

CLARK COUNTY ANIMAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Sunset Park Administration Conference Room

2601 E. Sunset Road

Las Vegas, Nevada 89120

December 30, 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 December 4, 2008 Minutes

A motion to approve the Minutes was made and seconded.

4. Appeal of Vicious Animal Declaration: Stephanie Smith, 8075 Rancho Destino, Las Vegas, NV 89123

ROBERT ADAMS (RA) doesn't know what happened. Dog is the sweetest dog in the world, very well trained. Had gotten in neighbor's yard before and I fixed the whole in the fence. If I had known there was a hole in the fence, I would have fixed it. Dog is 3 and neutered. JB – what kind of fence is on the property? On his side, it is like chicken wire weaved through trees and on my side it is metal wiring all the way around. I couldn't touch his trees so I couldn't do anything with the fence. Landlord stated 10 years ago, they had dogs coming onto his yard. These people are out to get us off the property. Found a place in the fence where it looked like it had been snipped. I wasn't there. I was in Texas. CE – gray female and black/white male, correct. RA -Yes the female is a stray that had been coming around. She had left the property for a week, took off and then came back. CE there are accounts of previous incursions onto the property. RA they mentioned something twice before. Her black poodle comes through the fence quite often. It fits through the fence. JR – the owner of the horses' testimony is not the same as yours. They state your dogs dug regularly under the fence. RA – I did train them to stop. Their dogs would come to the fence whenever they were outside. Their dog comes through the fence and my dog chases it off the property. I have 3 dogs, one was a puppy but it is gone now. TP – have you talked to the people since this happened. Have you made any attempt at restitution? RA – I have not gone over there. JR – what this dog has done is horrific. Seems that he has a killer instinct. CE – how much does the dog weigh? RA - he is about 50 or 60 lbs. CE yet the horse weighs about 1,200 lbs. So that is like me taking on a UFC boxer. You have to be either crazy or aggressive to do that and it was on their property. RA - their horses hang their head on our property all the time. My dogs were there before and they would sit and stare at the horses. CE – have you ever owned or been around horses? RA – yes my aunt has rare horses in Orange County. AR – how would you make it possible for this not to happen again? Based on what I see, there is not a lot of security for those horses. RA – they removed the horses from the property. I went out there trying to cut down the trees and put up a fence. JR – the picture of your dog seems to show numerous puncture

wounds on his body. Why is that? RA – he plays rough with our other dog. AR – do you keep your dogs in a kennel. RA – they are usually inside with someone. Grew up in Alaska and my dad raised dog sled teams. Been around them since I was 6 years old and had to know how to handle them. JB report indicates they called Metro several times and referred to AC. AC said as long as the dogs were on their property, there was nothing they could do. How do people protect themselves in these circumstances? DM – provided the dogs are off their property, they can take reasonable means to protect themselves and others on their property, including shooting the dogs. If there was no violation that we could establish, we can't issue a citation for a violation we didn't see. If witness statements are filled out and people are willing to go to court, we can prosecute.

TP if we uphold this declaration, you have the option to appeal to the District Court. DM read the definition of a vicious animal. JR - we are chagrined any time we have to decide an animal should be put down but I feel this dog has a high predatory instinct so vote to uphold vicious. CE by definition of law, this dog is vicious and to inflict this kind of damage on a much larger animal, I cannot go against the law. AR votes for dangerous. JB upholds vicious, as does TP. Dog is declared vicious.

5. Information-sharing by Committee Members

CE – is there a way to follow up on compliance, especially on the last case. DM - they have their permit, the animal is sterilized, microchipped and they have insurance and we have had no complaints. There are annual renewal inspections.

6. Comments by the General Public

MYRA LEE GLASSMAN M.D. – do you issue a citation when the animal is declared vicious? DM – no, this action can result in the animal being euthanized. We cannot prosecute and euthanize. MG would like to urge study and action on the dangerous/vicious animals. Declarations are not issued until after someone is hurt seriously. Can anything be done to prevent these situations? I am asking you to brainstorm. Other than losing the animal, I think the owners need to be punished for harboring and/or not containing so we should look at something that will slap them in the wallet good and hard so they don't go out and get another animal of the same kind. Beseech you to visit this issue and make recommendations to the County Commission. DM – we do issue citations for dangerous animals in cases where it doesn't meet the vicious level. Those are adjudicated in court but we do not set fines. MG – courts in the past have not been very helpful and would like committee to come up with recommendations for the BCC. People are afraid to go to the dog parks any more. They are afraid because of attacks and I don't know the answer. With all the talk about s/n compulsory, there are basically no low cost s/n in this town and for senior citizens with whom I place animals I rescue, we are talking about \$200 and up. If we are going to mandate then someone needs to come up with the funding. The cheapest is through HCW and that costs \$115 and for a lot of our senior citizens, that is a hardship. Urge you to look for funding. License plate funds are going to non-profits and they are not providing free s/n for anything other than a big dog. My people are being told the funding is being used for a large dog they need to go to a vet. Maintenance of dog parks is another issue. Was at Desert Breeze about a month ago and it is not being maintained so it is a dust bowl with feces all over the place. Why are there dog parks if they are not being maintained? DM – that is a Parks & Recreation issue and neither animal control nor the Committee has any control over that. TP – feel free to complain to Parks & Rec people

MIKE CONNELL (MC) on vicious dog law could there be an addendum added that if you own a dog deemed vicious and has to be euthanized that you not be allowed to own a domestic dog for up to 5 years? 99 percent of the vicious dogs are due to an irresponsible owner. DM we would have to check with the DA's office on the infringement of their right to own property. CE – would like declaration of vicious owner. If some people are having trouble with \$115 for s/n maybe they should reconsider owning a pet. If you don't value procedure, you don't value animal. At some point you have to have

a value placed on the animal's life.

MG – I am not trying to get private vets to give anything away nor saying that everyone has a right to have a pet. Place with seniors because of documentation that it is good for senior as well as animal. Most of the seniors are not looking for a handout. I would rather see them spending the money on getting shots and regular vet care for the animal. DM there is the opportunity for a 501C3 centered on senior issues. Lots of advocacy groups for seniors who could start a program and get some of that license plate money.

MC – Mr. and Mrs. Joe Schmuck have one dog, 6 years old, 50 lbs., shots up, when in season, she is diapered. Cannot afford extra money to have spay done. But walking down street, AC sees, gives citation, done within 90 days or they lose the dog. Where do they get the money?

JR – we have people call and are told on a regular basis they have no vouchers available. MC – you do feral cats. JR we are always open to any hardship case. DM perhaps maybe Mike can bring someone who can share their difficulties or just call LVVHS and speak to Karen Layne or Judith and see what they can do. MC – have senior citizens calling our hotline crying, asking what can we do. I tell them don't let dog out of the yard. If AC comes, pick your dog up and run in the house. JR neither HSUS nor NVSPCA are involved in providing the services. CE invites Mike to come down to the clinics where some of the vets donate to help the animals. JR, CE – we really want to help the animals and the people but we don't have an unlimited source of money. MG the point I am making is if we are going to mandate s/n, we need to find a way to pay for it. TP – in November we gave away \$14,000 to 2 different outfits. A senior outfit can come in and get some of that money.

7. Set date, time and agenda of next meeting

It will be set after the new Committee is voted on and put in place.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.