

CLARK COUNTY ANIMAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Paradise Community Center
4775 McLeod Drive, Town Board Conference Room
Las Vegas, Nevada 89121

April 2, 2009

6:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: ENGSTROM, CLARISSA NELSON (CE)
 PENNEY, JANNICE (JP)
 PRIBBLE, SARAH (SP)
 SANTORO, CAROL (CS)
 STOBERSKI, HOLLY (HS)

1. **Call to order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m.

2. **Approval of agenda**

A motion to approve the agenda was made and seconded.

3. **Approval of February 5, 2009 Minutes**

A motion to approve the minutes was made and seconded.

4. **Appeal of Vicious Animal Declaration: Abelardo Castillo-Rodriguez, 727 Plantain Lily, Las Vegas, NV 89183**

ABELARDO CASTILLO (AC) – my dog doesn't bite anybody or run away. I didn't renew license. CE your dog was already declared dangerous. DAVE MARCH (DM) in 2007 after the dog was running loose and bit two different people on two separate occasion and on a third occasion was running loose and impounded, it was taken to the shelter. He was cited and required to obtain a permit. Permit was not renewed. We did get a report dog was running loose but did not find it running loose. Contacted the owner but did not obtain cooperation from the owner. We were required to obtain a search warrant to seize the dog for failing to maintain the permit and keeping it in an enclosure as prescribed by law. CS – why didn't you renew your permit? AC I didn't receive a notice. CS- do you send out a reminder. DM – yes, Roseanne Conforto sends out renewal notices monthly about upcoming expiration dates for all fancier and dangerous permits. AC – I did not get it. It is expired. CE – it is the law. HS - Can you explain the options if the Committee approves this. DM your options are to uphold what Animal Control has decided or keep it dangerous. If you uphold Animal Control, he can seek an attorney for a stay order from the court, get a hearing and then a judge will decide whether we made the right decision. You could call it dangerous and he would have to obtain a permit. We attempted to straighten this out with him prior to declaring it vicious. JP - When you have an animal deemed dangerous, you follow guidelines, locked gates, muzzling. DM it has to be kept in an enclosure beside the perimeter fence, a kennel with a cover or in the house. When he walks the dog it would need to be muzzled. SP Initially it is your responsibility as the owner to renew this for how long? DM every year until the dog expires. JP – You say you didn't know this but knew the first year. AC the first year I got the insurance, gates, the muzzle. JP - You just acknowledged a moment ago that you received notice from Clark County. SP - On the initial paperwork does it state that it is until the dog expires? Is that known on paper that even if you don't receive the notice it is up to you to renew it? DM there are no provisions for the animal to become not dangerous. Once it has been deemed dangerous, it is always dangerous. You can see a picture of the dog standing at the gate with a garbage can propped up against the gate. We usually see

that when someone is trying to keep the dog in. The animal is not being kept in an enclosure as required. CE – did you know that Animal Control was trying to contact you. AC – first time he asked if my dog was running around. The cops came down; they came to my house saying my dog was running. After that he came and said your dog was running around. CS – have you taken your dog to any obedience classes? AC – PetSmart. DM – if you uphold Animal Control's declaration of vicious, the dog would be held for ten days before it was put down. The animal was impounded on March 10, 2009, the date of the warrant. HS - Does the owner still have the right to go to Lied and visit? DM – we discourage it because it creates prolonged separation anxiety in the dog. The dog tends not to eat. If left alone, the animal will acclimate which is better in the long run. The dog bit two people but was loose on three occasions. We have two previous bites on file which caused the dangerous declaration. The third occasion when the dog was running at large resulted in the vicious declaration. JP - If we vote the animal dangerous, can we set time limit for complying. DM – animal would not be released from the shelter until he has the permit. CS believes you got a second chance. The dog bit two people; you didn't renew the permit, loose cannon if you are not abiding the law. What guarantee do we have from you that you will abide the law. How many chances are we going to give you? AC – that was long time ago when that happened. CE if he is loose, he is breaking the law. Motion to uphold decision to declare the animal vicious. Motion seconded. All members upheld decision to deem dog vicious.

5. Status of proposed Amendment to Title 10.08.130 of the Clark County Code to Regulate the Ownership of Unsterilized Dogs and Cats approved by AAC on October 9, 2008

DM – we are working to increase capacity for low cost spay/neuter, which was one of the issues in October. We are working to help Heaven Can Wait. Lied Animal Shelter's capacity will be increasing very soon when their spay/neuter clinic comes on line. Once capacity is there we will be in a better position to take before the County Commission.

6. Information-sharing by Committee Members

HS - Do we know if the Commissioner has put together the group discussing title 10 yet? DM – there have been a couple meetings of the initial group that consists of Dr. Engstrom, Carol Santoro, myself and the Commissioner to lay out an overview. The next step is to invite those members of the public who will participate. As far as I know it will come from the Commissioner's office. I am not sure about the time line.

CE – when do we get to vote on the spay/neuter license plate funds? DM – actually that program has been put on hold. I don't know when any of those monies will come back for individual grants. We are trying to increase capacity in another way. They are put on hold and not going out. We are still getting the monies from the state quarterly but we are trying to build capacity in a more sustainable way. CE – can we get a report as to how many people buy this plate per month? DM – I can check with DMV.

JP do we have to participate in the mileage reimbursement? DM – only if you fill out the paperwork.

7. Comments by the General Public

BRUCE HAALSTEAD – in the past I had a friend who had 3 timber wolves living at their home. What provisions does the county have for these vicious animals outdoors? I have seen pit bulls jump over 15ft fences. There should be a provision in the law that these animals if outdoors have a cage with enough room to move but not to go ahead and fly out of their cage. DM in this case, the dog was no longer being kept in an approved enclosure. For us the enclosure has a top and sides. There is a whole list in the code as to what an enclosure is which also includes adequate room. Outside they would have to be muzzled or in the cage. Can you provide a picture of an outside enclosure for the next meeting (BH)? Some dogs actually attack with their claws. DM – they make an enclosure and we determine if it

is adequate or not. BH – I would just like to have an idea as to what they should look like. DM – once declared vicious you cannot have the animal. The code is very specific. DM read dangerous animal provisions of code.

MIKE CONNELL – Clark County Codes can be found at the library.

JOAN BURTNETT – how was it decided not to distribute the spay/neuter funds? DM – we were requested by the County Commission to hold these funds while we try to do this. They have the say in whether the money is distributed. Right now they are looking at another method to get more sterilizations done with the same dollars. The money can only be used for sterilizations or adoptions. They are trying to gear up for more low cost sterilizations.

8. Set date, time and agenda of next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 25, 2009 at 6:30 at Paradise Community Center.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:09 p.m.