

CLARK COUNTY ANIMAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Paradise Community Center
4775 McLeod Drive, Town Board Conference Room
Las Vegas, Nevada 89121
December 10, 2009
6:30 p.m.

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

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 November 19, 2009 Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes was made and seconded.

4. Information-sharing by Committee Members

None

5. Title 10 Revisions by subcommittee

HS spoke with Jana from Commissioner Giunchigliani's office earlier today talking about the scope of what the AAC was going to do with respect to the Title 10 revisions that we were supplied with yesterday. I am glad the Commissioner is here to give clarification as to what exactly she wants from us. She has a couple proposals to facilitate moving forward and finalizing with the Title 10 revisions.

CHRIS GIUNCHIGLIANI (Chris G) – we formed a subcommittee to work on updating Title 10. Some things haven't been looked at since 1987 or earlier, new laws were passed last session and it made sense to look at it all at one time since we were working on the spay and neuter ordinance. We did it as a subcommittee-working group but it is still your purview as the AAC whether you accept or reject any of it, have your own additions or changes, gather information from the public. I know JP is working on the large animal portion. It shouldn't be me. I wanted to foster the conversation and turn it back to you with Dave's expertise. Hopefully you can get us something in a month or so to bring before the Commission that we can act on. We had a good working group. We had breeders, large animal, vets, cats, dogs and humane society representatives. We had a variety of folks to update. There were things we didn't have definitions on such as breeders and the breeders group helped update those definitions. We worked on Fanciers and designated difference between fancier and breeder so it is clear for ACOs. Adding some language for pot-bellied pigs. There are things that pop up in our community all the time. I would support if you wanted to meet monthly. I know you are all busy but you can always cancel a meeting and maybe try to do more outreach educationally based. I have talked with some school board reps about maybe starting their own student advisory committee focused on educating their own peers on what we are doing with Title 10 but that would be later down the road. You may want to break it apart, have one group worth on definitions and then the board takes public testimony and then you vote. However you want to organize it. I just want to be an impetus to foster some conversation.

HS – I don't know if you have one of the color-coordinated copies. Chris G – if Marcie did it for me, I have it. HS on page 4 when we see “Run parallel. Electronic requirements for rescue groups,” is that something you want the board to finalize for you and put in here. I did receive it in a word format. Chris G – those are to you as the Board. We have something from Chameleon that saves money and time for the vets. I wasn't sure if other things could be electronically stored but that was there so I wouldn't forget but really is your purview now. HS - When I see things, for instance on page 5, there is a section like 10.04.XXX, is that something you are looking for us to complete. Chris G – you and Dave and however the computer program does it. If you want to place a new definition that didn't have a number, a number needs to go in there at some time. HS – so when we finalize it and give it back to you, a number will be assigned. Chris G – correct. HS – on the following page where you have comments, like 10.04.150 – “Still need to add language here”, is that something that would be okay for us to do. Chris G – I believe Dave has copies of AB15 and the tethering law; there may be other ones. I tried to remember so I didn't forget. There are other components for animal safety, how long you can tie them up, notification in our parks, those types of things are okay for you to consider.

HS – where it says “Confidential Information” – do you want comments from the AAC? Chris G – absolutely. This was raised in the subcommittee. We originally accidentally deleted it but then we put it back in. I think we want that confidential information to still be maintained. HS – on the following page, I see something about a statute “574.380 may be added,” is that a reference to the NRS? Chris G – yes. HS- in front of each one of these such as “Disposal of Dead Animals” or “Feral Pigeons” – as a committee, tell me the way I was envisioning it and tell me if this is what you are looking for, was after each one of these, we would add “Animal Advisory Committee Accept, Reject or Comment.” Chris G – that makes good sense to me because that will help you track. We have four versions for this so far and it got crazy for us with colors trying to track which versions we were on. What you might want to do is accept, reject or amend. You might have additional language that you want to add to it or take out of it and that's fine too. The disposal of dead animals, for example, came up in a very early meeting and also came up from constituents. So I took the advantage in adding that because in talking with our contractors, there are still animals dumped in the trashcan or the landfills and they are not supposed to be. That was added for you to look at. This might be something you want to look into and maybe make a policy recommendation. We are paying someone through public works to pick these animals up and I thought if you have a tag or have been scanned, they take them to be cremated at Lied but I got reports that some might not have been. CLV, NLV and Henderson each have their own so if we have some policies, we might be able to give them some guidance down the road as well.

