clinic. Between us and LVVHS, we have s/n over 10,000 a year for the last 3 years. If Lied comes on board, we can maybe get a better handle on it. We are trying to get a high volume s/n clinic built. That is what works. There is nothing here that says it is wrong to have unaltered pets. You have to have a law that says it is wrong to have litter, after litter, after litter. We go into unfortunate areas and offer to s/n for free and they say, "No, why should I?" We need a hammer to publicly state it is wrong.

DAVID HENDERSON, DVM, a responsible breeder already has a permit and therefore none of this applies to them. Those worried about the age of sterilization, if you have a signed statement from your vet you don't have to worry about that. Regarding animals destroyed every year, I see the people that cause the problem every single day and try to educate them. It goes in one ear and out the other, as they are absolutely sure they are not part of the problem. Something has to be on the books defining a responsible pet owner. Without a law on the books, people don't realize they are doing something wrong.

JUDY ERICKSON goes out in the trenches every day offering free s/n. Mostly deal with irresponsible pet owner. Three recent examples where we offered free s/n and shots: in one of the mobile home parks, refused to have it done and now they have 8 puppies and want them all s/n. Another lady from the mobile home park initially had one cat, it was let out and by the time she got out of the hospital, she had 5 female kittens. We took 15 kittens from her, spaying all 6 adult females, 4 of which were pregnant. Another park someone said I took two male puppies from a litter of 12. We have advertised; they know who we are, management does not support us. We can't keep absorbing that. There is a limit. We can't keep taking them, the shelter can't keep taking them. We are overflowing with kittens.

TARA PIKE thinks if you have a business and are a breeder with a pet fancier license, you are not affected. If you were breeding puppies, why wouldn't you want your low-ball competition out of the picture? I would want the people selling puppies for \$100 on Craig's list to have to have a license. You are perpetuating the breed in a good way and they are doing it in a bad way and low-balling you. We have to pay for the housing, cremation of these animals. Think this is a good thing. AC will be going into places where they already have a complaint, they will issue a citation and person will have to comply. It is not a bad thing. Another tool to reduce the overpopulation problem.

HOLLY STOBERSKI is also with HCW. No ordinance will satisfy everyone. The purpose of this ordinance is to hold irresponsible pet owners, backyard breeders, who don't care about where the litters end up. This is meant to allow enforcement to have something to use to stop people who are indiscriminating breeding their animals.

LAURA ANDERSON volunteers with LVVHS. We had a \$20,000 grant from PetSmart a few years ago. Most of the people we spoke to said no, we want to sell the puppies. We will do it later after we have sold some litters. Without a law, they won't do it.

REX FOGLEMAN breeds show dogs. This ordinance will hurt breeders of show dogs. We sell and show our dogs. If not show quality we sell as a pet. If we have show dogs, we have no room to rescue our own dogs and place them in good homes and now you are putting more dogs into the pound. Has the utmost respect for HCW and Best Friends. They do wonderful jobs for the animals. Don't like my government regulating what I can and can't do. As long as I am a responsible breeder, I take care of my dogs no matter where they are. Don't trust government and don't want increased government. Trust veterinarians. We should have rights.

DM – existing language already limits the number of dogs a pet fancier has to 6. There is no change in the numbers. If anyone has more than 6 dogs over 1 year of age, they are in violation of the law already. If a pet is retired and they are too old or infirm, a vet letter suffices. There are still senior matches that you can put your dog into. There is a subcommittee that is supposed to come back with recommendations to make it better. We are waiting for those recommendations. There is an attempt to close some of those loopholes to better define show. Another side is working dogs, if they are working a ranch, they can keep them unaltered. We are not looking to

change legitimate activities but are trying to target the ones causing the problem. We really just want to address the backyard breeders.

