

**CLARK COUNTY ANIMAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES**

**CLARK COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER  
500 S. Grand Central Parkway, Commission Chambers  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89121  
April 17, 2014  
6:30 p.m.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: LAYNE, KAREN (KL)  
SAYEGH, S. SUSAN (SSS)  
WHITE, DEBBIE DVM (DW)  
MARY GIPAYA (MG)  
JANELLE EDWARD (STUDENT)

**1. Call to order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

**2. Public Comment**

KL advised that each speaker would have 3 minutes to speak. Seeing no one. Public comment closed.

**3. Approval of Agenda**

KL asked for a motion to approve agenda, motion by DW, second by SSS, all in favor, no opposition. Motion passed.

**4. Receive an update from the subcommittee regarding rabies vaccinations and awareness**

DW advised that at the animal foundation on April 3, 2014 a meeting was held to investigate possibilities to provide a vaccination clinic to low income or at need areas. Goal is to benefit rabies, spay and neuter compliance. This year the animal foundation has started an organization, funded on behalf of the Pets for Life program. This program is funded by PetSmart Charities and the SPCA. The organization has held 1 vaccine clinic to date and at the meeting it was discussed if it would be best to join this organization or to do something different. The 4 hour vaccine clinic was held at a park with 2.5 veterinarians and 5 – 6 support staff. The park was within the focus community that was selected by looking at 5 different zip codes with the highest intakes from animal control. These zip codes were 89101 and 89104. This event allowed for 180 vaccinations, mostly dogs, with vouchers distributed for free spays and neuter. Of those vouchers handed out, 92 surgeries had been scheduled and by the date of the meeting, 80 surgeries had taken place. Micro chipping was being done at the time of the spay, not at the event. Future clinics are scheduled for May 10<sup>th</sup> and another in September/October. This organization had great interest in what the AAC could contribute to clinics like such. Based on previous meetings, it is believed that both agencies have the same goals and achievements, as far as, the promotion of spay and neuter and rabies vaccination compliance. DW trusts that the model works well and does not need to be reworked. Further interest is to get more veterinarians and staff on board with these clinics. DW asked if there were any questions or comments. KL asked if all future vaccine clinics are going to be held in the zip codes 89101 and 89104. DW advised it is the goal to stay focused on one community and saturate it before they branch out. The goal for this event was for 400 vaccinations. Other recruitments are unknown at this time. SSS asked how the AAC would join this event rather than creating their own. DW stated it would be needed to be determined if the AAC would stand behind such help with getting other recruits and work with the community to do so. The

AAC would need to help promote this event and help this organization be successful. It was asked if 89101 and 89104 were within the City of Las Vegas or Clark County jurisdictions. It was advised that most of 89104 are within Clark County jurisdiction. KL expressed that because the AAC is a Clark County committee, the focus should be within our area. KL asked Chief Jason Allswang (JA) about looking into a county area of which most of the calls/impounds are being generated from. KL asked if there was a need outside of the zip code 89104, if there was something similar that the county could do or has done. Lieutenant Stockman advised of the close working relationship with Heaven Can Wait (HCW). Clark County Animal Control (CCAC) along with HCW has gone door to door in target areas offering free spay and neuter. The current target zip code is 89156. These areas are advised of what needs to be done and are provided with spay and neuter and vaccination vouchers with HCW. Lieutenant Stockman believes working together with these events would be beneficial. KL advised that there are other agencies working in 89104 and that in the past these sorts of clinics were held and everybody contributed, including vaccines and micro chipping. KL believed when this was done there was payment made to the veterinarians, as they were the hardest to get on board. Saturdays are a very hard day to get veterinarians, as they are working. DW mentioned that because the next event date has already been set in stone, she would be unable to participate, as the other 2 doctors that she works with are going to be on vacation. DW strongly agrees that will be an enormous challenge to recruit veterinarians on a Saturday. KL recommended a determination be made of if the AAC wants to join the Animal Foundation in what they are doing, taking into consideration that the target zip code would have to be 89104 while HCW is targeting zip codes 89110 and 89156. KL believes that these events are a good way to get animals up to date on vaccinations which is very important, not only with rabies but with parvovirus. KL is certain that it is important that if vaccination clinics are offered that spay and neuter be as well. DW concurred and was pleased about the 50% compliance with spay and neuter as a result of the event on April 3, 2014. Part of the importance is on population control. KL stated that she wished Harold Vosko was at the meeting, as he was part of the past vaccine clinics and his input would be of value. KL believes this could be something that is pursued with little money from the county, maybe just the need of staffing. Other groups could possibly help with the funding. The outreach groups are going to be a large part of this. KL expressed that wanting to do 400 vaccinations in 4 hours is difficult. Multiple veterinarians and staff are needed and the city's mobile unit. DW concurred with KL and stated that the city did have the RV at the event and that the cats that were vaccinated were done inside the RV, but that the dogs were vaccinated outside. Lieutenant Stockman advised that it will not be a problem getting the mobile unit from the city; it is only a matter of a phone call. The city will deliver it and the city is also trying to get a number of the Clark County animal control officers trained to pull the unit. The county will need to return the unit stocked and cleaned as it was when borrowed. KL believes that this is something that is worth pursuing. Public Comment opened. No comments made. Public Comment closed.

