

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
March 18th, 2026 – 6:00p.m.

A. ROLL CALL: The meeting was called to order at 6:07 p.m.
Commissioners Present:

Mr. Blackburn – Chairperson
Mr. Miller - Commissioner
Ms. Lopez - Commissioner
Ms. Geary - Vice Chairperson

Commissioners Excused:

Mr. Parlier – Supervisor

Staff Present:

Nick Cullen – Director, Kern County Animal Services
Melissa Wells- Deputy Director, Kern County Animal Services
Jennifer Feige- Deputy County Counsel, Kern County
Amber Chrissakis - Volunteer Office Services Specialist

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

B. APPROVAL OF SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

1. February 18th, 2026 - Regular Meeting - Approve

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

C. 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 received 03/13/26 from Kristi Jessup requesting a personnel matter to be investigated.

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

Commissioner Blackburn announced that Commissioner Christopher has resigned and wished her well in her future.

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 Janet Armentor concerning dog abandonment in Kern County.

Heard from Joan Peyton concerning obedience training available in Kern County through Bakersfield Obedience Training Club.

Heard from Teri Kahn concerning obedience training available through Tehachapi Mountain Dog Fanciers, in Tehachapi.

Heard from Sandy Giurlani concerning breeding of dobermans in East Bakersfield. She also inquired about how the department would respond to the increase of field service calls.

Heard from Michelle Peters concerning the increase in stray dobermans in Kern County.

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 Miller who inquired about low income vouchers.

Heard from Sandy Giurlani inquiring how the public can help advocate for Animal Services to get more officers and equipment.

Heard from Joan Peyton concerning TNR numbers and how pleased Liz Keogh would be with them.

Heard from Teri Kahn concerning how officers return dogs to owners in the field.

Heard from Michelle Peters regarding field service calls and field officers.

Heard from an unknown member of the public regarding after hours calls.

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

F. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Heard from Commissioner Miller who spoke about the abundance of stray dobermans in the community currently. He also spoke about his work educating in the community.

G. OLD BUSINESS:

1. STAFF REFERRALS

NONE

H. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Discussion and possible direction regarding potential revisions to Title 7 of the Kern County Ordinance Code, including prior Commission recommendations.

Heard from Commissioner Geary who spoke about getting the Board of Supervisors to review the recommendations. She advised that each commissioner contact their supervisor and speak with them directly. She also would like to keep this item on the agenda.

Heard from Jennifer Feige who advised that the ordinance revisions will not likely appear on a Board of Supervisors agenda in the foreseeable future.

I. ADJOURNMENT:

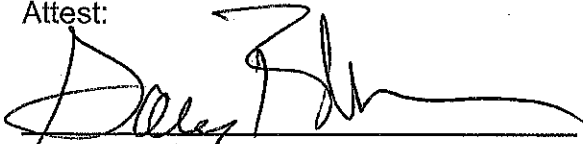
Motion to adjourn (*Geary/Lopez*) – All in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

The next Animal Control Commission meeting is scheduled for:

Wednesday, April 15th, 2026
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/>*