HS – under Retailers there was some comment about “Same language for operator and dealer.” Chris G – it was probably my brain that could never wrap around the difference between an operator and a retailer so these are notes for me to remember who was doing what. CE – dealer is a commercial venture. Chris G – all of that is sort of in NRS. I tried to go back and find any language that we may not have had completely copied. Operator may be in there as well. HS – when we do our comments, we will cite the exact statute so you know exactly where it came from. Chris G – perfect.

HS – I saw a comment with regard to Chameleon and it appeared out of nowhere so I wasn't sure where that was supposed to go. Chris G – This I believe, and I needed to check with Dave, but if I remember, the City owns Chameleon but it is what all the ACOs and Lied use and as we were trying to find a way to get us more electronic because they spend money on storage and it is consuming and how do they actually find it if they get a case, so we found \$12,000 in the County to update Chameleon. I wasn't sure if this wasn't another one of those programs that we can now make electronic. DAVE MARCH (DM) – Chameleon is the database used for operating the shelter, operating field officers as well as dispatch, tracking complaints over time. Specifically, there is a separate component that can be purchased which is Web Vet/Web Licensing that does allow for veterinarians to enter owner information as well as rabies information for vaccines they have given to their clients. Web licensing allows owners as well as veterinarians in other locations, not here, to purchase or sell the license for that particular jurisdiction on

line. It is all handled internally, automatically updates Chameleon with the current owner and vaccination information, streamlines the whole system. CLV is the leaser of the program. They are the primary. We basically sublet from them for access, etc. Everything we do ultimately runs through the City because they are the only ones Chameleon will make changes for. HS – do we need to put all that information in here? DM – I don't think we need to mention Chameleon at all in code. It is just as the Commissioner said. It is a notation asking if it could be done in Chameleon and we think it can. We have hit a couple of glitches just recently. Chris G – I think just referencing electronically rather than Chameleon will work.

HS – in page 43 I think these may be your comments. I just wanted to make sure you were asking for comments from us, something about found animal reporting. Your comment “is it needed?” Chris G – we didn't have the last meeting so I didn't get a chance to ask Dave. Some stuff you may want to get rid of, you may have duplication or it just may not be necessary any longer. That is really where I was coming from on that. I would have to rely on the ACOs opinions on that. Do we have things that sound good but really can't be done in any shape or form? Then maybe we shouldn't even have the language reference. HS – for the purposes of the Commission, do you get a separate report from Dave's agency or do we combine and present them to you? Chris G – it comes from you. HS - Do we coordinate with you if we have any questions Dave? DM – absolutely. Generally, we are the Secretary. You make your changes. we update it. We will work, once you have approved it, through the District Attorney's office to make sure it is all okay. Make any changes that the DA makes and then the final work product would go before the County Commission. Chris G – but it comes from you. CE – we are an advisory committee so if we need some advice on what we think should be done, we send it to them and then send it to the Commission.

HS – what kind of timeframe are you looking for us to get back and report to you? Chris G – I would love by the end of January but you might want to bifurcate it. You might want to take certain sections. You might want to say we want to do XY and Z by this month. It is just that the longer it waits, some of this is tied in to other programming and so... But I am realistic. You have the holidays. JP – There is also Title 30 and I was looking so we can get the language to interact with the current statute being revised by Mr. Collins' office and so that is where I was heading in that direction on our large animal is to get them to interact so that we can get all of our entities on the same page so there isn't boundaries with these animals like there is between us people. NLV, CLV and if we all get together it is for the betterment of the animals, large or small. Chris G – that is true and why I put the working group together, to give you something that is not a decisive document but a cleaned up document or at least food for thought that will help you move the process further faster. The longer you wait; there are things in limbo so it all depends. We will introduce the regulated spay/neuter ordinance next week for example in the County. The public hearing won't be until January but with that said, there may be things in here that you would need to adapt that would then make that enforcement go into play. I understand with the holidays, that's your time line. I would hope no later than the spring.