**5. Approval of the March 13, 2014 Minutes (item #4 on agenda, skipped over during meeting)**

KL asked if there were any questions or comments on the meeting minutes as presented. Public Comment opened. No comments made. Public Comment closed. DW motioned to approve the minutes as presented. SSS second the motion. All in favor. Motion passes.

**6. Receive an update from the Equine subcommittee**

MG stated no formal meetings have taken place, but have been working on some things with Local Equine Assistance Network (LEAN), such as, getting new pens in about a year. LEAN works exclusively with Clark County doing horse rescues and turn-ins. LEAN has been having different events. At the end of March, LEAN helped sponsor a gelding clinic at Desert Pine to help cut

down on stallion ownership type situations and could get them gelded. A Hop-To-Adopt event is to be held at Horseman's Park on Saturday, April 19, 2014 from 10:00am to 3:00pm, everyone welcome. This event will include other rescue organizations, including LEAN. This is a special event; animals that are not normally adopted will be there. 7 LEAN horses will be there. MG was pleased to be able to say that there had not been a lot of turn-ins or confiscations. KL stated that she had been asked a few questions about Title 30 and issues pertaining to the changing of the ordinance for horses. KL asked if the Equine subcommittee was going to take a look at the changes before anything is moved on. MG advised that it was not something that she intended to do, but that she would have interest in doing so. KL stated that one of the issues that she would like to look at is the problem with adequate shade. MG welcomes anyone who would like to be involved, as her committee is very small. She asks that anyone interested to please contact her. MG wishes to get with Animal Control to be cohesive before changes are made. Lieutenant Stockman indicated that LEAN is helping citizens with the shade issues; they are working with CCAC who has different shade structures or cloths that are being donated. All considerations are taken, whether it is a true hardship or not, if a ticket should be given or if the animal needs to be impounded. LEAN and CCAC are trying to network together with other organizations to also help with medical assistance. KL was pleased, as she often gets questioned of what the requirements are. KL asked if MG and her committee could work with LEAN and CCAC to take a look at these issues along with the proposed changes to Title 10 and Title 30. JA advised that through Commissioner Tom Collins office, a work group is being put together to address everything large animal related. Therefore, CCAC will be sure to let Janice Ridondo of Commissioner Tom Collins office know that MG needs to be involved, as well as anyone else who is interested. Public Comment Opened. No comments made. Public Comment closed.

**7. Receive an update from the Ordinance subcommittee**

KL advised that she would present the information but asks SSS to be of assistance. Two meetings have been held. Both meetings had great attendance. The first meeting was held on February 20, 2014 and the next on April 3, 2014. KL asked that some consensus is found so that the proposed changes can be discussed with CCAC. KL would like to see CCAC then come back with the proposed Title 10 ordinance changes. The AAC is in agreement. One of the issues that was discussed was pet shop regulations. The consensus was that Clark County's regulations were better than some of the other jurisdictions, but that there are still a few things that could be changed. One of the changes being, the requirements of the pet shops should be the same as rescue groups. Under the current regulations this cannot be done with only the shops with adoptable animals, this will have to be dealt with through Nevada Revised Statutes. The condition to make a requirement of pet shops to microchip, who is responsible for costs associated with the registering of the microchip and spay and neuter should be one of the changes. The issue of permit licensing for pocket pets was discussed. Rabbits, ferrets and pigs need to also fall under the same spay and neuter requirements. KL expressed that she felt an important discussion that was had was the right to inspection of such pet shops by animal control officers. KL asked JA to confirm that animal control officers do have the authority to go throughout the pet shop in order to do a complete inspection. JA confirmed. MG asked if the spay or neutering of the pigs are going to have to fall under the livestock regulations, such as at a feed lot. Will there be a difference as to a livestock pig vs. a pot belly pig. KL was unsure but the focus is on pet shops at this point. JA explained that the focus is on household pets/companion animals, not farm animals. MG just wanted to be sure that there would be no issues with Ranchers. DW clarified that ferrets are sold spay and neutered from the distributors.

