

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS*

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

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

July 20th, 2016 – 6:00p.m.

- A. ROLL CALL:** The meeting was called to order at 6:09 p.m.
Commissioners Present: Ms. Anderson –Chairperson/Commissioner
Mr. Blackburn – Vice Chairperson/Commissioner
Ms. Geary – Commissioner
Ms. Madigan –Commissioner
Ms. Taggart – Commissioner
Ms. Perez – Commissioner (*non-voting member*)

Commissioners Excused: NONE

Staff Present:

Nick Cullen – Director, Kern County Animal Services
Jerri S. Bradley – Deputy County Counsel
Blake Smith – Business Manager, Kern County Animal Services
Lisa Richardson – Shelter Supervisor, 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. June 15th, 2016 Regular Meeting.

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

Motion to Approve as Amended (*Madigan/Taggart*) – All in favor

C. CONSENT AGENDA:

1. CORRESPONDENCE FILED WITH THE COMMISSION - Receive and File

- a. E-Mails received 06/30/16 from Terri Valentine-Duarte in regards to a horse she owned by the name of "Sabre"- REMOVED
- b. E-mail received 07/05/16 from Tracy Taylor regarding "redaction of Previously Sent Email". - REMOVED
- c. E-mails received 07/11/16 from Jane Pruettt regarding "illegally dumping animals". - REMOVED
- d. E-mail received 07/13/16 regarding "Please forward this email to the Commissioner, Susan Madigan."

Items a., b., and c., were removed by Commissioner Madigan.

Commissioner Madigan addresses item a. and inquired about what was happening with the horse "Sabre". Director Cullen advises that he and County Counsel looked into the situation and that the horse no longer legally belong to Ms. Duarte. Commissioner Madigan asked if Ms. Duarte is aware of the outcome. Director Cullen states that he has spoken with Ms. Duarte and has informed her of the outcome. Jerri S. Bradley adds that Ms. Duarte, at the time the horse was seized had not been the legal owner for at least 3 years. Jerri also states that Ms. Duarte requested the contact information of the adopter of the horse however the department does not ever divulge adopter information and that staff has on more than one occasion assured Ms. Duarte that the horse went to a good home. Supervisor Perez states that it is good news that the horse is ok.

Commissioner Madigan addresses item b. Commissioner Madigan informs that to alleviate any further confusion or misunderstandings, there has been verbiage added to the Animal Services Commission website informing the public that any correspondence sent via the Animal Services Commission email is public information and that anonymity cannot be granted. Commissioner Madigan was unclear on how to redact information that the member of the public had sent. Jerri states that she spoke with this individual and explained to her that information cannot be redacted as once it is sent. Once sent, the email becomes public record and Jerri believes that after the phone conversation that this individual understands.

Commissioner Madigan addresses item c. Commissioner Madigan asks if it is illegal to “dump” community cats somewhere else after trapping them instead of taking them to the shelter. Director Cullen states he spoke with Ms. Pruett and clarifies that she lives in a small community where her and some neighbors care for a colony of free roaming cats. Ms. Pruett is alleging that another neighbor who is unhappy with the colony of cats is paying someone to trap the cats and relocate them to an area that the cats are unfamiliar with. Director Cullen states that the activity is under investigation however it can be illegal to trap and relocate an animal to an area that they are unfamiliar with. Commissioner Madigan requests that this item be placed for follow up in staff referrals in the August 17th, 2016 meeting.

Motion to Receive and File (*Geary/Taggart*) - 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 Judythe Coffman who reports a change in last month’s meeting minutes. She was advised that we will make corrections to the spelling of her first name and the intent of the award presented to the City of Whittier. She also requests clarification on the fee change discussed in last month’s meeting. Does the fee change presented by Blake make spay/neuter mandatory on the 2nd impound rather than the 3rd as in the current fee schedule? Jerri clarifies that the proposed fee change would not change the ordinance that makes spay/neuter mandatory on 3rd impound it would just allow the department to charge the owner if a spay/neuter was done on 2nd impound. Director Cullen clarifies that the change would give the department discretion on a 2nd impound on whether a spay/neuter was necessary and allow the department to charge an owner for those costs. Judythe asks if the count is for the lifetime of the animal in which Jerri responds that it is and Judythe asks if that means even if the animal is of geriatric age. Director Cullen states that the department would be taken into consideration the recommendations of a licensed veterinarian in such cases.

E. STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS OR REPORTS:

a. DIRECTOR’S MONTHLY REPORT – Receive and file

Heard from Director Cullen who reviews the numbers from the Director’s monthly report. Commissioner Madigan asks Director Cullen to talk about Riders and Rods. Director Cullen explains that Riders and Rods is a car show/event in which the department takes adoptable

animals to try and adopt them out. He also states that events such as this help change the perception of the department and shelter animals.

Heard from Commissioner Blackburn who speaks about the foster program and how it is a key piece to the no kill model. He asks Director Cullen what he attributes the rise in the number of animals going through the foster program. Director Cullen believes it is not one factor that contributes to the change but many factors, however he believes the foster program and the spay/neuter program are significant factors. Commissioner Blackburn talks about the statistics from the Director's report. He asks Director Cullen to clarify what "other" means as categorized in the report. Director Cullen states pretty much anything that is not a cat or dog. Director Cullen encourages the public to attend the Animal Services Commission meetings, contact Commissioners, or himself if they have questions or concerns in the community. He encourages criticism because he believes it helps the department improve.

Heard from Supervisor Perez speaks about the ongoing spay/neuter funding going to Animal Services. She also clarifies that this subject is very important to her and she is focused on helping Animal Services pursue the spay/neuter program.

Heard from Commissioner Blackburn who asks Director Cullen to clarify on the Petco grant the department recently received. Director Cullen states that the grant received was for \$50,000 and was to go to a part of the community that needed low cost veterinary care or spay/neutering services. It was decided that Lamont is an area in which those funds could be most utilized.

Heard from Liz Keogh who speaks on Supervisor Perez's efforts in regards to spay/neuter. She also speaks about the profound interest in 2013 from the Lamont community in regards to spay/neuter options.

Commissioner Madigan requests that Director Cullen speak about the department's involvement in the Erskine fire disaster and the aftermath of that disaster. Director Cullen reports that shelter related efforts and the field services related efforts. Commissioner Madigan asks Director Cullen to give a brief summary of how he plans to get the department to the no kill goal in 5 years. Director Cullen gives a brief description of his plan.

b. VOLUNTEER UPDATE - Receive and File

Heard from Jeff George, Volunteer Coordinator. He discusses the monthly volunteer hours. He reports that there are now 197 volunteers. He also reports that Judythe, Teri and Janice came and held a successful breed ID workshop at the shelter.

An unidentified member of the public asks Supervisor Perez how the Board of Supervisors feels about all the volunteer hours. Supervisor Perez responds that the Board is pleased with the idea of the growing volunteer programs not only with Animal Services but throughout the county.

3. SPAY/NEUTER FUNDS UPDATE - Receive and File

Heard from Blake Smith who reports that the fiscal year is now over and with the money allocated to the department for spay/neuter there were 4,001 surgeries done.

Heard from Liz Keogh who asks Blake to clarify why there are minus signs in his reports to which Blake responds it was just the order in which he entered the numbers in the computer. He says he can reverse them next time so the minus signs go away.

Heard from Commissioner Madigan who asks about the trust fund for low income vouchers. He states the balance as of June 30th was a comfortable balance and they are working hard in getting their licensing revenue up. Commissioner Madigan asks if the department will then start issuing low income vouchers again. Blake states that the department is holding off until the budget is confirmed before they decide what will happen with the low income vouchers. Commissioner further asks if at that time the department will begin issuing vouchers again to which Blake responds that if the department is given the money discussed with the Board they will press forward come September 1st with issuing vouchers again. Supervisor Perez encourages the public to come to budget hearings on August 29th, 2016 to support the Board and Animal Services.

Motion to receive and file Director's monthly report, spay/neuter funds update, and volunteer update. (*Madigan/Geary*) – 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 speaks about an item of correspondence she received (see above item C.1.d). She advises that the email and her response is available for anyone who wants it. She also speaks about her concern about correspondence with the public via email. She states that the public is emailing to the Commissioners via the Commission email however no one from the Commission ever responds. Commissioner Madigan asks for some clarification on whether or not Commissioner may respond to members of the public individually. Jerri S. Bradley responds that it would most appropriate that a response would be given after a vote of all 5 members of the Commission, otherwise that they delegate to staff to respond. She further explains that it would not be appropriate for the Commissioners to respond individually unless the email was specifically sent to one Commissioner. Commissioner Madigan asks if it would be possible to add an auto reply to the Commission email that lets members of the public know their email has been received by the department. Jerri responds that there is nothing illegal about that and Director Cullen states that he will talk to the IT department and make those arrangements. This subject to be followed up on in the August 2016 meeting.

