

CLARK COUNTY ANIMAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Paradise Community Center
4775 McLeod Drive, Town Board Conference Room

Las Vegas, Nevada 89121

January 27, 2011

6:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: BRAZIL, MELANIE L, DVM (MB)
CONNELL, MICHAEL (MC)
LAYNE, KAREN (KL)
PENNEY, JANNICE (JP)
WEHRKAMP, CANDYCE (CW)
COMBS, CLAYTON (CC)

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 October 7, 2010 Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes was made and seconded

4. Selection of Chair and Vice-Chair

Motion to name Karen Layne as chair was made and seconded. Motion for Candyce Wehrkamp as vice chair was made and seconded.

5. Amendment to Title 10.08.135 to provide for the inclusion of sterilized animals in the breeder show dog permit and the creation of a temporary show dog, show cat permit

MC - existing Breeder/Show permit allows up to eight intact dogs. If a dog had to be sterilized, with this permit, an owner would not be allowed to keep her. The amendment allows sterilized animals kept as a pet to be included in the total of dogs. Also, if they are under one year old, a temporary show permit can be issued for six months for \$25 with no breeding or selling of animals. This gives show dog/cat people leeway. DAVE MARCH (DM) a gentleman obtained a puppy for the purpose of showing. It is his only dog but it falls within the crack of actually being able to show at six months and the requirement for sterilization at four months. He cannot obtain a permit because he has not yet shown the dog. This allows six months to train and show the animal so he can qualify for a full permit. The fee is half because its duration is half with a different permit number. There would be only one dog or a couple dogs that are still too young. There are no adult, intact dogs on the property. This will also prevent someone saying they have only one dog from bringing in a bunch of breeding animals and using that permit number in advertising.

JANA WRIGHT (JW) feels this amendment is unnecessary. A woman had a bitch she wanted to breed and a neutered male. She wanted a breeder's permit for the female. Animal Control said she didn't qualify. She could because the male is a pet. She could have three dogs and her breeder's permit for eight intact animals. I don't see the need for this. For the temporary permit, if you have a puppy or kitten and want to breed it, your vet can give you a letter saying your cat or dog must wait until six or eight months. We spent a lot of time rewriting Title 10. I think the intent was to allow a neutered pet and show animals.

RAE ERICKSON (RE) – If you have a four month old you don't feel needs to be s/n until six-months or if you have a thirteen year old dying of cancer, vets need to make the determination. I agree with JW on rewriting the law. Some of us stepped forward to help write the law. Leave it alone; let vets make the determination. MC – this is not for veterinary or medical purposes. According to the show/breeder permit, if I have eight dogs and one has to be spayed, I can no longer keep her if she is not shown. With the amendment, I can still maintain eight and keep the sterilized animal. DM – our position is the dog would need to be shown in some type of event, agility, fly ball, where a championship can be earned. The only event requiring intact animals is confirmation. When this was developed, our understanding was that sterilized animals would be engaged in some type of activity to earn a title. Once a dog has reached a championship level, the dog can retire.

JACKIE QUIGLEY is for this amendment. I am a breeder with a male I could not show. The breeder offered his sister so I got my breeder's permit last year and showed my bitch. I cannot renew my permit because my male is neutered. He is six years old, not involved in any competition, strictly a family pet.

GINA GREISON (GG) asked about property size requirements for residential houses with eleven dogs, eight on the permit and three pets. DM - The code does not lay out square footage, as that is code enforcement. Our concern is having eleven to fourteen animals. GG would be concerned if a neighbor had eleven 125 lb. dogs. I was one of the folks that worked on Title 10. We need to revamp it.

DM currently it is eight dogs or cats. We are not permitting people to have the plus three or both permits because of the numbers involved. Our interpretation of the intent, because I too was involved in the writing, was that it was going to be eight. Any sterilized animal would be engaged in a show activity. We want to clarify it to make it eight. Once a championship title is earned, they do not have to be sterilized or shown. They can be put to stud. This addresses folks with a pet or multiple pets in addition to their show dogs. KL thinks the problem is you can do only one thing. You have a breeder/show permit, have three dogs or a pet fancier permit. DM – The amendment addresses people with animals not engaged in show activities with no intention of doing so. It allows them to keep their pets and engage in showing and/or breeding. The other one addresses the four month old. A lot of veterinarians are not willing to give statements saying the animal cannot be sterilized. This temporary permit allows six months to work toward showing.

MB would have a hard time issuing a letter saying it can't be sterilized because it will be a show dog. DM - the intent was to allow veterinarians for medical reasons to say this animal at this moment cannot be sterilized. Saying it is a show dog, you don't have to is asking too much of the veterinary side. MC motions amendment be accepted and passed onto the BCC. Motion seconded.