HS – Dave as we try to finalize this report and we need to meet, do we then have to notify you to give public notice? How does that work? DM – provided you don't have more than two of you together at one time, it is not a meeting. If you have a quorum, then it has to be posted and follow the open meeting laws. HS – so when we have a rough draft for instance and Clarissa wanted to call you and say we have a rough draft, can we get together and give it to you that doesn't require a meeting of all of us. She can just come to you. DM – absolutely, you can e-mail me any of your suggestions and we will work them in and we can certainly e-mail them back. Chris G – and then you could always post, do it that way like a mini subcommittee and then he can post it and you can schedule another full meeting for hearing that people could access as well. There are a variety of different ways. You can form small subcommittees. Two of you work on definitions and another two work on this and go through and accept or reject and come back to this committee with those recommendations. That might be an easier way but there are a variety of different things that you have available.

6. Updating the County Website, including posting AAC Minutes

DM – currently the problem we have with the website is that it is under redesign which is at the highest management levels and we don't get a lot of input on what the final look is going to be. The whole website will have to change as soon as the color schemes and the approved layout. Chris G – we gave to the higher ups who are the IT people samples of website from San Antonio, Chicago, New York. San Antonio has a phenomenal website. The problem we have in the County is that our staff is stuck with doing the update and that is not their skill set and so we gave it to the IT folks so they would have some guidance on how a website was constructed. It was very interactive for both the public and anybody that is a user, just making it user friendly. Once they come up with agreeing to that and Dave is right, they have been working on this for two and a half years, then Animal Control and the Advisory Committee through animal control, you are the managers of it, so if you want certain articles or if you want to write things for it, whatever, that can be placed on the website. That was the concept of why I had it put on the agenda because it's not user friendly right now. It doesn't contain a lot of information and to me that really shouldn't have to be their job, but I am not the manager. We wanted to at least give them some opportunity to look at other places and get some guidance on what we would expect from the animal community from the users, the vets all the way on down. That's looking at maybe a policy that may go to the next agenda item, at least put your draft minutes and put on there draft and the agendas so that the public can access it in between time until they are able to get the finalized copy. At least they know from meeting to meeting what was discussed and that makes it a little bit easier. They can see these are not the finalized minutes and are subject to revision. Knowledge is power and that's really where we were trying to come from on some suggestions.

HS – I remember seeing on the website a comment or an amendment to the AAC, something about doing K through 12 education so maybe on the website we can also have a section that has to do with that. Chris G – absolutely, I was out speaking at Foothills High School the other day and some kids were actually interested so it would be a wonderful partnership. I think you are an underutilized group, recognizing your time constraints; there are some things that you can help with. You could do public outreach in a different way that we have never utilized before. CE – Holly is an amazing lawyer and I am a great vet and Carol is an amazing breeder and Jannice takes care of horses. We represent a broad spectrum with incredible skill set here and Dave. I am happy to go and do any kind of education. Chris G- Great, I think you just got limited and I was just suggesting, again, it is your call, but I think there are things that we haven't envisioned that the AAC could give comment to.

JP actually has a program she is putting together called Horses, Horses, Horses and it services our children and I was showing it off a little bit today. I have worked with the curriculum in the Clark County School District and what this is is a twelve-week course for children. Every other Saturday they have access to horses from 9 to 1, ten children, the horses are the coaches and owners are the mentors. The children are the leaders, the horses are the coaches and then there are the mentors. It is individual and at the end, they would graduate with horse in hand in the trail course. They get to keep their halters, their lead ropes, their cowboy hats and their boots after they graduate and everybody is a winner. We are having pizza and they are learning life sciences. You can see the whole curriculum. This isn't the final but everything you do takes more time than you expect it to. It will start this spring. We have commitment contracts from the parents and the kids. They need to stay committed. We have a priority list with safety measures, including how to be around a horse and community leaders will actually come out and be part of our first demonstration of the program. A lot of people haven't picked up a horse's hoof.

