

CLARK COUNTY ANIMAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

**CLARK COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER
500 S. Grand Central Parkway, Commission Chambers
Las Vegas, Nevada 89106
May 18, 2016
6:30 p.m.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT: WILLIAMS, KEITH (KW) – Non-Profit Humane Group, Chair
BURTON, KIMMIE (KB) – Large Animal Owner or Equine Conservation
LEVINE, LISA (LL) – General Public
GONZALEZ, ANA (AG) – Student**

**MEMBERS ABSENT: D.V.M. FRANCO, KIMBERLY (KF) – Veterinarian
SMITH, PAMELA (PS) – Animal Breeder or Handler, Vice Chair**

- 1. Call to Order**
Keith Williams (KW), called the meeting to order.
- 2. Roll Call**
Members announced themselves present. Pamela Smith absent (excused). Dr. Franco absent (unexcused). Quorum.
- 3. Public Comment**
KW opened public comment. No public comment. Public comment closed.
- 4. Approval of March 16, 2016 minutes**
KW asked for a motion to approve the March 16, 2016 Meeting Minutes. KM motion to approve, LL second, all in favor, no opposition. Motion passed.
- 5. Approval of Agenda**
KB asked for a motion to approve May 19, 2016 agenda. KM motion to approve, LL second, all in favor, no opposition. Motion passed.
- 6. Receive a presentation from Las Vegas Valley Humane Society regarding their organization and programs.**
Karen Layne advised the LVVHS was formed in 1991, designed to be a full service humane society, to include wildlife. At that time cruelty and over-population was the focus. Coming upon the 25th anniversary further objectives are being considered, to include but not limited to the 4 R's and 1 A, Rehome, Rescue, Rehab, Reduction of over-population and Advocacy. KL detailed the issues, goals and budget pertaining to the 4 R's and 1 A. KL stated the LVVHS is transparent with funding and believes it is important that it is known how the monies received are being spent. KL expressed the importance of advocacy. The LVVHS serves as an advocate of animal welfare in the Las Vegas Valley and at the State level. The LVVHS is looking forward to the upcoming legislative session and KL feels it is important to understand that as a 501C3, only 10% of funding is spent on lobbyist all else is done on a volunteer basis. KL, at conclusion, advised she would be willing to answer any questions.

KW, asked for KL opinion on the current "kitten season". KL answered that it was hard to determine if the situation was getting any better. KL states that it may be that the LVVHS is getting more calls because Animal Control is no longer picking up trapped cats.

LL asked KL to elaborate on the LVVHS Hot-Line. KL advised that the Hot-Line has been in operation since 2005 mainly for adoption and spay and neuter. The Hot-Line is used also for the Spay and Neuter clinics that provided low cost surgery and vaccinations. LL asked KL to also elaborate on the NRS pertaining to heat. KL stated that the NRS only states a proper temperature;

it does not address specific heat related issues, including the length of time permitted to tether an animal. KL expressed that Animal Control needs to have better latitude as they relate to these types of complaints. KL believes that the term “shelter” is too vague. LL also asked for further explanation pertaining to tethering and heat. KL asked for Jason Allswang (JA), Chief of Code Enforcement, to provide the explanation to LL. JA stated that it is now illegal to tether an animal if there is a Heat Advisory Warning. Clark County is more restrictive than the State, we allow for tethering for up to 10 hours a day other than during a Heat Advisory Warning. Clark County now has requirements that apply to all that have dogs and cats that if the temperature is over 85 degrees, adequate shade must be provided and if the temperature is below 50 degrees adequate bedding or protection must be provided for warmth. LL asked KL if she would want anything added to these changes, KL stated she would like to see tethering all together be eliminated because it is nearly impossible for Animal Control prosecute on a violation of this code. KW opened public comment. It was brought to the attention of the committee that KL did not introduce herself. KL apologized and introduced herself to the committee. Public comment closed.

