

CLARK COUNTY ANIMAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

**CLARK COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER
500 S. Grand Central Parkway, Commission Chambers
Las Vegas, Nevada 89106
March 16, 2016
6:30 p.m.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT: WILLIAMS, KEITH (KW) – Non-Profit Humane Group, Chair
SMITH, PAMELA (PS) – Animal Breeder or Handler, Vice Chair
BURTON, KIMMIE (KB) – Large Animal Owner or Equine Conservation
D.V.M. FRANCO, KIMBERLY (KF) – Veterinarian
LEVINE, LISA (LL) – General Public**

MEMBERS ABSENT: GONZALEZ, ANA (AG) – Student

- 1. Call to Order**
Keith Williams (KW), called the meeting to order..
- 2. Roll Call**
Members announced themselves present. Ana Gonzalez absent (unexcused). Quorum.
- 3. Public Comment**
KW opened public comment. No public comment. Public comment closed.
- 4. Approval of January 27, 2016 minutes**
PS asked for a motion to approve the January 27, 2016 Meeting Minutes. KF second, all in favor, no opposition. Motion passed.
- 5. Approval of Agenda**
KB asked for a motion to approve March 16, 2016 agenda. PS second, all in favor, no opposition. Motion passed.
- 6. Receive a presentation from Heaven Can Wait Animal Society regarding their mission and programs**
Harold Vasko spoke about how Heaven Can Wait was founded and their goals. The Mission Statement of Heaven Can Wait is to eliminate companion animal suffering and pet overpopulation through aggressive spay and neutering, adoptions, community outreach and education. KW opened public comment. No public comment.
- 7. Discuss the mission and purpose of the Southern Nevada Animal Response Liaison (SNARL), a joint effort of Clark County Animal Control, City of Las Vegas Animal Control and the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD)**
JA gave a brief overview of the partnership and why it this taskforce was formed. JA stated this partnership came as a result of the increased number of felony animal cruelty cases in Southern Nevada. Metro has assigned 2 fulltime detectives. KW asked what the case load is for felony charges. JA advised it varies; Clark County jurisdiction is responsible for approximately 99% of their case load. LL asked what determines a felony vs. a misdemeanor charge. JA stated that if it is a violation of County Code, which is more restrictive than State Law, than it is a standard misdemeanor. Unwillful/without malicious intent is a determining factor for a gross misdemeanor, whereas, willful or with premeditation can determine a felony charge. KB asked if a death of an animal due to neglect is considered a felony. JA advised that it depends on what is determined while working with SNARL. Any felony charge can be reduced by the District Attorney's office. LL asked if the taskforce had statistics as it relates to animal abuse being related to other types of criminal charges. JA stated that FBI studies show that animal abuse is often the first crime that

serial killer or murderers are charged with. There is also a large amount of evidence that proves that animal abuse leads to domestic violence. The FBI has changed their focus over the past two years and will begin to track animal abuse by use of special code, in the same manner the FBI would track, serial killers, murderers and rapists. KB asked if there are any future plans to expand the taskforce. JA stated that getting two fulltime detectives was thought to be impossible; however METRO has made it happen. If it is necessary to have the taskforce enlarged, there will be a large push for that to happen. JA further stated that there is intent to work with both the State and National legislators to determine what laws need to be beefed up. KW opened public comment.

Gina Greisen, Nevada Voters for Animals, spoke of who is responsible for tracking the animal cruelty investigations if METRO is not involved in the prosecution. KW asked for clarification. JA stated that Clark County Animal Control is not a police agency, therefore CCAC will not be reporting to the FBI. Other jurisdictions may. JA further stated that CCAC can work with the District Attorney's office, as it is important that all jurisdictions know about prosecutions. KW closed public comment.

8. Discuss and provide recommendations on emerging issues to be addressed by the committee at future meetings.

PS mentioned looking at a special use permit to allow dogs in the rural areas, in an agricultural situation, not to be sterilized. JA advised of NRS 574, and

9. Comments by the General Public

10. Next Meeting Date

May 18, 2016

11. Adjournment

KW asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. PS made a motion, second by KB, all in favor, motion passed. Meeting adjourned.