Discussion was had about the requirements for Rescue Groups. Microchip and gold standards were discussed but nothing was accomplished in these areas.

It was determined that all animals need to be micro chipped, this will ensure all animals get back

to their owner, reducing the number of animals that go into the shelter.

Dogs living outside were not discussed until the next meeting.

Discussion was had about the tipped ear cat dispositions. Keith Williams gave a report, however it was mostly dog people at the meeting. No agreement was met; further discussion will need to be had.

Going back to Pet Shops, medical treatment of animals was discussed. This was included under the cruelty standards. KL advised that the attempt to cover all areas of concern was successful.

At the April 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting a discussion was had about dogs living outside. KL stated that a great recommendation was made. The recommendation was that the same standards as retailers and like facilities should apply to individual animals. The current standards need to be improved for animals living outside. Not only does the standard require shade, food and water, but it should be improved to require a platform for the animal. Some were concerned with the cost of the platform, but KL expressed that too many animals are living on landscape rock.

Breeders permits for impounded dogs should not be allowed. If there is someone trying to get a permit after the dog has been impounded, the permit should not be granted. KL asked JA if this is an easy correction to be made. Lieutenant Stockman advised that breeders permits have not been granted while the dog is still in impound unless they have already had one. Dangerous permits have been granted while the dog is still in impound. SSS stated that this is usually in situations to excuse the spay and neuter requirement. JA stated that he spoke to Lieutenant Felten to get clarification. Lieutenant Felten did state that there was one unusual situation when the dog was released without the spay or neutering, but a Fix-It citation was written upon the release. This allowed for 2 weeks to take the animal to their own vet or explain to the court as to why this was not taken care of. KL asked for clarification as to this not being an issue. JA concurred, further stating that per Lieutenant Stockman, there are times when an animal is given an exemption from a licensed veterinarian for different reasons such as the dog being too old or if there is an injury to the animal that needs to heal prior to the surgery. This would allow for the dog to be released without being spay or neutered. KL asked that in a situation such as the injury, is there a follow up to ensure that the animal does get fixed. KL gave the example of if the animal is pregnant and cannot have the surgery is there a point where there is a follow up made or do situations like this fall through the cracks. JA advised that a citation is issued, but that he can let his staff know that a follow up is necessary. The shelter will also be told this, if it is not already a standard practice. KL asked JA to let the committee know what the current standard practice is. JA emailed the shelter from the meeting advising of all the practices that should be in place and that any animal that has litter or is pregnant cannot be released without CCAC issuing a citation.

Voluntary surrender was discussed both at the shelter and at the residence. CCAC believes that these issues are more of a training issue than something that needs to be put into the ordinance. Additional training for the officers is to take place as well as making an informational handout available to the person surrendering the animal. The handout should be in both English and Spanish explaining what their rights are at that time.

Under clarify right of entry CCAC advised that this not an issue. A search warrant can be issued if needed. No ordinance clarification necessary.

Unclaimed animals going into adoption, referred specifically to feral cats that have been impounded. Keith Williams advised that he would make the decision if the cat is part of a

registered colony then the cat would be returned or if not then the normal procedures for adoption would be practiced. No ordinance clarification necessary.

