

CLARK COUNTY ANIMAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Paradise Community Center
4775 McLeod Drive, Town Board Conference Room
Las Vegas, Nevada 89121
November 19, 2009
6:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: ENGSTROM, CLARISSA NELSON (CE)
 PENNEY, JANNICE (JP)
 SANTORO, CAROL (CS)
 STOBERSKI, HOLLY (HS)
 JIMENEZ, CYNTHIA (CJ)

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m.

2. Approval of agenda

A motion to approve the agenda was made and seconded.

3. Approval of September 24, 2009 Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes was made and seconded.

4. Information-sharing by Committee Members

CE – proud CLV approved mandatory registration of breeding animals. JP – we had the LOPE (Las Vegas Outreach Program for Equines) program facilitated by Billie Young to get low cost vaccinations, microchip and brand inspections for large animals. Through community support, Shiloh, Commissioner Collins, CCAC, we had a very successful day.

5. Comments by the General Public

CRYSTAL KIMHAN runs a non-profit org called Vegas Pig Pets. Problem becoming worse and is working with zoning about backyard breeding. No one is addressing the problem of pigs. There is a loophole that says if you have one acre of land, you can keep six pigs for breeding purposes. No registration, control, licensing or vaccination requirements. Would like this to be addressed before it becomes a problem similar to the dogs and cats. They are not required to be spayed or neutered here. Sanctuaries are overflowing (pot bellied pigs). Until there is a problem, I don't hear about it. In Las Vegas, you have to register your pigs, vaccinate and have animal control inspect property. Have only met two other people who have registered their pigs in Las Vegas. Pigs can have three litters a year. In ten years, you could have 80,000 pigs. HS – does AC (Animal Control) not respond to pig issues? DAVE MARCH (DM) AC doesn't handle what you can have on your property. We address how you have it. It is the care issues we address. On smaller lots, they are required to be spayed or neutered. We don't pick up nearly as many pigs running loose. Don't know that you would be able to eliminate the breeding of pigs. Crystal now gets two calls a week about abandoned pigs, pigs walking down the road. DM – if there were a pig running loose, or abandoned or if they were not being cared for, it would be us. AC would also regulate breeding and sale of pigs in Title 10. We are tough on people who get into the business of selling animals. Crystal – most of the time they are sold in pairs because they are herd animals and when they get too big that is when it becomes a problem. The pigs I get are generally not s/n.

DR. MYRA GLASSMAN (Doc)– are there specific issues in terms of s/n pigs. CE – my pig came from Lied. I got her at 9 weeks old and spayed her at 16 weeks. Doc – for those who have been working with Chris G., we need to bring this up with her so this is included in the s/n issues. This could turn into a problem and clearly has not been dealt with. JP – large animal issues brought a pig into my life. I am on my third pig. If you understand predator/prey mentality and have the room and are willing to overlook the damages, they are awesome. Don't think we will see the same mass euthanasia we see with dogs and cats.

SUSAN RUSSELL – a farm animal such as a pig may not show up in numbers as a dog or cat. Sometimes they don't make statistics because they are slaughtered for meat.

LOU TOOMIN (LT) – follow up re insurance on vicious dog. Insurance companies can do whatever they want to do, can charge you more money if you have a dangerous dog. If AC can deem a dog vicious or dangerous, why can't they deem them not to be dangerous? With that you can go to the insurance company and get it removed. Someone has to prove that the dog is not vicious. HS – based on my dealing with insurance companies they are deemed not to be dangerous, unless they are deemed dangerous. You are asking AC to show that a dog is not dangerous. Haven't seen the settlement agreement but most say that the person paying the money does not admit wrongdoing, so I am confused as to how your dog was deemed dangerous. LT – it was deemed dangerous and my insurance premium was doubled. HS – your settlement agreement says you do not admit any liability so it shouldn't be found dangerous. Do you have a document that shows your dog was deemed dangerous? LT – I have a letter from the insurance company. HS -The only thing you can do is to file an appeal with your insurance company and have supporting documents from a veterinarian and animal behaviorist. CE – is the dog still alive? LT – no. I don't understand why they can't take the dog to AC and have them say it is not dangerous. DM – the insurance company will not cover certain breeds. AC does not make a finding that any animal is not dangerous. It creates a liability for Clark County (CC) if that dog then injures somebody that CC said is not dangerous. It is the same reason that animals that have bitten a human being are never adopted from the shelter because it is a liability to CC. In lawsuits in FL, a humane society had adopted a dog that had bitten and they were sued for several million dollars because they knew the dog was capable of biting yet they made a determination that it wouldn't bite and they were wrong. There are too many possibilities that exist out there. There are so many issues that can result in an animal being aggressive. It may like women and hate men, it may not like children. I will contact the DA's office and ask for an opinion. LT – I don't see why we should be at the mercy of insurance companies for non-valid incidents. HS – I guarantee any disputes would be subject to arbitration with your insurance company.

JAN JACKSON – LOPE program had 6 horses euthanized. Jannice and I spent the night with them at Horsemen's Park, sang to them, petted them and sang to them all night long. It was a privilege and they were taken care of the next day.

BRUCE HALSTEAD – found one of my neighbors trying to ID a dog running loose in our neighborhood. The woman is moving out of state. The animal looked like it was going to be abandoned. Dog came to me, took it to Lied, she admitted the dog was hers. CE – call AC if an animal is running loose. DM – to establish abandonment we post it for 24 hours. If we have no communication, we deem it abandoned and then seek a court order to go into the house to take it.

6. Adjournment

The next meeting is scheduled for December 10, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. at Paradise Community Center.

Meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