6. Animal Foundation request to waive Clark County Fees

JASON SMITH (JS) keeps impound and board fees assessed in CLV so we can work with people reclaiming their animals. Clark County keeps impound and board fees. If your animal is impounded, you could have a \$100 impound fee, \$20 board, \$65 neuter, \$10 rabies. With CLV, we can go half and half with the customer. If you pay \$75 now, we will bill you the \$75 later. We don't have an option with Clark County. When they say I don't have \$150 and we say sorry, most of them walk out. We then have another animal to place. We are very experienced through our relationship with CLV. When we waive those fees, we take a direct financial hit for it. KL - Do you contact the County if they say they cannot pay? JS used to. Being the middleman was difficult. We now tell people to call the County directly. They follow the letter of the law. The law says you accrued the impound fee, you have to have the animal s/n. We do that as close to cost as we can. If we were able to work with them, the times we take forty, fifty or sixty percent would mitigate the time we actually gave up thirty, forty or fifty percent payment. KL - are the impound fees going to s/n? DM – yes potentially that would be a loss of revenue for s/n. Our position would be more of an actual inability to pay. Currently, the HCW sterilization program accepts TANF, SNAP and all the various cards. We are not opposed to a system such as that for those who are truly in need. JS -When we don't collect the \$70 or whatever we negotiated, the County gets zero and we have another animal to place. We are good enough at the front desk to identify people who

could make a partial payment as opposed to people who could make the whole payment but are trying to negotiate it down. MC – where would the final decision on the negotiations come from? JS – I would leave that with my intake desk. It may have to be an addendum to the contract. We are not opposed to sunset clauses or trial periods. KL would like numbers to see what we are talking about. JS thinks it would be hundreds and either way would be a win-win. KL – Is there information about what you have done with CLV where you can say this is what we have brought in so we could look at it? JS - It is hard to tell what they should have paid, as there are fifteen different things we have to look at to see if they owe money. I could only tell where fees were discounted so information would be partially useful. JP - how would this change the revenues that are coming to the County? DM – fees would be lost or reduced. Fees go to the feral cat program for cat traps and the sterilization program so money would not be available in the amounts they had previously been available. The other issue we are willing to consider is a dollar for dollar reduction, for every dollar reduced of County dollars, the shelter reduce their fees. Is that built into your plan to reduce and/or waive the fees for sterilization? JS – no it is not. The only fee we assess is sterilization. It is as close to cost as we can possibly get. It is an actual payment we put out. Under the current system if the animal is not reclaimed, I don't spend the \$45 to s/n so I don't lose money. If we open that up to fee mitigation, the County gets revenue they would not have gotten but I lose money for the s/n. I cannot risk decreased revenues.

MYRA GLASSMAN, MD. (MG) – supports looking into a waiver. If we are in the business of saving animals from euthanasia it needs to be in there. Where people say I can't pay \$150 to retrieve my animal, they are hard to place animals. They are older, Heinz 57s that people are not going to want to pay to adopt. If they don't go back to their homes, they may be euthanized. We need to seriously look at how we can encourage owner reclaim.

JW is confused. Are they looking for you to give direction to Animal Control to bring back language to consider? There should be parameters. If they are waiving fees for somebody who has a Medicaid card, TANF, SNAP or social services card, AFI needs to give something back versus the County taking a bite as that money goes to help feral cats and s/n. AFI should provide information. How many have they waived for NLV and for CLV? We need to see if it is five animals or 6,000 animals. If this happens, some language should come back to you.

SUSAN SAYEGH - The other municipalities have been doing this so why can't the County waive fees. The bottom line is to unite the animals with their owners. Where is the compassion and sympathy? Let's get these animals to their rightful owners. It is not millions of dollars in loss.

GG believes the committee has a moral and fiscal obligation and has concerns about any funds being taken away from s/n as that will eventually solve pet overpopulation. Theoretically it is a great idea but it is hard for this committee to blindly make a decision without knowing how it will impact s/n funds. You need more information.

JP – you have to have compassionate expression with rational thinking. We are not sure what the rational thinking is without knowing the dollars we are talking about, how many dogs it impacts. There is not enough information to make a recommendation. KL agrees. The County, right now, is the only entity in the valley providing s/n funds for dogs, cats and feral cats for people who can't afford them or who need some assistance. Harold has done a great job maximizing those funds to get as many animals s/n as possible. The money for a lot of these programs comes from Clark County. Motions for Animal Control to look at the fees charged by the shelter on behalf of the County. MC – seconds the motion and asks for information on money and numbers for owner reclaims.