BARBARA McCULLOUGH has been involved in support and care of dogs for many years. The problem for us as breeders and fanciers is we know the agenda of some of the organizations out there. That is why we fight tooth and nail against these ordinances because we don't want someone to come along in 10 years and say we can't breed dogs at all. We are afraid of what will come down the road. In the 70's, there was a huge education campaign for s/n and responsible pet ownership. We are a throw away society, includes our animals as well as our cell phones. The education worked. The numbers went down. I educate and try to scare people who want to breed their dogs and sometimes it works and sometimes it doesn't. Ultimately it comes down to taking our rights away one step at a time. I propose we look into getting word out about low cost s/n.

MYRA LEE GLASSMAN supports this ordinance. We have something called a social contract and while we have property rights they are frequently abridged because of a social contract. We have many such restrictions. Owning an animal is a privilege not a right. Part of the social contract dictates under what conditions we can own an animal. I am also concerned about our constitutional rights; however, we do have restrictions of those rights when they affect other people. You have restrictions on what you can do with your house, what you can do with your children, and we should have restrictions on what we can do with our animals. Don't think this is a problem. The ordinance is quite clear. I belong to a group on Yahoo where people post animals, supplies, etc. with a lot of education on this site. However, we have had several people who had to be expelled because they repeatedly posted litters of puppies and kittens. They weren't educated by our education and unfortunately they are not alone. We need to get control of the backyard breeders.

CYNTHIA LAISE volunteers her time with humane orgs. When you own an animal, part of the cost of being responsible, s/n is just part of it. The people who can't make that commitment shouldn't have the animal. People who breed indiscriminately are making a buck and are not dealing with the clean up and it is heart wrenching. Every time this comes up, they are adamantly opposed to this type of ordinance yet they are not involved in the clean up. They don't volunteer and help with the overpopulation and see the heartbreak that goes with it. If the law doesn't work, amendments can be added. We need to do something now.

LaNORE FOGELMAN breeds and sells dogs but also does rescue. One of the problems as a breeder I have is when we do rescue, it changes all our numbers. I go down to the shelter and many of us breeders do but can't do it upfront because our numbers don't match. We hide dogs. We do rescue and we do volunteer and we do help out.

RAOUL CASTRIAN is for this law. The reason we are here is we love animals. Bottom line is you breed; they die. I know people who go to any length to save animals. This is their passion. Do what is right for the animals. Euthanasia rate is higher here than anywhere. It has been tried and worked. If we truly care for these animals, we need to pass this.

KATHY ZAHN said if shelter gave us exact euthanasia statistics, animals that were euthanized that were actually place able. If people understood that all 31,000 were place able that would be something. I support HWC but if they are going to homes, offering to s/n, is AC following them? How do I get a breakdown of the euthanasia? DM – info is on the web but not broken down according to place able or not. Enforcement of HCW on door-to-door efforts, as ordinance currently stands there must be a violation for us to respond.

KAREN LAYNE has statistics. Not all of the euthanized animals were ill. Our statistics for the entire valley are on our website. Under the current statute, there is nothing we can do.

BRUCE HALSTEAD is uncomfortable with s/n because it affects their health. He wants you to come up with a medical fancier license. We need more animals for research in detecting cancer in people.

KEN SONDEJ talked about an ordinance in the East that is partially enforced. Any kind of mandatory thing will only affect the responsible people. You will never find the irresponsible people unless you go door to door. Western States sent a letter with their position letter with education included.

AMY PONG agrees s/n at 3 months of age is wrong. This is going to be hard to enforce. When you make laws, responsible people follow the laws. I don't think you are going to gain any ground. Education is the key. Work both ends of the problem. Educate the public in any way we can. Anyone associated with distributing animals should go out and educate the public. Let them know the traits of the animals. Don't need more laws that will hurt responsible people.

MYRA LEE GLASSMAN suggests a provision be put in for pet fanciers that if you take in a rescue dog for a temporary period, it should be allowed under this. Allow foster dogs without including in the count. Concerned with passing laws that won't be enforced for lack of manpower. If the commission is going to pass this ordinance, they need to provide the personnel to enforce it.