Commissioner Anderson asks if there is an email directed specifically to one Commissioner if it needs to be sent to County Counsel as well. Jerri responds that unless there is some legal concern she does not need to see it but it may be appropriate to cc Nick.

Commissioner Madigan speaks about PokemonGo and if it would be an option for Animal Services. Director Cullen responds that there is an application related to PokemonGo called "Walk for Dog" that allows people to walk their pets and a donation is made to animal shelters. Judy Daunell states that this is not just a Pokemon app so you can just walk your animal and the app will allow you to pick the shelter of your choice for the donation to go to.

Commissioner Madigan asks for clarification on what City residents can obtain at a Animal Services Wednesday night vaccine clinic. Director Cullen and Liz Keogh clarify that City residents can obtain core vaccinations and a microchip at the Wednesday night clinics at Animal Services. Commissioner Madigan commends Foster Coordinator, Deanna for her hard work and notes that she is great with foster families.

G. OLD BUSINESS:

1. STAFF REFERRALS

- a. Follow up on correspondence filed with the Commission from June 15th regarding dogs in Ridgecrest.

Heard from Carlee Morris in regards to her concern for the animals under the care of Kim Bennett. She claims to have contacted various County officials 71 times in regards to her concerns and nothing has been done and she would like some answers and resolution to the problem.

Teresa Parker has questions she would like to have answered. She claims she has over 60 hours of a dog tied up at Kim Bennett's home that she tried to turn over to Animal Services. Ms. Parker would like to know how many citations were issued and what they were for. She would like to know why no one will take her recordings. She wants to know why it took so long to issue a single citation when so much stuff has happened. She would like to know what the plans are to monitor the situation when they cannot see it from the street. Because Ms. Parker's time is up, Commissioner Anderson offers Ms. Parker the opportunity to hand her list of questions to Director Cullen, which she does and Director Cullen states that due to the time constraints of the meeting, he will speak with Ms. Parker after the meeting is adjourned.

Heard from Director Cullen in regards to Kim Bennett's animals and property. He states that Animal Control Officers are monitoring the situation very closely and at the current time do not have legal right to remove animals from the property. If there becomes cause for removal of the Animals, Animal Control Officer will do so as necessary.

Heard from Commissioner Madigan who has spoken with Ms. Morris and Director Cullen and she clarifies that she believes Animal Services is doing as much as they are able to do within the law at this point in time. She encourages the public to help change the laws that they are no happy with and feel should be changed. Commissioner Madigan suggests the creation of a way to mediate this situation. Commissioner Geary asks if there is a way to help mediate this between the parties involved. Jerri responds that she would advise against the County getting involved in a matter between two private parties however it is possible if an ordinance is passed. Commissioner Madigan feels it would be beneficial for two of the Commissioners to sit down with the concerned parties and try to mediate a solution and Commissioner Taggart agrees to participate as this is her area. Director Cullen expresses his concern for the public's safety when social media gets involved. Commissioner Madigan requests a copy of a .pdf file Ms. Morris has compiled of the ordinances that have been violated and warrant citations and/or action. Commissioner Anderson states that it should be sent to all the Commissioners.

b. Follow up on requests made by Joy Kennedy

Heard from Director Cullen who responds to all of Ms. Kennedy's requests.

2. EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS SUB-COMMITTEE

3. FRIENDS OF THE KERN COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTERS UPDATE

Motion to table items G.2. and G.3. until the Animal Services Commission meeting held August 17th, 2016 –(Geary/Taggart)

Commissioner Geary reports that they are working on an emergency plan and there is a facebook page call LARIAT if anyone is interested in looking it up.

H. NEW BUSINESS:

1. CHRISTOPHER CARLBERG OF BEE RESCUE

Heard from Mr. Carlberg in regards to bee hive relocation.

I. ADJOURNMENT:

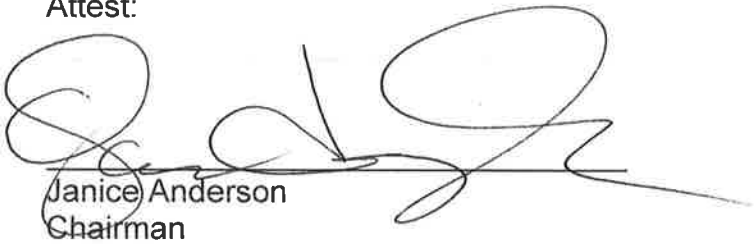
Motion to adjourn (*Blackburn/Geary*) – All in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

The next Animal Services Commission meeting is scheduled for:

August, 17th 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*