

CLARK COUNTY ANIMAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Clark County Government Center
500 South Grand Central Parkway, Pueblo Room
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101
April 7, 2003
6:30 p.m.

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

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. Approval of agenda

A motion to approve the agenda was made and seconded.

3. Approval of March 5, 2003 Minutes

A motion to approve the Minutes was made and seconded

4. Proposed Restitution Ordinance

SUSAN KRISKO asked for this ordinance to be placed on the agenda. Restitution taken in by Animal Control should go back to Animal Control for their different projects instead of being treated as fines, which go into the general fund. She wants restitution monies to be used for sterilizations, education supplies or classes and to reimburse costs incurred by confidential informants. Money coming from donations and restitution would go directly go to Animal Control as a result of penalty. Monies would be limited to the purposes that are listed but education supplies would be a pretty broad category. It would not fund another position but could help sterilization and other animal programs. Right now the monies go into the general fund and comptroller determines its use. If the ordinance is enacted, 10.04.020 should say the comptroller at the direction of animal regulation officer would determine the fund usage. We don't want comptrollers office actually administering without Animal Control direction for spending. When we have refunds now we have a memo that directs them to pay somebody acknowledging this was in course of the duties and do a vendor claim voucher. Restitution amounted to over \$16,000 last year. If someone left property to Animal Control it could be sold and funds put into this account. This is not breaking new ground. The contractor's board has statutes that allow for their investigation costs to be

part of sentencing. They generate their own revenue. We don't imagine it would be self-sufficient but money generated as a result of their hard work should go back into Animal Control programs.

Change 10.04.055 to donations from the public and restitution. With those two changes, ordinance was accepted and seconded with all in favor. The ordinance will go to the District Attorney Civil Division for review and if there are any changes, it will be brought back to this Committee.

5. **Information-sharing by Committee Members**

We will meet with AFI and develop the contract and once it is hammered out, the contract will come to the Committee for review and comment. We will meet with them again after Committee review and then go on to the Board. We are trying to include all comments and suggestions brought up in the public meetings that we feel make sense and will benefit the program. There is no a deadline on when contract is due. We have never talked about a contract term, although 6 years has been mentioned. The first draft will be done tomorrow at 1900 hours. KARIN HOFF believes that if the issues brought up in the public meetings are not addressed in that contract, it should be brought out in the early stages of the development so there can be some public discussion as to why some elements were not included. Don't think we will make everyone happy. There was a lot of good input and some unreasonable requests inconsistent with any reasonable contract but they need to be told why that won't work. JOE BOTEILHO - we will look at all those aspects. We have some creative ideas and it will be a really tough contract because of where we have been and what has gone on in the past. Our first contract with Dewey was in 1984 or 85 and a rewrite in 1990. SUSAN KRISKO made a request for Lied's policies and procedures.

JOE BOETILHO - someone complained that the vouchers for the sterilization program went very fast. It is our goal to get these out. We now have with the additional assistance of our new department but it will take time before we can really streamline the process. The vouchers were given out at 17 community centers, 4 FRCs and a senior center. 879 went out from the community centers representing the initial money, in addition to the FRCs and senior centers, which did 123 vouchers. A total of 1,002 vouchers representing \$27,650 were given out. Our target was \$25,000 in vouchers being negotiated. We don't get them all redeemed every year. Best redemptions are those coming from outlying areas. Program started where we distributed vouchers to jurisdictions based on populations and the officers gave out to the needy but it was not really successful. It has evolved into a system where people can get them as readily as possible and we have begun to target seniors and the needy or impoverished in our community. This was our first year of having FRCS and senior centers. We only did 123 but by next year we will have a better understanding and less that go out to the public and more to the needy. Our goal is to maximize sterilizations. We have to get them out to all members of the public to maximize. They were advertised a week before they were actually available and people headed to the centers. There were probably some training problems with employees. Supervisors

were trained but we are not sure the frontline got the message. Citizens made allegations about someone ripping off money but that is not the fact. They went out fast.

DR. MYRA GLASSMAN had questions regarding publicizing vouchers in future. Target population is not highly noted for reading the newspaper. Can we get public service announcements on radio to notify people this will be available? If we want to serve that population, we should find another means of notifying them. Radio or news program on TV is a good way to get the word out. JOE - we are working with seniors and FRCS to see what would be the best - whether it goes out in newsletters or local language. We will make a press release that we are targeting seniors and FRCS. Her concern is that there is a group of seniors who are not being served by any of these organizations who are probably the most needy. They are cut off and isolated, don't go to senior centers, perhaps shut ins or transportation problems or they just don't know there is a senior center. Would like to find some other way of making sure they know about it. JOE suggested that Dr. Glassman work with him next October to look at conduits they use - radio and TV - and we will work with seniors to make sure release is just right.