7. Monthly meetings

DM – you can set the meetings monthly or whatever. You, as the Committee, set your meetings. CE – I prefer to do it quarterly unless we have something on the agenda but maybe we should be more proactive.

HS – I am a proponent of monthly meetings. CE – I would love to meet monthly so we can set agendas, talk about the different spay/neuter activities, there is Strut Your Mutt and a lot of things that go on. JP – I can make the commitment for monthly meetings also and that would help us be proactive. CE – Dave you will have to meet here every month. DM – I have been here every month before. It is not a problem. There have been plenty of times when we met every month when we had something on the agenda. We have the Title 10 revisions. Obviously, there are things for the agenda. HS – if the AAC is going to start being proactive, especially with some of the ideas the Commissioner brought up, this would be a good first step forward. CE – I agree. Chris G – should there be a motion for the board? CE – motioned that AAC meet every month. Motion was seconded. DM – you guys set the date and times, if it is monthly or quarterly. The committee makes those decisions.

8. Comments by the General Public

JANICE RIDONDO (JR) – I am Commissioner Tom Collins liaison and I want to thank Commissioner Giunchigliani. Title 10 really needed some revisions as other things really need to be looked at every ten years or every five years so we are so thankful that she got involved. Thank you for meeting monthly. I think that is a great idea. Jannice, Tom Collins is going to love that Horses, Horses, Horses program. He will want to hear more about that. Tom and I were just at a school this afternoon doing a DARE graduation and those kids are just the perfect time to get into their heads the spay and neuter, everything from horses and so forth. Thank you for talking with Crystal Kimhan last month. I know she would have been here tonight. I found out two hours ago that there was a meeting tonight. I will be looking for agendas and I am working with Jana to make sure I can get e-mail but it is an issue. Many times you folks don't know about things until you are exposed to it and that's what happened with the pigs. It is an issue and I have been working with Commissioner Giunchigliani getting them under pet fancier and what we are going to do with the breeding of them. In these tough economic times, it is unfortunate that people will try and breed anything in the backyard that they can sell for any amount of money to make some extra cash. We can't have them doing that because we all know where these animals end up. I also have a question about the possibility of an interlocal agreement with taking care of the animals and NLV, LV and Henderson. That is something I want to talk to Joe Boteilho.

CE – what do you mean “taking care of”? JR – Title 10, everything regulations, how we pick them up, how we handle them. I am involved right now with Judge Art Richie through Christine Robinson from Lied Animal Shelter. There have been some issues where animals have been quarantined that are part of a lawsuit. The most recent one going on right now is a pet shop owner. I don't know much about it. I just found out about it yesterday in NLV whose animals were confiscated because of the conditions they were living in. Right now these animals cannot be walked, socialized. They can't do anything with them. They are in quarantine until the case is heard. This case has been pushed and pushed and pushed because she doesn't want to go to court. She is going to be fined; the animals will be taken away. What happens to them in the meantime is something I think an interlocal agreement will address. Title 10 and what rules and regulations NLV has and LV has and get us working a little closer because the County umbrellas as you know. We really need to work a little closer with those other agencies but I bet Dave has been doing that all along. I would just like to see something on paper. CE – as a veterinarian I get to see those animals at 2 o'clock in the morning and when they come to me they come through the County because I work at Animal Emergency Center. I don't know what happens in NLV or with LV. JP – I have to even ask about Nye County. I was looking for some of their regulations because we get a lot of overflow from that. You go out into Nye County and can see that some of the animals on properties, large or small, here someone would call and it would be stopped. There I don't know the laws. You can buy a goat to eat out in Pahrump. Where do you go with that? You can't buy one here.

