

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS*

**KERN COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT
ANIMAL CONTROL COMMISSION**

Kern County Administrative Building
1115 Truxtun Ave., Bakersfield, CA 93301
3rd Floor, Multipurpose Room

May 18th, 2016 – 6:00p.m.

A. ROLL CALL: The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.
Commissioners Present: Ms. Anderson –Chairperson/Commissioner
Mr. Blackburn – Vice Chairperson/Commissioner
Ms. Madigan –Commissioner
Ms. Geary – Commissioner
Ms. Taggart – Commissioner

Commissioners Excused:
Ms. Perez – Commissioner (*non-voting member*)

Staff Present:
Nick Cullen – Director, Kern County Animal Services
Jerri S. Bradley – Deputy County Counsel
Blake Smith – Business Manager, Kern County Animal Services
Jeff George – Volunteer Coordinator, Kern County Animal Services
Amber Chrissakis – OSS, Kern County Animal Services

[When names appear in parenthesis, the motion initiating action on the agenda item was made by the first Commissioner named and seconded by the second Commissioner named.]

B. APPROVAL OF SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS:

1. March 16th, 2016 Regular Meeting.

Motion to Approve, Receive and File (*Geary/Taggart*) - All in favor

C. CONSENT AGENDA:

1. CORRESPONDENCE FILED WITH THE COMMISSION - Receive and File

1. E-Mail received 03/14/16 from Glenn Vadney in regards to how to file a complaint against an Animal Control Officer.
2. E-mails received 04/06/16, 04/08/16 and 04/13/16 from "Gina" in regards to problems in Ridgecrest. (Attachments available upon request)
3. E-mail received 04/26/16 from an unidentified member of the public in regards to Kim Bennett
4. E-mail received 05/09/16 from Susan Lovato in regards to the death of her dog.

Motion to Receive and File (*Geary/Blackburn*) - All in favor

D. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

This portion of the meeting is reserved for persons to address the Commission on any matter not on this agenda but under the jurisdiction of the Commission. Commissioners may respond briefly to statements made or questions posed. They may ask a question for clarification; make a referral to staff for factual information or request staff to report back to the Commission at a later meeting. Also, the Commission may act to direct the staff to place a matter of business on a future agenda. Please state your name and address for the record before making your presentation. **SPEAKERS ARE LIMITED TO TWO MINUTES.**

Heard from Joan Peyton who reported she was in the shelter to groom dogs and was pleased to see that there were minimal dogs for her to choose from because the kennels were so empty.

Heard from Minoo Seyedan who's dog was euthanized at a shelter. After some discussion that Commissioner Anderson, Commissioner Blackburn, and Director Cullen participated in, it was determined that Ms. Seyedan's dog was euthanized at the Bakersfield City Shelter on Mt. Vernon Ave. Ms. Seyedan told her story and Director Cullen offered to get Ms. Seyedan to the appropriate agency to handle her situation.

Heard from Liz Keogh in regards to Ms. Seyedan's loss. Ms. Keogh stated that she was present at the Bakersfield City shelter when Ms. Seyedan came in to find her dog and recounted what she observed regarding the situation.

Heard from Sue Bennett from Kern Humane who expressed her condolences to Ms. Seyedan. Sue also reports on Kern Humane activities.

Heard from Anabelle Jiminez, founder of Saving Our Strays Animal Advocate Local Group. She wanted to know the protocol on calls for dogs chained up. Director Cullen responds that

each call is handled differently depending on the circumstances. Ms. Jiminez speaks specifically about a dog in Boron that has been seen on social media that was of concern to some citizens and when an Animal Control Officer went out to the location the dog was not taken. Director Cullen assured Ms. Jiminez that if action needs to be taken by KCAS then action will be taken.

Stacy Enns speaks in regards to the law on dogs chained up and asked how to have the law changed. Commissioner Anderson and Director Cullen respond. Commissioner Madigan asks Director Cullen what the law is and Director Cullen responds. Ms. Enns also asked about the law that indicates the age at which puppies can be sold or given away and if it's state or county law.

Heard from Kristy Nolan who wanted to know how she can help educate the community. Commissioner Anderson responds and gives Ms. Nolan some ideas of how she can help and get involved. Commissioner Madigan suggests Ms. Nolan also get with Volunteer Coordinator, Jeff George to find out how she can help volunteer.

