

CLARK COUNTY ANIMAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Paradise Community Center
4775 McLeod Drive, Town Board Conference Room
Las Vegas, Nevada 89121
August 26, 2010
6:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: CONNELL, MICHAEL (MC)
 ENGSTROM, CLARISSA NELSON (CE)
 PENNEY, JANNICE (JP)
 SMITH, STEPHANIE (SS)
 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 May 27, 2010 Minutes

A change in the Minutes on Educational Outreach from 15, 20 or 30 minutes to 15, 20 or 30 seconds. A motion to approve the minutes was made and seconded.

4. Educational Outreach – Presentation by Kim Yates from Heaven Can Wait on education at schools

KIM YATES (KY) – Started doing education in the classroom several years ago and taught them about pet responsibility, from how to take care of a pet to spay or neuter. The children brought this information home and over the years we have reached a vast number of people. Children have power at home when something is important to them; it becomes important to their parents. We will not solve the pet overpopulation program without reaching the children. In that light, I created information for Heaven Can Wait. The information is completely downloadable and available in different formats so you can make it work for your curriculum. I have materials for kindergarten through twelfth grade. We also have activity guides. The program is called “Angels for Animals” and every student in the program will have a crate on their desk. They get to choose what they want to foster, either a kitty or a puppy. Inside the crate is a kennel card listing how the animal got to the shelter and gives background information. Children utilize this information to fill out foster applications and take the animal home, bring it back and forth to school for three weeks, like in high school when the teenagers bring home the baby. This is the same concept. The animal needs to go with them everyone or they need to have a plan for them. If they have to be away from the animal, they put it in the crate. We go back to the school, we go over budgets, and we go over how to take care of the animal properly. We talk about breeding, spay or neuter. All kinds of issues come up. It gets people talking. I don’t tell them it is wrong to breed but tell them to know their options and what the goal is. It is tremendously successful. At the end of the three-week period, they have the ability to adopt a pet. It has gotten so popular in three or four of the schools I have taught in that we had a fundraiser to sell the animals we couldn’t support and fundraise for Heaven Can Wait or other animal shelters. Having this information out there touches a lot of lives. We also have an after school club for middle school and high school students that teaches the same concept but gets more involved. It is hands on so the kids really feel a part of what they are doing. We have plays for elementary school

kids that are written with a lot of humor and are a lot of fun. There are songs so it is motivating, exciting and fun. We just started today on our eighth elementary school using the Angels for Animals program. It just came on line in February of this year. This week we sent out a letter to every principal in the Clark County School District letting them know we would love to partner with them. We are working on Heaven Can Wait's website so there will be an education button right on the front page.

JANA WRIGHT (JW) asked if they ever presented to the Clark County School District Board. She suggested they ask to get on their agenda to get them to back their program and make it a part of their curriculum.

KY currently we are in one middle school. It is harder to get into the middle and high schools. SS suggested she present it as an advisory program.

MC – The Silver State Kennel Club put the Complete Dog Book – Child Version in all the libraries and elementary schools and we are now working on a the Complete Dog Book – Adult Version so the middle and high schools will be getting the Complete Dog Book – Adult Version shortly.

SS – we discussed drafting a letter to the BCC. The main message is that we would like to give them suggestions, if they are not already doing so. They might be doing things that we just don't know and I don't want to offend them. What exactly are they doing right now? DAVID MARCH (DM) stated they do County Critters and Kim Yates will be interviewed for County Critters for one of their shows. They are constantly looking for what they can develop, animal wise, and anyone with ideas they are always willing to listen. They do new shows once a month and it runs all month long. SS is not sure if the County is the one to produce this. There is the national SPCA and other organizations that do this. Maybe we should contact them and get them working with local television stations. The County is already doing a program. This is about getting it on Channel 3, Channel 5, Channel 8 and Channel 13 for Public Service messages. All of Channel 4 is a public service announcement. SS – we request DM to e-mail the letter and the AAC will send back comments and corrections. SS suggested the AAC make their changes and asked them to give her final authority to sign on their behalf. JP wanted letter brought back to them.