7. Legalization of 501c3 Foster Homes

CAROL FOX (CF) wants to address foster homes, given the number of homeless dogs and cats that have been abandoned. Now if we have more than three dogs or three cats, we are not in compliance. I have been fostering in this community for ten years. Most of us understand we are not in compliance with the ordinance and we

have to do it carefully so we don't get caught. All the 501c3s that do adoptions in the valley use foster homes and they advertise in the newspaper and on their website for foster homes. The animals have to live somewhere while they get ready for adoption. If animals come in sick, they have to be nursed back to health, they have to be old enough to be s/n, have to be evaluated for temperament. Most people willing to foster have pets of their own. That puts them in non-compliance. Foster homes provide a valuable service to our community at no cost to the taxpayer. We save lives and reduce the number of pets that go into public shelters thus reducing the cost for taxpayers. Can we do something to help the 501c3s operate foster programs be in compliance with the ordinance?

DM - Animal Control's position is obtain a fancier permit. They need to be sterilized, vaccinated for rabies and microchipped. I would rather them be legal than have someone turn them in and get a search warrant to seize those animals. We have an existing system. What number is sufficient? Provided your people meet the requirements with the animals that are there, I don't have a problem issuing a fancier permit allowing them to do that. The hardest part will be the paper trail. Everything will have to line up, the rabies, the microchips for the ones that are on the permit. We would rather fosters be legal than not. If the numbers provided in the code are sufficient, we don't need to rewrite the code. KL- having been involved in the rewrite, we did not accept houses of refuge because there were no numbers. As a humane organization, I don't want Animal Control in my business. I want to maintain control over my fosters.

JP - no change needed; we have the fanciers permit. Ten is a good number. KL will direct my fosters to obtain a permit if they have more than three cats. We are taking in mostly kittens so they would not need a permit. CW – does the pet fancier permit solve your concerns? CF if the number is ten, that works. KL - Everyone agrees we will not take any further action? Committee – right.

8. Develop a Policy for adding items to the Agenda

DM – a question came up as to what our procedure was and we did not have one. Primarily you set your agenda at the end of the meeting. County adds anything that comes up in the interim. KL – usually the Committee members ask DM to put an item on the agenda. If we talk about it at the public comment section and we think there is an issue, we add it the next agenda. KL – how far in advance of a meeting do you need us to contact you? DM – about two weeks. JP – Motions that any agenda item has to be to county staff two weeks prior to the meeting date. Motion seconded and approved.

9. Educational Outreach

JP – we worked hard on changes to Title 10 and the education process is ready to be distributed. What avenues are there to get students and kids information and brochures about the new Title 10? How can we best serve as a committee on the educational side? KL – a lot of groups are already doing education outreach; almost all the humane groups are doing different areas.

HAROLD VOSKO (HV) – HCW has three education programs. One, a youth group, includes high school kids. We do our s/n clinics, we meet; go to Lied, NVSPCA and Roos N' More so there is outreach. We are in seventeen schools. KL – LVVHS goes into high schools. Doug Duke from NVSPCA has other groups. HW – we are meeting with more schools tomorrow. Go to our website and download the whole program. The manuals are there so if a teacher wants to do it for their school, they can. The good thing about this program is it lasts two/three weeks. It teaches what a responsible pet owner is in a very fun way. Usually at the end of the year, the kids do a play. It is almost like us talking. “Don't get a dog from a puppy store, get it from a humane group.” I don't know when the next play is but it is something to see. It is even on YouTube.

KL – how does this committee fit in with what you are doing? Commissioner Giunchigliani discussed looking at more school things. It is also important to reach adults. At one point we talked about overpopulation. Is this something the Committee is willing to do again, to get the breeders involved with what they are doing to deal

with backyard breeders? JP – With the Horses, Horses, Horses program, I go out with ten underprivileged children every other Saturday. They learn the basics of horsemanship, how to care for them, what to feed them. It is an eight-week course and they graduate. My program's curriculum is built after the CCSD's essential program so I have life sciences and teach life cycles. They will see colts born; see what it is like to rope a steer. Horses, Horses, Horses is bringing kids into the equine community. I would also like to educate them about cats. Is there literature that can be downloaded? HV – if not, we will have it. We are working on a five-year plan and are into our second year. We have an education coalition with the NVSPCA and LVVHS. We can open it up a bit. We don't have anything on horses so it would give us another place to go and another thing to do. We can't do this on our own. We have to build coalitions. The Hispanic Coalition is a big outreach. Education goes a long way. Someone from this Committee can be part of it.