Heard from Terry Kahn who tells people how she deals with members of the public when she sees them illegally selling puppies. Liz Keogh asks Ms. Kahn to send that method to other members of the group who would be interested. Ms. Keogh also asks Director Cullen if we send out educational information in PEET packets. He responds that we do however they are careful how much they put in the packets. Heard an unknown member of the public ask if giving puppies away is the same as selling in which Commissioner Anderson says it is.

Heard from Commissioner Blackburn who responds to Ms. Seyedan and expresses his condolences. Commissioner Blackburn also speaks about the no kill goal of KCAS.

E. STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS OR REPORTS:

1. DIRECTOR'S MONTHLY REPORT – Receive and file

Heard from Director Cullen. He speaks regarding Ms. Seyedan. He then speaks about the importance of the educational component to making the no kill goal attainable. He speaks about the PEET team and announces that the two Animal Control Officers that are assigned to PEET team will be going to schools, educating young people. Director Cullen announces the Just One Day event that will be held June 11th at the shelter. He also speaks about the Pets for Vets Program that KCAS worked in collaboration with Friends of the Kern County Animal Shelter Foundation on. Director Cullen also speaks about the Animals for Armed Forces event that will take place Memorial Day weekend. He then goes over the statistics in the Director's monthly report from March and April

Commissioner Blackburn comments on the statistics from the Director's report. He is pleased to see the numbers go in a positive direction.

Commissioner Taggart agrees with Commissioner Blackburn and commends the efforts of the department.

Commissioner Geary speaks about the volume of calls ran by Field Services.

Commissioner Madigan also speaks about Field Services, specifically the Northeast. The volume of calls in that area is higher than all the other areas.

Commissioner Anderson commends Director Cullen and all the department's efforts. She speaks about microchipping and how important identification for animals is.

Director Cullen commends the volunteers and implores everyone to get involved.

2. VOLUNTEER UPDATE - Receive and File

Heard from Jeff George, Volunteer Coordinator. He introduces John Harrer, a volunteer who has started the "Pet Detective" program at KCAS. Jeff explains that the Pet Detective program was started to help raise the return to owner numbers by having a volunteer search social media and look through the kennels to help connect owners with their lost dogs at the shelter. Jeff also introduces Danny Spanks from KRAB radio. Danny comes out to the shelter and takes dogs out to the play yard and puts them on his "dog blog" to help get shelter dogs adopted out. Jeff then reports on the volunteer numbers for March and April. Lastly, Jeff reports that for the last couple of months the shelter has had a few large donations of cat litter. He and another staff member have driven out to Taft 3 times to pick up litter, totaling approximately 35,000 lbs. of cat litter. Commissioner Blackburn comments that volunteer hours are the backbone of an organization and commends Jeff and his volunteers. Commissioner Blackburn asks Jeff to explain Pet Detective. Jeff and John Harrer explain the program to Commissioner Blackburn. Commissioner Taggart commends Jeff on his efforts with the volunteers also.

3. SPAY/NEUTER FUNDS UPDATE - Receive and File

Heard from Business Manager, Blake Smith. Blake talks about the end of the fiscal year coming up and that the department is over budget in the spay/neuter funds. He points out that the overage is because the department has been so successful in adopting out animals. He also points out that the department has also been successful in selling low income vouchers. he projects that by the end of the year the department will have spent the entire \$250,000. Blake also speaks about TNR funds. Commissioner Madigan asks if raising licensing fees, since a percentage of those fees go into the spay/neuter funding, would help in the future. Blake states that he is in the process of looking at fee changes however it could be a very long process. Judi Daunell asks where the other 90% of licensing fees go. Blake responds that it goes back into operating the shelter. Liz Keogh confirms that the money goes to the shelter and not County general funds. Blake confirms. Judi Daunell asks if it would help to increase the percentage that goes into spay/neuter funds. Blake responds that it would just be switching money from one area to the other and wouldn't be beneficial. Commissioner Anderson asks Blake if the volunteer hours play a role in his budget calculations. Blake responds that the volunteer hours help keep the employee costs down. Commissioner Blackburn speaks about becoming a self-help county and asks if showing the amount of volunteer hours would help show that the department is a self-help department. Blake responds and explains the general

fund. Commissioner Anderson asks if there are any grants available that would help. Blake responds that the department got a grant for Lamont. Commissioner Anderson asks about the Petsmart grant. Blake responds that the Petsmart grant has been closed down due to their own organizational changes but is going to be starting up again and is something the department will pursue. Heard from Liz Keogh announces that the Board of Supervisors has budget hearings next month and urges everyone interested in having a say to go to the meeting.

F. COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS OR REPORTS:

On their own initiative, Commissioners may make an announcement or a report on their own activities. They may ask a question for clarification, make a referral to staff, or take action to have staff place a matter of business on a future agenda (Government Code Section 54954.2(a)).

Heard from Commissioner Taggart. She reports that they are working on Emergency Preparedness.

Heard from Gary Blackburn who spoke about Christopher Carlberg with a Honeybee rescue. Christopher would like to come to the Commission meeting and make a presentation about what his company does.

Commissioner Madigan asked about a statement she thought was made in the March meeting about RVTs performing spay/neuter surgeries. Director Cullen corrected and informed her that was not the case. Commissioner Madigan asked about TNR in Lake Isabella and if residents could trap cats and transport them to the Bakersfield shelter if they could utilize the TNR program at the shelter. Director Cullen confirmed that they could and that some people do already. Judi Daunell states that transportation is the problem for Lake Isabella residents. Commissioner Madigan recognizes that Commissioner Blackburn was voted as the new Vice Chairperson for the Commission. Commissioner Madigan speaks about a dog in Taft that was bitten by a rattlesnake. Funds were raised and sent to BVH and more funds were raised than were needed. Commissioner Madigan asks if that overage can be donated to the Lacey Fund by BVH. She just asked that if anyone hears anything about that to let her know. Commissioner Madigan asks Director Cullen to fill her in on the Veterinarian position open at the shelter. Director Cullen responds that the position is still open and there is an interview scheduled. Sue Bennett asked if there was a Veterinarian position approved for the next 3 months at the Board meeting. Director Cullen responds that the approval Sue is referring to is for a contract with a local Veterinarian to provide surgery services. Commissioner Madigan asks if there are less puppies coming into the shelter. Director Cullen confirms this to be true. Commissioner Madigan asks about badges for Commissioners. Director Cullen responds that the answer was no. Commissioner Madigan gives her thoughts on mandatory spaying/neutering. Commissioner Madigan also gives her opinion and thoughts on the situation with Mino Seyeda.

G. OLD BUSINESS:

1. EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS SUB-COMMITTEE

Heard from Commissioner Geary. She reports that there is some clear direction on this plan. They are going to go with a plan call C.A.R.E.S. and they are working on a draft.

2. FRIENDS OF THE KERN COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTERS UPDATE

Heard from Judi Daunell who reports on the Wags to Riches fundraiser. She also reports that there is a fundraising event on May 27th at the Souza Family Vineyards in Tehachapi to raise money to put towards the play yard at the Mojave shelter. Judi also talks about the Applause for Paws fundraiser in which Danny Spanks is going to be the MC. She reports on the Kern River Valley Snip and Tip program. Commissioner Madigan asks for some more information on the Souza Family Vineyards fundraiser. Judi reads the flier for everyone. Sue Bennett comments to Judi about a post on social media regarding what signals to look for when children are interacting with dogs.

H. NEW BUSINESS:

1. REVIEW OF SPAY/NEUTER PROGRAM

This item was discussed under item E.3.

Commissioner Blackburn speaks regarding the parking situation when events are occurring at the venue across the street. Commissioner Blackburn would like to further discuss ID badges or business cards for the Commissioners. Commissioner Madigan reports the same issue. Jerri Bradley tells Commissioner Anderson that this item is not agenized and that it cannot further be discussed.

I. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn (*Blackburn/Geary*) – All in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

The next Animal Control Commission meeting is scheduled for:

June, 15th 2016
6:00 p.m.

Attest:



Janice Anderson
Chairman

**A full recording of the proceedings can be heard at http://www.co.kern.ca.us/acd/AAC_AS.aspx*