

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

June 15th, 2016 – 6:00p.m.

A. ROLL CALL: The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m.
Commissioners Present: Ms. Anderson –Chairperson/Commissioner
Mr. Blackburn – Vice Chairperson/Commissioner
Ms. Madigan –Commissioner
Ms. Taggart – Commissioner

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

Staff Present:
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. May 18th, 2016 Regular Meeting.

Motion to Approve, Receive and File (*Madigan/Blackburn*) - All in favor

C. CONSENT AGENDA:

1. CORRESPONDENCE FILED WITH THE COMMISSION - Receive and File

- a. E-Mail received 05/13/16 from Yesenia (last name unknown) in regards to "Concerned of the well-being of 26+ dogs" – REMOVED
- b. E-mails received 05/13/16 from Joy Kennedy regarding "possible harassment?" - REMOVED
- c. E-mail received 05/25/16 regarding "ACTION NEEDED!" - REMOVED
- d. E-mail received 06/08/16 and 06/09/16 received from Tracy Taylor in regards to "Information Sharing" (attachments available upon request) - REMOVED

Items a. and c. were removed by Commissioner Madigan who wanted to know what was going on with the dogs in Ridgecrest. Commissioner Taggart commented that she has driven around the area but was unable to see anything in the area. She also comments that the officers that deal with that area do come over from Bakersfield. Blake Smith comments that officers, including Senior Officer Wolfe have been to the property in question several times and so far there has been no violations. He also comments that they continue to monitor the address and that the reporting parties have had a couple of conversations with Director Cullen. Commissioner Madigan asks that this situation be referred to staff and followed up on in next month's meeting.

Commissioner Madigan addresses item d. and is concerned about privacy issues. Amber Chrissakis states that she handles the requests for information for Animal Services and that when she is unclear of how to handle a specific request, that request goes through Jerri Bradley at County Counsel and Jerri advises on how to handle. In this particular activity there have been no requests for information. Jerri Bradley states that there are certain protections when the public calls Animal Services to have action taken. In this situation, the emails were sent to the Commission email. The email is on a public website and was sent to a public Board and it was not an option to not include the emails in the agenda.

Commissioner Madigan addresses item c. and informs that she was scheduled to be the hearing officer for Ms. Kennedy's hearing however she knew the reporting party so the hearing was postponed. Ms. Madigan asks Jerri Bradley if the hearing ever took place. Jerri responded that Ms. Kennedy did not attend the hearing but was in the front office so Nick went and spoke with her however Jerri does not know what occurred during their conversation. Jerri states that the last status she was aware of is that there were some animals redeemed and a problem with payment. Ms. Madigan expresses that people need to be aware of perceptions even in drastic situations such as this. Commissioner Anderson asked if a hearing is still going to take place. Jerri states that the right to hearing has been waived. Commissioner Madigan asks Jerri what other recourse Ms. Kennedy would have if she didn't use the Commission and Jerri responds she could go straight to the Board of Supervisors or she could file suit.

Motion to Receive and File (*Madigan/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 Judyth Coffman who reports that Antelope Valley Kennel Club is sponsoring a seminar by Jean Dodds, a researcher in dog vaccines. She needs pre-paid reservations for this event by July 10th or it will have to be cancelled. It will be held in Palmdale. She also reports that they honored the city of Whittier with an AKC dog friendly city award for voting to enact mandatory spay/neuter. She believes Kern County is on the same path.

Heard from Liz Keogh discusses the City Council meeting in which the matter of "Pumpkin" was heard. She has been in touch with the City and the matter has been referred to the Community Services Committee of the City Council. The next Community Services Committee meeting will be held Thursday, August 4th at noon in City Hall North. Ms. Keogh offered to take people's contact information to put together a contact group for community related meetings and events. She is calling the group Kern Animal Welfare Advocates. She also states that the City Council meetings are available on YouTube.com. Commissioner Madigan comments that she thinks the group is a great idea.

Heard from Joy Kennedy expresses her concern over the seizure of her animals. She requests an investigation of one of the Animal Control Officers (who she does not name) in which she claims has been rude and bullying; She would like the Director of Animal Services to be held accountable for his statements as being true; She requests all paperwork (vaccines, licensing, and vet bills offered to KCAS for impounded animals be copied and filed as to avoid duplicating procedure causing stress on the owners and the animals. And that animal personalities be documented as to avoid fights in kennels. She also requests animals be exercised or put in larger area. She further requests an investigation into the reason for the exorbitant boarding fees that she alleges are higher than any vet or boarding facility. Lastly she requests that special needs and senior animals be available for adoption upon surrender rather than immediately euthanized upon surrender. And if this procedure is already in place, that she be notified as such. Commissioner Madigan asks that this be referred to staff and Jerri informed her that criminal charges have been filed and that this may not be something that is open for discussion at this time. Commissioner Madigan asked if she could talk to Director Cullen about it and Jerri again stated that if it is an open investigation he would not be able to discuss it. Ms. Keogh asked for clarification on whether or not it would be on next month's agenda. Commissioner Anderson informs that it will be up to staff to determine when it will go on the agenda based on when it is available for discussion.

E. STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS OR REPORTS:

1. DIRECTOR'S MONTHLY REPORT – Receive and file
3. SPAY/NEUTER FUNDS UPDATE - Receive and File

Heard from Blake Smith who reviews the numbers from the Director's monthly report.

Commissioner Blackburn asked Blake which Petco the shelter uses to adopt out cats. Blake responds that the shelter uses the one on Rosedale and the one on Gosford. Commissioner Blackburn asks Blake to explain how Petco adoptions work. Blake explains the shelter supplies the animals for adoptions but Petco facilitates the adoptions. Animal Services staff and volunteers do the cleaning of the cats daily. Commissioner Blackburn speaks in regards to adoption statistics. He also speaks in regards to the live outcome rate.

