

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

November 16th, 2022– 6:00p.m.

1. ROLL CALL: The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m.

Commissioners Present:

Mr. Blackburn – Chairperson
Ms. Geary - Vice Chairperson
Ms. Christopher - Commissioner
Ms. Taggart - Commissioner

Commissioners Excused:

Mr. Couch – Supervisor
Mr. Sannappa - Commissioner

Staff Present:

Nick Cullen – Director, Kern County Animal Services
Gurujodha Khalsa - Deputy County Counsel, Kern County

[item was made by the first Commissioner named and seconded by the second Commissioner named.]

2. APPROVAL OF SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

1. October 19th, 2022 - Regular Meeting - Approve

Motion to receive and file - *(Geary/Taggart)* - All in favor

3. CONSENT AGENDA:

These agenda items before the Animal Services Commission (Commission) may be acted upon with one motion if no member of the Commission or audience wishes to comment or ask questions.

1. CORRESPONDENCE FILED WITH THE COMMISSION - Receive and file
 - a. Email from Adrienne Davis received on 10/27/22
 - b. Email from Adrienne Davis received on 10/25/22
 - c. Email from Adrienne Davis received on 10/25/22

Motion to receive and file - *(Geary/Christopher)* - 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 Terri Kahn concerning the AKC emergency trailers.

Heard from Whitney Lusk concerning problems she has experienced with the shelter.

E. STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS OR REPORTS

1. DIRECTOR'S MONTHLY REPORT – Receive and file

Heard from Director Cullen concerning the department's current events and statistics from the Director's report. Director Cullen answers questions from the public regarding things discussed during this agenda item.

Heard from Commissioner Christopher concerning when Snip Bus will come to Tehachapi.

Heard from Commissioner Geary concerning Mega Adoption.

Heard from Commissioner Blackburn concerning RTO statistics.

Heard from Sheryl Doeckel concerning the problem with contacting the shelter by phone.

Heard from Terri Kahn concerning how busy the front office of the shelter is.

Heard from Whitney Lusk concerning how busy the front office of the shelter is.

Heard from Michael Najera concerning dog intake statistics.

Heard from an unidentified member of the public concerning puppies for sale.

Heard from Michael Najera concerning how to get an appt. for spay/neuter.

Heard from Craig Becker concerning resources for Animal Services.

Heard from Janet Becker concerning various issues the shelter faces.

Heard from an unidentified member of the public concerning high school students volunteering.

Motion to Receive and file (*Taggart/Geary*) - All in favor

6. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Heard from Commissioner Geary regarding CADAT activities

Heard from Commissioner Christopher concerning her efforts with TNR.

Heard from Commissioner Taggart concerning her RVT training.

G. OLD BUSINESS:

1. STAFF REFERRALS

NONE

2. UPDATE ON AKC REUNITE FUNDRAISING EFFORTS

Heard from Terri Kahn during public presentation.

3. STATUS ON ORDINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE REVISIONS

Heard from Commissioner Blackburn who spoke about how much work has gone into creating the new ordinances.

Heard from Commissioner Christopher who talked about what steps have been taken to bring the most current revisions to the Commission.

Heard from Deputy County Counsel concerning how the Commission should move forward with the current revisions.

Heard from Terri Kahn concerning section 07.08.025 of the revisions. She believes that section is irrelevant and shouldn't be there at all and is redundant. She believes it is mandatory spay/neuter because it has exceptions and can be taken away.

Heard from Deputy County Counsel on the process in which the Commission should hear public comment.

Heard from Cathy Parker who agreed with Ms. Kahn regarding 07.08.025, specifically exception #2.

Heard from Debbie Thompson who does not support mandatory spay/neuter and agrees with Ms. Parker regarding exception #2. She also was unclear about the definition of dog trainer under the definitions section (#22) of the revisions.

Heard from Jill Wooden who believes the presented ordinances put restrictions on dog owners who show their dogs. She believes the ordinances deny those show dog owners their rights. She believes and is concerned that the ordinances allow Animal Services to impound and alter a dog after a determined amount of complaints are made about a dog regardless if the complaints are legitimate or not.

Heard from Sheryl Doeckel who is in support of the proposed revisions.

Heard from Jackie (last name not given) who provided section 07.08.025 #7 "impoundment of unaltered dog" that Ms. Wooden was referring to in her comments.

Heard from Deputy County Counsel clarifying what the next steps are going to be for the ordinance revisions.

Heard from Commissioner Blackburn who confirmed that this item will stay on the agenda for the next Animal Services Commission meeting.

H. NEW BUSINESS:

DISCUSSION ON WHETHER OR NOT THE COMMISSION WILL GO DARK IN THE MONTH OF DECEMBER.

Motion to go dark in December (*Taggart/Geary*) - All in favor

9. ADJOURNMENT:

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

The next Animal Control Commission meeting is scheduled for:

January 18th, 2022
6:00 p.m.

Attest:



Gary Blackburn
Chairperson

**A full recording of the proceedings, which constitute the official record of the Animal Services Commission's meetings, can be heard at: <https://www.kerncountyanimalservices.org/who-we-are/animal-services-commission/>*