CE – I am interested to know what happens in NLV and where those animals went. JR – I am going to ask that if you don't have to have meetings on Thursday as I have a Town Board meeting every other week, the second and fourth depending on if there is a fifth week. Anyway Thursday is just horrible for me. I certainly don't want anyone to change if Thursday has been working but it is hit or miss that I can

get here on Thursday depending on if I have a Town Board meeting but regardless, I will get you the answers of what happened with this. It is an issue. There is something really wrong but I am working with the judges and will let you know what happens. DM – NLV takes their injured and sick to the NLV Veterinary Hospital. As far as the walking of animals or what not, I don't know what would prevent the shelter from interacting with those animals. I think if it is part of a court order, certainly, NLV could go back to the judge and ask for some sort of an amended order. JR – Judge Ritchie thought it would be very easy as well but it is a problem that Christine has been going through more than once. Just like children need to be taken out of a home, we certainly don't put them in a cage and not socialize them. We put them into foster care. These pets are children to many people and they need to have the same type of rights that I think the kids do. HS – the interagency agreement that you are suggesting, who would be the parties to that? JR – on any interlocal agreement, I worked on one for the CLV when I worked with Commissioner Maxfield, and that is quarterly. You get folks from one agency and perhaps AAC and NLV and you sit down and you would be amazed when you get everybody together the ideas that can be shared and this is what happened with us. We can educate you to do it this way; this is what we did wrong. It is just a melding of ideas and a chance to get together and discuss what's going on, what works, what doesn't work and to be together on this animal issue as opposed to having separate entities. That is my experience with interlocal agreement.

CE – my experience when I ask people if they live in the City or the County, no one really knows. I see them at 2 a.m. telling me their dog is missing and when I ask them if they are county or city, they look at me like I don't know. That's the biggest issue but I will say I can tell you some great recovery stories and some amazing animal stories if you want some good stories because I think you have probably only heard the bad stories. JR – I have heard good stories from fostering and all sorts of things. If something is wrong, that why I appreciate Commissioner Collins, he tries to fix things. CE – the spay and neuter. If they are not born, I don't have to kill them. I hate to say it, but it is true.

Chris G wants to thank you. Almost all of you worked on the subcommittee. We had a wonderful working group and I want to put on the record that I really appreciate the time they took. I want to acknowledge Dave and his time in addition to that as well. It is not easy to update something that you have let go for a long, long time. Hopefully, once Title 10 is updated by you, then maybe a periodic review of certain sections should happen. After a legislative you should convene to update so you don't have to wait to see what happens. I agree with JR. Interlocals can be between the governments but it can also be between working groups and part of the new definition is to seek out other animal advisory groups that may exist. The City has one but only convened for vicious dogs. I don't know if Henderson has one so maybe that is the place we start. Reach out to their councilpersons and say would you put together a working group or at least identify a couple community people from Henderson, from NLV and CLV that could work with us maybe on a quarterly basis or every six months. What we are talking about is animals go back and forth, they don't know whether they are in the County, CLV, NLV or Henderson and neither do the adults. We can have similar ordinances. They don't have to be exactly the same. JR is right, when I first got elected in 2007, the first call I got was from Chris Robinson who said I have had this dog placed here under order by the DA that we have not been able to walk or touch. She was locked because she was a witness to a murder. They took the blood off her coat, everything was DNA'd. The dog is not going to get up and say anything. I had to go to the police officer. It took another six months. We finally got the animal released and she has been adopted. She was not socialized during that whole period of time. I was talking to Commissioner Collins about it so we decided we need a policy to tell the courts and the DA that you don't keep these animals in perpetuity. You get what you need to get from them. They can't talk. Let them get adopted or let the family members take the poor dog back. We're nonsensical. Sometimes we get rules because they don't think of the ultimate circumstances that come into play. Those are things I think that if you are going to meet monthly, once you deal with Title 10, you can really take a more active role in the community. You could go out to schools if you wanted to. There are different things interactive wise that could come about while educating the community. We all care. It is no different than if you recognize that the Women's shelter put in a shelter for animals because in domestic violence cases, the pet is sometimes used against the mother. That's is why Lied makes you

prove that it is your animal. They have people coming in, taking the pet in a domestic violence and didn't realize it, released it to the boyfriend, girlfriend, spouse and then that is used as a weapon again. There are things I didn't realize that make sense now but I didn't know that's why some of these things happen. Maybe it is even meeting with the Animal Foundation on a regular basis, doing a tour of Lied. I mean there are a variety of things that could be done to educate you and you in turn help educate the public. I wanted to tell you Happy Holidays and thank you for working on Title 10 and I appreciate all the work that everybody did.

