

CLARK COUNTY ANIMAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Clark County Government Center
500 South Grand Central Parkway, ETD Room 3
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101
February 10, 2003
6:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: HENDERSON, DAVID
 HOFF, KARIN
 KRISKO, SUSAN
 MARCH, DEBRA
 RIVKIN, SAMUEL

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m.

2. Approval of agenda

A motion to approve the agenda was made and seconded.

3. Approval of December 16, 2002 Minutes

A motion to approve the Minutes was made and seconded.

4. Presentation to Committee Members

JOE BOTEILHO gave the Committee members for the year 2002, Brief Bags bearing the County logo and Animal Advisory Committee embroidered on the front to thank the members for their service during the preceding year.

5. Selection of Chair and Vice-Chair

KARIN HOFF was nominated as Chair and DEBRA MARCH as Vice Chair. Both motions were seconded and approved.

6. Information-sharing by Committee Members

SUSAN KRISKO, the newest member of the Committee, worked with Animal Control for a couple of years. She was our prosecuting District Attorney. Based on the restitution monies received, Susan started working with us around August 2000. In 2000 she was responsible for

restitution totaling \$1,780; in 2001, \$12,075 and in 2002, over \$16,000 was received through her efforts.

JOE BOTEILHO reported on the sterilization program - 994 sterilization vouchers were given to the public. It was a successful campaign and we have received about 25 percent of the vouchers back already for redemption.

JOE BOTEILHO reported that staff have been asked by the Commissioners to act as an information gathering mechanism for contract negotiations with Animal Foundation. Two meetings will be held. The Animal Advisory Committee meeting will be on March 5, 2003 in the Commission Chambers and we will invite the 80 to 90 humane and rescue groups to give input. The second meeting will be held on March 26, 2003 from 9 a.m. to noon in the Commission Chambers.

7. Comments by the General Public

JUDITH RUIZ asked if there were that many groups to invite. JOE BOTEILHO told her we could locate 68 listed rescue groups.

VICKI VITTORINO has owned Puppy Love for 18 years. She also works with Great Dane outreach and has been doing rescue more than 23 years. She is a Great Dane breeder and exhibiter and is aware of the voucher program. She always gets them in the beginning of the year as spays and neuters are unreachable for her. Dewey did not have any vouchers. She saw the list of community centers in the paper the day before so she went to the first and second location and the vouchers were all gone. No one in her rescue community has been able to get a voucher. She spoke to Roseanne and asked for vouchers. Vicki thought something was wrong and that we should be concerned. She believes the politically powerful veterinarian community would not allow a low cost spay or neuter clinic. Roseanne told her to go to the Mountain Crest Community Center and since it was not public knowledge asked her not to say anything. She received two vouchers and sent several people to that Community Center that day to get vouchers. That afternoon she called her County Commissioner Mark James and expressed her concern. She received a call from Animal Control that was not very helpful. She wants to know where the vouchers were. She had to have a blood test for female and it was going to cost additional funds so she turned in her unused voucher that evening. (NOTE: The voucher Vicki turned in was not in her name and was for a male Great Dane – not a female.)

KARIN HOFF wanted an explanation of how voucher system works at the meeting after the March 5, 2003 meeting.

TARA THOMPSON asked if any guidelines would be set as to what issues will be examined. What provisions will be made for estimated population growth with one shelter in an area that 5 years from now may not be the center of traffic. Can stuff be sent written in advance? New Hampshire has the second lowest pet population program. Has asked her sister to get some info

for her. Does Animal Control look outside their 4 walls in NV to look at other solutions? SUSAN asked her to bring info to the meeting so the Committee would have something concrete to look at. DEBRA pointed out that the best practices throughout the United States were researched through UNLV's Public Administration office. KARIN point out that these meetings are fact finding so Animal Control will have a list of issues to work through in developing contract stipulations. Bring information to the meetings and if a lot of people are present, the time for speaking would be limited. If information is given prior to the meeting, the groups were advised to send it to Animal Control to make packages for AAC members.

JUDITH RUIZ said that their latest newsletter has info about New Hampshire. In 7 years they reduced the impound rate by 37,000. They had low cost spay and neuter and decided to work smarter and are now subsidizing by giving free or very low cost spay/neuters. As a result of that program having directed spay and neuter using state, county and city funds, they have been able to reduce the euthanasia and impound rate dramatically. SUSAN asked that next regular meeting have restitution monies on the agenda. She would like the AAC to look at putting that money directly to spay and neuter so that money goes back to Animal Control for more funds available for spay and neuter.

MADLINE DAYTON just received a copy of Paws in which there is an article by Ed Boks from Maricopa County going for a no kill shelter. In it, he describes how it was done in Maricopa County. The article includes New Hampshire figures as well. They are also included in the Maddie's fund. When we choose Lied, we lost Maddie's fund. They just got 6 million plus from Maddie's fund. We were on fast track – barring something unforeseen, we would have received Maddie's fund monies with Dr. Freer as the caretaker of the funds. Out of curiosity, when animals are allowed to run and are picked up, are the owners cited if it happens repeatedly. SUSAN replied they are cited. Are they cited first, second time? SUSAN said it is according to the officer. If it seemed like a one time thing, the owner would not be cited. If the owner seemed unconcerned, they were cited. If Animal Control does not see a violation, they cannot cite. Unless Animal Control finds the animal, and they take the animal, they cannot cite. If Myrna Williams is voting for animals and is an irresponsible pet owner, should she be voting for animals? She was told to make a written request to see if Myrna Williams was cited for her dogs running at large.

8. Set date, time and agenda of next meeting

Next meeting will be held on March 5, 2003 at 6:30 p.m. in Commission Chambers.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:01 p.m.