Clarification was discussed for 10.24.100, Release – Vaccination and neutering or spaying. The language for retailers that reads an animal cannot be sold that is less than 8 weeks or able to nurse on its own, whichever is later needs to be added to this ordinance under rescue groups. MG or SSS stated that JA indicated that rescue groups are not considered an operator under 10.30.140. MG or SSS asked if the amendment to 10.30.140 will include rescue groups in the list of organizations. JA advised that discussion was had as to add rescue groups as operators, it was decided that the best place add this was in 10.24.100. All changes will be reviewed and approved by the district attorney. KL does not believe any proposed changes were made to 10.30 which were the minimal standards for a facility. This had been changed approximately 3 years earlier. SSS concurs. KL apologized for the length of time that it has taken, but wanted the committee to know that some of the discussions were very involved. KL asked the committee if they had any concerns with the proposed changes. No questions or concerns. All proposed changes have been turned over to CCAC. JA stated a draft ordinance will be compiled and sent to each committee member for review in time for the next AAC meeting. The next meeting will be the time for any comments, changes or questions. The next step will be to bring the draft ordinance to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) for introduction and then adoption. KL asked if the introduction will be brought to the BCC as a whole or would it be introduced as the changes are agreed upon. JA stated that there is already a good amount of changes to be brought to the BCC and fears if the AAC and CCAC waits to long the changes will not happen for many years. JA further expressed the issues with Exotics will be brought up at some point in the near future, the legislative session is coming up, all which could delay the process. Once the draft ordinance is done, should it be decided that it is premature, then it can be placed on hold. KL added a comment that at the City of Las Vegas meeting, a discussion of horse drawn carriage took place. KL does not believe that this is covered in Title 10. KL would like CCAC and the AAC to take a look at this and see what is required, she does not want horse drawn carriages in Clark County. JA advised that in 14.42.030 it reads it is unlawful for any person to operate, drive or propel an animal drawn vehicle or rickshaw on the highway, sidewalks and/or the area used for pedestrian traffic contiguous to the highway in any business district in unincorporated Clark County. A business district is any area contiguous to a highway when within 600 feet along such highway there are buildings and use for business or industrial purposes. Horse drawn carriages are almost completely restricted within Clark County. The only places it may be allowed would be within approved residential areas. KL believes the easier way to address this is to completely restrict it within Clark County. Public Comment Opened. Jana Wright (JW) thanked committee chair KL for mentioning the issue of horse drawn carriages. JW stated that JA failed to mention that in Clark County code 14.42 which is in the traffic type code that there are exemptions to allow for horse drawn carriages. The exemption is in Chapter 6.84 the business license portion of Clark County code. This chapter talks about parades. JW suggests that the AAC also take a look at this because right now Clark County does not allow horse drawn carriages unless on private property. The permit part may be the loop hole, JW agrees with KL 100% that Clark County should not allow horse drawn carriages.

Gina Greisen (GG) stated that horse drawn carriages were at Town Square but is not aware if that is within Clark County or considered private property. GG apologizes for missing the subcommittee meeting that discussed the proposed changes to Title 10. GG asked if she could get an update on the sale of animals on Craigslist from JA about the multijurisdictional taskforce. GG states that on Craigslist and Facebook you can find all types of animals for sale. This needs to be addressed on the front end. GG asked to talk about the forfeiture of animals in Title 10. GG asked if CCAC goes to a house and finds intact animals and a litter how many citations are being written to unlicensed breeders. GG would like to see, if this is already not the standard, that the practice to

be to write a citation for all the animals, including the litter.

Keith Williams (KW) 4516 West San Miguel, Las Vegas. KW stated a concern he has about allowing rescue groups to be operators. KW believed that he does not want to see CCAC have to go and inspect every rescue groups facility like they do with pet stores. This may be a possible consequence.

KL closed public comment.

KL stated that the forfeiting of animals is something that the AAC may want to address. KL mentioned that the City of Las Vegas ordinance is different with the spay and neuter with that particular item. JA stated that Clark County does call for the forfeiture but are unable to seize the animal. Short of that, the unlicensed breeder would have to appear before a judge before the animals could be seized. CCAC is working with the district attorney to fix this issue, thus being part of the upcoming ordinance change.

#### **8. Discuss possible dissolution of subcommittees**

KL stated that having to have an agenda for a subcommittee meeting does present a problem of limiting what can be discussed. KL asked that JA address the committee on this item. JA stated that any body that is created either by the BCC or the AAC is subject to the open meeting law. The creating of the subcommittees resulted in the creation of multiple mini Animal Advisory committees that must have their own agendas, quorums, and are subject to all of the same rules and conditions as the AAC. This has created some problems, one being that there are limits to what can be discussed. The agendas have to be worded with enough clarity for the general public to know what is going to be discussed. No stray conversations can take place, examples were provided. JA expressed that he has worked with the District Attorney's office and together looked for some resolution to this problem and to be able to have these meetings a little more informal. The District Attorney wants to be sure that the open meeting law is not violated. An option given by the District Attorney is to have the AAC dissolve all of the subcommittees. Doing this would allow no more than 2 of the committee members or others of the public getting together to discuss issues as needed and then a third party or an animal control officer could report back to the AAC. A member of the AAC can also report back, as long as it is done from a citizens stand point. No posted agenda needed. This was done with Annoula Wylderich, JA and the parks department for the wildlife. No official committee was created by the AAC, the meeting was held, discussion about the model boaters and fisherman on sunset lake. Some resolution has been met but it is still being worked on. This is not a public meeting. Annoula Wylderich then comes to the AAC meetings and reports back. The AAC can then decide on what or any involvement is needed. This is an option should the AAC decide to dissolve the subcommittees. The use of government facilities is an option. SSS asked JA how the public would be notified of these informal meetings. JA advised that the meetings are posted at the community centers. These meetings are not posted on the internet. An email distribution list is available should it be needed to invite citizens. KL has a concern that when the meetings occur that someone feels excluded because they were not notified. One of the benefits to having smaller meetings is that issues are discussed and/or resolved and then the discussions at the AAC are not as prolonged. DW likes the idea of flexibility and dissolving the subcommittees. DW expressed that having to have agendas and posting is a lot of hoops to go through before being able to have a discussion. KL stated that is what the Open Meeting Law pertains to. Public Comment Opened.