JR – Judge Ritchie actually told me that animals now are part of TPOs and especially during this time of year, the domestic violence that goes on at the holidays, the temporary protective orders, whatever spouse it is, can identify the animals and they are part of the TPO now. Judge Ritchie, Judge Zimmerman, there are so many that have dogs and cats and they are big advocates for the animals. So the judges are doing a good thing and I wouldn't hesitate to invite a judge to coordinate a start to an interlocal agreement.

MIKE CONNELL (MC) – these are still to be gone over right cause this heat extreme on page 7 was supposed to be 109. Eighty-five is what I kept my animals in. That is where that came from. CE – speak to us not the Commissioner. MC – do you want her to come up because the question is directed at her not you. CE – you need to speak to us first and then you can speak to her. MC – I am talking about the extreme temperature on page 7. It was to be set at 109 and somehow my personal setting of 85 got put in there. The extreme heat warning was to be 109 not 85. Eighty-five is my personal excessive heat warning that I explained to the Commissioner. HS – so now it stands at 109 and you are okay with below 50. MC – yes.

KAREN LAYNE (KL) doesn't think it was a temperature set, it was a heat alert issued. It is not based just on temperature but temperature and humidity. It would be the fact that the alert was issued. I want to make sure we understand that, normally it is around 109. It is not a specific temperature. I think that we should correct that. I really appreciate the discussion in Title 10. I think there are a lot of issues we talked about. We met many times. There are a lot of issues that need to be discussed. I think your website is great but as someone who runs a small agency and doesn't have a lot of technical assistance, I will say we are asking a lot of Dave March. I understand what he has to do. I can just see that his responsibilities increased pretty substantially tonight. One of the things you may want to do in trying not to upset the apple cart on the website is one of the things that we did which is to create a blog, so I, as the president have a blog. It is really easy for me to go to that blog and write and publish that blog as part of the website because it just says if you want to hear the latest updates and that might be really simple for you as a part of the AAC to run your own blog that is separate from the website that AC is trying to run. I can see that there will be some big technical issues and probably the IT people are going to go screaming. That is just one solution. It is pretty simple to do. It might be something separate from AC but there could be a link from one to the other. There is a lot to be done. I will point out that we do actually meet with AC, some of the rescue groups and we try to meet not the most periodic basis in the world but we do get together. One of the huge issues that we do have right now, and I appreciate the discussion tonight, is that people do not know where they live. When we create different sets of rules from one locality to the next, it actually drives us crazy because when I get someone complaining, I have to go back and figure out where they live, how to respond to that before I can ever send them. The biggest thing we can do in terms of what we are looking at right now is to try to work with everyone to make it as similar as possible. If you can do that and if you can get the other localities to do that, that would be great. Sometimes you are not going to be able to accomplish that. We have our own issues right now with the spay/neuter ordinance but the fact of the matter is, the closer you can get that to other localities, the better off you are and better for the citizens who really don't know where they live for the most part.

CE – I would completely agree with that because I don't even know which ACO to call.

JANA WRIGHT works for Commissioner Giunchigliani. As Dave was saying about the website, there is a governance committee redesigning what the accessclarkcounty website can look like. There is a

template of what each department can have but then they can manage it a certain way. As far as AC, there is a link that says AAC. I agree with the Commissioner that you could post your agendas there and then the minutes, you are going to start meeting monthly so it will be better, but at the quarter, no one knows what you have done. Even is it is in draft form. I don't know if there is a legal problem about saying, as the Commissioner said, this is draft format. It will be finalized at our meeting on such and such. People could get their community involved instead of just you faithfuls, but get everybody involved. Get students involved, get people you are more proactive as Karen was saying and as JR was saying, the interlocal groups, have Lied do a presentation. Let's get it on the website, the Animal Foundation is going to talk about their five year plan. Do they have a five-year plan? Lets get more volunteers or whatever the rescue groups need or where the need is. I commend you for your time and encourage you to be more proactive and it sounds like that's what is on your agenda.