MC - Channel 2, CLV's TV channel, and Channel 4 are on cable. I suggested those two productions get together with the AAC's assistance and put together 15 or 30 second commercials and present these to the local TV stations, including the Hispanic stations on citizens' alert. I know our TV stations, 3, 5, 8, 10, 13 and Hispanic channels on cable 9, 15, 62, 63, 64. If we can put these out as citizens' alerts with good, hard information that the family should know, they will run them at reduced or nominal charge. SS they are required by the FCC to do so many Public Service Announcements. SS citizen alert message sounds like a storm is coming. MC – there are a lot of good minds in the production for channels 2 and 4 and to put them together, however they present it to the local TV stations. SS – your idea is good but we have no connection with CLV. With the County, if they produce there are going to be costs that come out of the budget. I think we need to write a letter to the BCC. A proponent of our responsibilities is educational outreach and we would like to respectfully make a suggestion that you consider doing some public service announcements about the new s/n ordinance, in the summer announcements about not leaving your animal in the car.

MC – it is cost effective for CLV and County to work together. JP – they are all getting on the same page so there shouldn't be any flack about this. They are already putting out messages but it needs to be a continued education program. Let's walk in the waters and see if we can bring the entities together. SS – there are certain protocols and I am not sure we can write a letter directing the County Commissioners to contact other elected officials and work with them.

JW thinks it is a request to have the jurisdictions work together to put out a PSA. Your letter might say

we were discussing this at an AAC meeting and we know the importance of PSAs and we would like to request that you work with Channel 4 and perhaps they could do an outreach to the City. SS – ask you to consider a regional approach instead of just a County approach, something like that. JW – You will have to submit a letter. Chris would probably take it to the County Manager, whether it is an agenda item or just direction. I will tell Chris a letter is coming.

MYRA GLASSMAN (MG) – I think a brief article the AAC writes can appear in newsletter for the power company, gas company and the water company. Talk to their PR people about getting an article in the newsletters. One month it could be on s/n law, another month on being a responsible pet owner and picking up after your animal so the feces don't contaminate our water supply. It can be a brief paragraph that goes in that newsletter. SS thinks that is a wonderful suggestion. MG – the county had a newsletter that I think they put online and you can link to that. SS – we are not article writers. We are just an advisory committee. I think the BCC contacts them to get the articles in. Those are coveted slots but we could add a paragraph to the letter about contacting NV Energy and Southwest Gas to put in an insert about the s/n law. CE is happy to donate her time as a veterinarian to write articles. MC gave some suggestions for the letter.

CE – the other night, a female backyard breeder who didn't know what she was doing, brought in a little Maltese that had been in labor for about twenty hours. She had black discharge, which means dead puppies, and the dog was in a really bad state. To stabilize the dog, we would have had to do a C-Section that would have cost about \$2,500. The woman was trying to make excuses, saying I don't know how this happened. When CE said you have a son here so yes you do the woman stated she wanted to show her son the miracle of birth. She ended up deciding to put the dog down and her son stated, "mommy, I hate you. This has turned into the nightmare of death." Now for the rest of that kid's life he is going to hate his mommy for this. It was his dog. If we can turn this into a PSA, it would help a lot of people.

5. Comments by the General Public

MG has a problem in her neighborhood that she needs some help with. She has been living in the same neighborhood for almost 18 years and in the past four to six months, they have a major pigeon problem. Her roof is covered with pigeon droppings. It is affecting the whole neighborhood. Some of the neighbors are just dumping their dogs in the back yard and leaving them there. They are also putting their food out there and just leaving it. This is what is attracting all the pigeons. DM – we can check the conditions of the dogs but that is not going to help the problem with the pigeons. SS - There is a guy called Nephi Oliva, Nevada Pigeon Control, who has a whole program for trapping and removing them humanely. But the problem will keep coming as long as those dogs are out there. MG – the dogs have a little covered patio so they have shelter. SS – call Nephi. There is nothing we can do. It is beyond our purview.

6. Set date, time and agenda of next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 7, 2010 at 6:30 at Paradise Community Center.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.