Gina Greisen, Nevada Voters of Animals. GG stated that her group would be happy to host smaller meetings. GG expressed that most of the involved people are part of the same network and can easily share the information through social media. That way if someone is unable to make it to the

smaller meeting, they could still attend the AAC allowing the opportunity to speak on agenda items or during public comment. Doing this would not limit anyone. GG is frustrated and would like staggering the terms, she expressed that nothing gets done other than just a lot of talking amongst AAC. The meeting is too formal, nothing gets done and there is no help to the animals. GG was concerned when she saw this item to dissolve the subcommittees on the agenda and is a supporter of the open meeting law but often sees it violated in other places than at the AAC. GG is for dissolving of the subcommittees.

Public Comment Closed.

SSS likes the idea that JA discussed and concurs with what GG stated. SSS states that with having the smaller meetings she does not believe it would exclude anyone, but that it actually may allow for more people to be involved.

DW made a motion to dissolve all subcommittees to include the Rabies, Equine, and Ordinance subcommittees. MG second the motion. All in favor. Motion passes. KL asked JA to work with the AAC to get meetings and information out to citizens on the small meeting that are to be held. JA stated he would be accessible as well as any government facility meeting room. Community centers are available; stating finding a location for these meetings will not be a problem.

KL wanted clarification from all subcommittee chairs that it is understood as to what the motion means. MG stated that she understands and does not have any questions.

## **9. Public Comment**

KL asked Harold if he would like to add to the discussion of the vaccination clinics or about what Lieutenant Stockman talked about with regard to the areas that the Animal Foundation are focusing on and what areas AAC and Heaven Can Wait are working in.

Harold Vosko, Heaven Can Wait. Harold stated that Debbie came and spoke to the Animal Foundation. The key with HCW is the spay and neuter but that is beneficial to include rabies because there always seems to be an epidemic. Harold is in support of the vaccinations clinics but believes that there is an over pet population problem. The problem with the clinics and such is that the animals will get the vaccinations but not all the owners will get the animal spay or neutered. This causes more healthy animals to reproduce. Harold stated that many clinics have been held in the past and then it was moved away from and now the focus is door to door. A suggestion was made that the animal is not given the rabies certificate until spay or neutered. Daily it seems that there are animals with Parvo coming into the clinics because they were never vaccinated. The additional key is to get working in different areas. Keeping score is important to see if this is working and the numbers in the areas are going down.

Keith Williams, central sponsor for the manage feral cat colonies. 4516 W. San Miguel. KL asked that he share some numbers with the committee. A graph was provided. 2009 is the base line year, tracking the stray cat admissions and the cat euthanasia's at the Animal Foundation. This year it is expected to reach the 50% reduction point in both categories. A large seasonal fluctuation is happening in both categories driven primarily by kittens born every spring. A decline occurs in the seasonal fluctuations, in 2009 was in 100%; 2010 and 2011 were in the 90%. In 2012 it dropped to the 70% area and this past year in 40% of where it started. This suggests the number of cats reproducing has dropped dramatically.

Gina Greisen, Nevada Voters for Animals. GG congratulated all who worked on the Feral Cat solution. The drop in the numbers is amazing. Further congratulating Animal control with

working with the District Attorney's office as many other jurisdictions are envious of the great working relationship with regard to cruelty cases, the forfeitures and the workings on Title 10. GG thanked Clark County Animal Control for taking the time and making the effort to focus on the large amount of work that is needed to make the proposed changes to Title 10. GG stated that she would really like to see the taskforce be more of a focus. GG believes it is important to go after the Craigslist and Facebook sellers/breeders. These people clearly post their addresses and phone numbers. GG wants an across the board effort with all municipalities. The second thing that she would like to see is Public Service Announcements (PSA). These PSAs are available for free. There are a number of issues that need to be put out to the public, examples of heat and cold restrictions, cruelty, or continual education on spay and neuter.  
Public Comment Closed.

**10. Set date, time and agenda for next meeting.**

June 26, 2014

**11. Adjournment**

SSS motion to adjourn. KL meeting adjourned.