CE – I would like Holly Madison to be a member of our advisory committee. I am sure there would be lots of people here and money and I think she would be proactive for the canine citizens. I don't know if she would care as much about the other but she is very proactive so.... I thought about that myself. How do I get people involved and excited about animals because we are not doing it. You see how many people are here and how many dogs there are in the valley. I have to say it but we are not sexy, Holly is.

LOU TOOMIN (LT) has a couple questions. Are those interlocal meetings open to the public? They are not public meetings. I am confused about the monthly meetings. I have come three months in a row. Haven't they been monthly? CE – you have been lucky in that you have participated in monthly meetings. I am going to insist that we have them on a monthly basis. Regarding the dangerous dog situation that I have mentioned two months in a row now and the question was asked of me last time how did it happen. I have investigated it thoroughly and now I know how it is happening. It is a problem that is going to have to be addressed at some point in time. When the insurance company took it upon themselves to arbitrarily not defend the dog bite case, it automatically made that dog a dangerous dog. That is not right. If the insurance company had fought the case, they would have seen that the dog was not a dangerous dog. Something really needs to be done. It is unfortunate that insurance companies do that and paint the dog black, when it is not so. It causes a hardship on people because their insurance rates are raised because of it, if they can even get insurance.

CE – we are here to judge animals that are deemed dangerous by AC. We are not here to judge dogs. LT understands that but it is an issue that should be addressed at some place and time. If a dog can be deemed to be dangerous, then a dog could be deemed to be not dangerous. If a person had a letter or a note stating that, they could take it to the insurance company and solve the problem. DM – so we are clear, we are not talking about AC having deemed an animal dangerous but an insurance company making a decision based either on the actions of the animal or the breed of the animal that in their opinion it is a dangerous breed or has bitten and therefore, has increased liability. I have requested an opinion from our DA's office with regard to his question, "Can AC deem an animal not dangerous for the purpose of challenging an insurance company's decision?" I have not heard back from them as yet. When I do, I will contact Mr. Toomin and I will be happy to report the results once I hear back from the DA. CE – as a veterinarian who puts her life at risk everyday with animals, cattle, horses, canine, I can tell you that I am very defensive about how I deal with animals but if animals are aggressive, I do have to note in my notes, this animal lunged at me, this animal did this. I can tell you everyone has their own filter but I am not a certified animal trainer, dog trainer. LT Title 10 tells you clearly what it is. CE- as a veterinarian who has to deal with dogs every day, if a dog is lunging at me, trying to kill me, I will say that the dog is dangerous if I have to muzzle or chemically restrain that dog but I don't take it personally because I think some dogs when they are in the emergency room or in a veterinary hospital, it is a different situation. They were trying to bite me or kill me it was dangerous. LT – but this wasn't anybody in any official capacity that deemed this dog dangerous and it created a hardship. CE – I would encourage you to get animal trainers to do some canine good citizenship and some other qualifications for your dog.

MC believes Lied Animal Shelter has an animal behavior specialist. Contact the animal shelter and see if

you can have that specialist go over the dog, check it to see if it is dangerous and if it is passed, maybe he can write a letter in that capacity as a behavior specialist to the insurance company. CS – we had discussed this at the last meeting that this dog had already passed away. The problem I see from the County standpoint would be the liability behind that because there is not a mailman in this town who is going to listen to you when you say your dog doesn't bite, same with a police officer or an ACO. Every animal is behavioral to itself. I don't know how the county could step in an insurance situation. We had no control over it being deemed vicious in the first place. MC – that is what I just said. The shelter has an animal behavior specialist. If the dog is deemed through an insurance company like that again, take that animal down to the behavior specialist, put the dog through his paces and then can write a letter deeming that dog not to be dangerous in those circumstances. You can correct that situation right there.

9. Adjournment

DM – we will schedule a meeting within thirty days of the new committee being seated. There are applications on the back table if anyone would like to submit one. Meeting is adjourned at 7:35 p.m.