7. Discuss and provide recommendations on hoarding laws in Clark County.

KL asked for JA to provide explanation of the hoarding laws. JA advised that there are no laws specific hoarding laws. Clark County does have limitations to the amount of certain animals allowed and cruelty statutes. LL asked JA if the current laws can be strengthened in his opinion pertaining to hoarding. JA advised that one of the biggest issues is being able to get access to the property. To gain access we need to either get permission from the owner or through a warrant. A witness statement is required to be able to get a warrant issued. LL asked how we could help with that, JA advised this is the 4th amendment of the Constitution and that we need to respect those privacy and property rights. LL advised that it was because at a previous meeting she learned that there are people who have hundreds of reptiles, this is what prompted her to ask to have this discussion. JA advised that it is not hoarding if the animals are taken care of properly. Further discussion was had regarding the cost, fees and the process associated with these cases. KB asked what sort of restitution we are seeking in these types of cases. JA stated that the restitution varies based on the severity of each case. KW believes that hoarding is a mental health issue for the vast majority; therefore a good working definition would be helpful. KW stated that each jurisdiction should work together, identify and track these individuals and get them the mental health assistance that they need. KW opened public comment.

KL wanted to clarify that there is a difference in hoarding and having too many animals. KL read to the committee a university study that described the differences.

Madeline Franco, rescue worker, states that she believes that using the word “hoarding” is more limiting. There is no way to determine a “hoarder” on a mental health basis, there are laws that are against the effects of hoarding. She does not believe that the label “hoarder” does not matter if the animals are not being treated properly.

Joshua Cowart (JC) clarified the comment that LL referred to earlier about the large amount of snakes that one had. Joshua explained this is a shop owner not a normal hobbyist. JC further stated that this was not a good example of a hoarding situation, as the shop owner was within his legal limits to own all the animals and agrees that this a mental health situation that people need help with.

Kat Kyle clarified that some reptiles for more safe and secure kept in drawers. It is also a healthy and safe environment for them. Kat also agrees with KW and would like to see all the jurisdictions working together for the hoarders.

LL followed up by asking JC some questions. LL asked about the sizing of the drawers these animals were kept in. JC stated the size of the drawer depends on the size and age of the snake. Further discussion was had regarding how the snakes are housed with shelving systems. Public Comment Closed.

8. Discuss and provide recommendations on training programs for Animal Control and its contractors.

KB stated that she deals with a lot of the large and farm animals in our valley. It has been brought to her attention that there is a serious lack of training on how to properly care for these animals. Neither the Animal Control Officers nor the contractors know how to properly care for these animals and it is extremely dangerous for them as well as for the animals. KB would like to see about getting funding and training available for these people to be able to give them the proper equipment and education to do their jobs adequately. KW agrees that the responsible parties need to have the equipment, resources and training needed to properly care for such animals and further agrees that there is a great potential for injury to both the responsible parties and the animals. KW concluded with he believes that it is of the obligation of Clark County to provide. KW opened public comment.

Madeline Franco stated that there are many husbandry organizations for all types of animals that can be tapped into and taken advantage of. The resources are out there; they don't cost a lot of money and could create synergy. Public Comment closed.

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

KB wants to further discuss the training issue and possible continuing education for the officers and outside contractors. LL asked if we could reach out to some of the husbandry organizations for training. KB said she would reach out to some of these groups. KW asked JA to give a brief overview of our training procedures at the next meeting and to reach out to TAF on this issue as well.

10. Comments by the General Public

KL, LVVHS, wants to talk about more changes to Title 10 pertaining to outlining areas and a central database for lost animals.

Regina Harom, agrees with KL, would like to see a central database for lost animals. Regina wants more discussion on the heat regulations for animals. She further stated that TAF will no longer allow people to bring their animals to meet and greet with adoptable animals.

Public Comment closed.

11. Next Meeting Date

July 20, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.

12. Adjournment

KB motion to adjourn, LL second, motion passes. Meeting adjourned.