Commissioner Madigan speaks about field services and the high field services calls in the Northwest area.

Commissioner Taggart speaks about the Just One Day event that took place on June 11th. Blake responds that there were 167 adoptions in that one day.

Commissioner Anderson asks if the stray cat statistics includes TNR cats in which Blake confirms that it does.

Blake then gives an update on the spay/neuter funding. He reports that the \$250,000 has been spent. With that money there were 3,817 surgeries. From the low income vouchers 558 surgeries were done.

An unidentified member of the public asked Blake what information is published in Spanish to help the Spanish speaking community. Blake responds stating that all our spay/neuter and clinic information is published in Spanish and English. He also responds that even the PEET packet goes out in both English and Spanish. Liz Keogh states that she sees many Spanish speaking members of the community come to the Wednesday night vaccination clinics. Terri Kahn also suggests sending information the schools. Another unidentified member of the public asked why there is no information that goes out to City of Arvin residents because she sees lots of stray/loose dogs in that area. Blake responds that there are limited areas of Arvin that are county jurisdiction. He states that he has reached out to City of Arvin officials to see if there could be some kind of mutually beneficial arrangement made so that there are more spay/neuter services provided to City of Arvin residents. Commissioner Anderson asks if the county residents in the Arvin area can sign up for the Lamont spay/neuter clinic. Blake responds that the grant was written for the 93241 zip code only.

Blake reports that he has been working on a new fee schedule ordinance for Animal Services' fees for service. He states that on June 28th he will be requesting at the Board of Supervisors meeting, a public hearing regarding the proposed new fee schedule. He reports that the proposed fee schedule will go onto the Animal Services website at the same time it is presented to the Board. He points out a couple of specific items on the proposed fee schedule

that are significant changes. He discusses the impound fee that he is proposing be changed. He also discusses that he will propose that an animal impounded a second time, be spay/neutered rather than on the third impound. Terri Kahn asked if that would apply for the lifetime of the animal in which Blake responds it would. There is some discussion about impoundment versus returning to owner in the field. Commissioner Madigan asks Blake if changing from spaying/neutering from second impound to third impound would require more than just a change in this ordinance. Blake responds that changing it in this ordinance is all that would have to be done. The charge for daily care/board of animals at the shelter is discussed. It is discussed that effective July 21st that the Animal Control Commission will become the Animal Services Commission. Commissioner Anderson expresses her concern about the change of spay/neuter on the third impound to the second. Jerri explains that this change only changes the fee and does not change the ordinance to make the spay/neuter mandatory on the second impound. There is further discussion on the issue of spay/neuter on the second versus third impound.

2. VOLUNTEER UPDATE - Receive and File

Heard from Jeff George, Volunteer Coordinator. He discusses the monthly volunteer hours. Jeff discusses the Pet Detective program and the progress of the program. Jeff also reports that at the Just One Day event on June 11th, there were 26 volunteers who helped make the day a success. Jeff discusses the benefits of having a structured volunteer program. Commissioner Blackburn asks Jeff to explain the Petco program. Jeff explains that the cats stay at Petco and the volunteers clean every morning.

Motion to receive and file Director's monthly report, spay/neuter funds update, and volunteer update. (*Madigan/Taggart*) – All in favor

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 Madigan who asked what the status of hiring a Veterinarian is. Blake responds that a Veterinarian has been hired and will start August 1st and there are a couple of contracts pending for people wanting to help in the surgery center. Commissioner Madigan asks for the name of the Veterinarian hired. Amber responds that her name is Rebecca Arnold. Blake gives a background of Dr. Arnold. Commissioner Blackburn asks how many assistants Dr. Arnold will have. Blake responds that there are currently 3 RVTs and 2 ACWs that help with medical related duties. Commissioner Madigan inquires about the reading program recently started at the shelter. Amber responds with information about the reading program. Commissioner Madigan speaks about the funny things that can happen on the internet. She also speaks about the City Council meeting that she recently spoke at.

Commissioner Madigan asks Ms. Keogh about the budget hearings at the Board of Supervisors meeting. Blake responds that June 21st is the first budget hearing however the final decisions and the important meeting is the last Tuesday of August. Lastly, Commissioner Madigan speaks about a video on social media in which a police officer was able to get what seemed to be aggressive dogs into his patrol car. The group briefly discusses.

G. OLD BUSINESS:

1. EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS SUB-COMMITTEE

Heard from Commissioner Taggart who reports there has not been a meeting since their last update.

2. FRIENDS OF THE KERN COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTERS UPDATE

Heard from Judi Daunell who reports on Applause for Paws event.

3. BUSINESS CARDS/ID BADGES FOR COMMISSIONERS

Heard from Jerri who reports that badges have been approved and they are just waiting on a picture from one Commissioner.

H. NEW BUSINESS:

NONE

I. ADJOURNMENT:

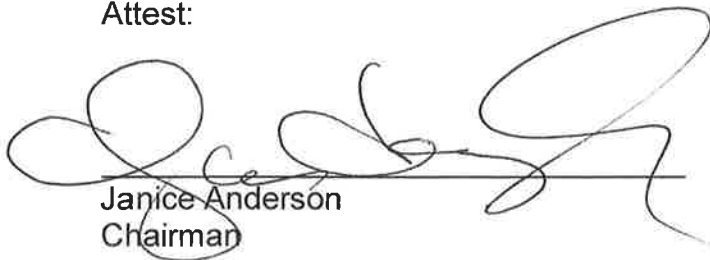
Motion to adjourn (*Taggart/Blackburn*) – All in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

The next Animal Control Commission meeting is scheduled for:

July, 20th 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*