KL – The year goes by very fast so if we are going to do something; we need to start now. Public outreach is good; PSAs developed by some of the Animal Control agencies are good. Sometimes you just have to get out there and deal with people. I would still like to see another overpopulation conference take place.

RE – Our group goes to Shade Tree twice a week, works with those children and with elementary preschools. We encourage s/n and explain vaccines. We reach the underprivileged, Shade Tree and Child Haven children, the children that are experiencing the dog fighting and cockfighting in their backyards. We go in with therapy animals; we teach them. The parents come to us a few weeks later “my son who was hateful to my younger children is now helping. He makes sure his sister brushes her teeth. He goes to school.” We want s/n but our first and only goal is to stop abuse, stop overpopulation and stop denigration of a species, be it feline, canine or birds. We are working with two printers nationally to develop a preschool program. Child Haven, Shade Tree have no preschool. These kids start out behind educationally. We developed an animal integrated program and are implementing it to teach children ABCs, colors, shapes, what you do, how you respect yourself and the animal. They learn to respect the animal; they learn to respect themselves. We go to elementary schools. . We don't want to stop what we are doing. We have children that are ADHD and learning disabled. The other kids don't like them. We work with that child, that child becomes a trainer. He gets to pick a therapy dog; brings him into his classroom. All of a sudden, he is a somebody.

GG – You want to integrate with what is already happening. It is important a presentation is done, including the student member of this committee, before the Clark County School Board. Look at some of the existing events that are scheduled. Get a booth at Pet-A-Palooza and capture teachers or students attending that event with information about how they can start a group at their school. Facebook is a huge way of reaching out to young people. Students can want to do something but they need a teacher in the school willing to sponsor that club. Reach out to the student councils in the schools.

JW- Janice Ridondo, Commissioner Collins' liaison, very much wants to attend these meetings but she is obligated to attend a Town Advisory Board on Thursday night. If the committee were interested in changing their meeting date to a day other than Thursday or a day on which Janice could attend, she would appreciate it.

MG gives kudos to the Committee for backing off adding new legislation. It is easy to get to the point where we are overregulated and need amendments for loopholes. It gets very complicated. We heard some very good ideas about educational outreach. I want to remind everybody that it is the Animal Advisory Committee and the main purpose is advising the County Commission on animal issues. For individual members to be involved in outreach is wonderful. I don't want to see the committee taking on these extra roles and spread themselves too thin and get burned out. Be a clearinghouse for information. It is great that people are coming here and telling you this is what we are doing. I don't think it is the Committee's responsibility to have a booth at an event. The different organizations that are represented on the Committee have booths. Protect yourselves from overload.

10. Formation of Subcommittee for Outreach and Education

KL – a couple people have some ideas and it seems worthwhile to discuss those ideas and decide what we want to do. My suggestion would be for CC, CW and JP to look at this issue. The subcommittee needs to decide

where this committee should be going in terms of educational outreach and come back with a report at the next meeting.

11. Information-sharing by the Committee Members

None.

12. Comments by the General Public

ORTHA STEVENS, a farrier in Las Vegas, states there is an enormous amount of horse abuse, stemming from neglect. She called and nothing happened so she got more people involved and everybody started calling for six or seven months. Wants to change the laws to make them more humane. There is a lot of abuse. Hoofs are so long and overgrown that the horse is crippled, horses that are extremely underweight or extremely obese in dirty, filthy areas without room to move around. JP – there are statutes in place for our horses that are actually very humane. We have laws in place that I worked closely with Mr. Collins on. DM - We use the Henneke System for grading horses, which works very well for us. We can explain it to judges who aren't horse people. Usually the biggest issue is getting the judge to understand what is bad.

LORI OWENS used to board at the Henderson Saddle Association. There were people there who would not give their horses water. I called Animal Control. These people had been called on many times, yet still had their horses after numerous complaints. It is a constant issue. We would like minimum standards for water and shelter for horses. Animal Control responds but the people make good for a little while and as soon as they are not observed any more, they go back to the same thing. You can recommend firmer laws. We want awareness; educate people because ultimately the animal suffers.

GG asked for support on a bill on the next legislative session, believes it is BDR 760. It would increase the penalties for certain acts of animal cruelty to a felony. In NRS 574.100, the penalties would increase if you injure or abuse an animal to a Class B felony. If you kill the animal, it would be a Class C felony. Also adding willfully and maliciously. It would mirror NRS 574.107 that makes it a felony to tamper with a show dog and we are asking that other animals be included in that felony range.

13. Set date, time and agenda of next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 14, 2011 at 6:30 at Paradise Community Center. Next agenda will have report on the subcommittee.

14. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:18 p.m.