JOE - Education until we are blue in the face from educating kindergarteners to having a show on Channel 4 that runs 100 times a day and 8 public service messages that mainstream doesn't want to hear. Early sterilization is the standard down to 6 weeks. Nothing leaves the shelter unless it is sterilized. Fertile animals out there you can have as many as you like with fancier permit, breed them if you are within permit. There are a lot of people breeding and selling animals. Enforcement works. If we don't see, hear or smell it, we don't care about it. Violators are getting prosecuted. People come to us with lemon law problems, with animals running loose, someone got bit or mauled, and these are the animals we go after. If you are a responsible breeder, you can continue to do it. Can you ensure that every one of those animals coming from the offspring don't contribute to the deaths? There are an awful lot of purebred animals at the shelter.

MARLA LINDSAY used a service dog for 18 years. Has vascular necrosis and if not for my service dog, I would not be here today. I am concerned about enforcement. The people who will disregard these laws don't care. Would like to see a reward system. People will come forward.

## **5. Information-sharing by Committee Members**

CE would like to thank everyone who came here to speak on both sides. My problem is the people who are not responsible. People get freaked out when we say mandatory. There are options here. I am not against responsible breeding. This is not aimed at responsible people. If they have trouble affording s/n, they cannot afford a dog. If you have a problem with the age requirement, get a permit. There are options. Why can't we have the RJ or Craig's list be regulated in selling dogs?

BY hates more laws. Believes the majority of people are responsible. You are not the ones that have brought about the need for this. Agree that 3 months might be too young. I believe there is an option. You should be getting your first set of vaccinations and the vet could sign off and give you an extension. We should look at ways to help those fostering. I am in favor of this. There is a great need. We have to have a tool to deal with the population.

JB appreciates that this ordinance will not solve everything. I support this. What we are doing isn't working.

AR believes we have a serious overpopulation problem. The problem is with the greater majority of the public who show irresponsibility and don't care are laws. If we choose to make it mandatory, we should choose to pay for the s/n. It is a combination of the two, either they don't care or they can't afford it. We need to accommodate the legitimate breeders and current ordinances don't help or protect them. We want to make the irresponsible people responsible and help legitimate breeders to continue their mission.

JR stated the American Vet Medical Assn has endorsed early s/n. I have been in the trenches for years and assure you I have seen some pretty horrible mutilation. Go to the shelter when they have to kill hundreds of healthy little babies. We have laws against drunk driving, beating your wife or husband, speeding. They are not enforceable either but when caught they are enforced. The same strategy applies here. For every \$1 spent for s/n, \$3 is saved in animal control costs. Compassion is not radical. The killing of over 30,000 animals a year in Clark County is radical.

TP asked who in the audience thought they were part of the problem. There are ways we all contribute to the problem. He doesn't see anything that will hurt the people here tonight. If it helps to keep even 10 percent of them from dying by keeping them from being born, we have to have something like this. We can change it if we find something that doesn't work. If there is no law, you can't do anything about it. You need the hammer to make people do what they should be doing. All the laws we enforce are nothing more than tools. You use different tools in different situations. If this tool doesn't work, you change the design. Legitimate people shouldn't have to worry about this.

JB wants to approve as is. CE seconds the motion. All in favor to send to BCC. BY would like to change the age to 6 months.

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

BY - There have been a few instances of possible equine abuse cases. I would like us to consider putting some sort of rescue plan in place and possibly working on a subcommittee to come up with solutions. In the last 2 months there have been 2 cases treading the line where animal control almost had to take on over 100 horses. It could be abuse, neglect, natural disasters, pregnant mares and babies. Don't think we are prepared to deal with it. JOE – Commissioner Collins has asked that I meet and talk with the Horse Council to advise them. I can invite those experts here if you have a discussion.

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

The next meeting was set for Thursday, December 4, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. at the Hollywood Recreation Center.

## **8. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.