MADLINE DAYTON – the problems faced by those who trap and rescue is pretty much in trailer parks. How do we target them? These are cloisters of animals that are not being dealt with. Why not target one after the other of these parks to eradicate these huge populations of animal breeding there? Seems only right to target the big populations. Seniors have trouble but they are not the ones that are breeding. Low-income projects and especially trailer parks are where the breeding occurs regularly. They are monsters. Can we just target area after area? JOE BOTEILHO told her that in the first couple years of this program, we gave them out at the trailer parks but the return rate 15 percent. We gave away the money and nobody used it.

Many people in trailer parks don't drive. JUDITH RUIZ goes out, picks them up and returns them and often supplies food. They don't use them because they can't get to the veterinarians. She normally brings in 23 to 25 cats to a retired veterinarian to spay and neuter.

KARIN HOFF would like this brought back at the appropriate time as an item for people to make suggestions as to how would best target the problems.

DR. HENDERSON referred to a program by SOS and Heaven Can Wait where they go out to trailer parks and offers to sterilize them for free. They physically get the animal, take it to the mobile hospital, have it sterilized and bring it back. From what he is hearing, that is even difficult even though they will go pick it up take it to the veterinarian. Some people have trouble with the fasting or even being home. Better solution is to have a mobile hospital. JOE BOTEILHO tried to buy two mobile units but we didn't get it. We have a commitment for half of the funding but need the other half. If we could come up with \$150,000, we could possibly have two. Dr. Glassman can get donations if it is charitable. People who will front money, will stipulate all money be run through their account and matching funding would be made payable to them and write one check. One unit would be \$75,000. We were looking at a vehicle to drop

somewhere, work on it and then move to another location. All the legwork has been done. We even had an interlocal agreement of ownership and maintenance and operation for all 6 entities and how it would work. Truly exceptional because local emergency planning commission gave money to City of Las Vegas and there were a lot of projects that people wanted funded. They did a proclamation and deferred other funding to allow the funding for this project. Anything helping animals in a disaster, a sterilization donor group would probably be open to it. We would work with a veterinarian who would be willing to staff it - 20 surgical packs for each unit and all the good stuff, the table, everything. It would be best if we can build a veterinarian teaching school at the new site. We could give away sterilizations for free then looking at some type of transport program.

I have an organization that would give us half the money but to be honest with you this project is on the back burner. We had invested 6 months of continuous work to bring this to fruition trying to get grant from FEMA but we couldn't go forward with it so we had to move on. FEMA was only doing human mitigation efforts.

SUSAN KRISKO brought up that when Lied was building a new shelter, they were selling blocks you could buy for \$500. Would Clark County do that? Lied is set up as non-profit. KARIN HOFF sees an opening for a coalition of humane groups to look at fund raising for such a thing. Joe could bring some of old information or the groups could meet with him to see what is possible. KARIN would like this item put on the agenda to see how we can get some of the things addressed, update it and see if humane groups have appetite to go forward. According to DR. HENDERSON liability insurance is not a tremendous expense. Most veterinarians will spend less than \$1000 a year. Because lawsuits that the insurance companies get hit with are if someone gets injured by their own pet while veterinarian has possession of the animal. The big issue of most DVMs is your license is on the line doing a spay or neuter. With general anesthetic there are accidents and someone will be blamed. If someone were to hire a veterinarian, they would have to have liability insurance.

MADLINE DAYTON would like to see humane groups join together to become a team to become a no kill. Anything that will accomplish that goal is work trying. Heaven Can Wait has veterinarians standing in line to do clinics free. There are tons of veterinarians that are willing. We have never come together and tapped it.

KARIN - bring mobile unit discussion back and find out where project stopped and see what needs to be added. Bring back as an update item and see what humane groups can do.

6. Comments by the General Public

In the contract with Lied, JUDITH RUIZ would like to see funds decreased if animals impounded within a given time period decrease by 10 percent. If increased, then fees increased. Per animal type of thing. JOE would much rather have them put it toward free

sterilizations rather than reducing the monies. If 10 percent less impounds, do sterilizations free. If we can get groups to work together we need to have everybody on the same page. Won't work like it did in AZ if we can't get on the same page. If we can, there will be a lot of funding and building which will serve the animals. He wants to make sterilization as affordable or free as possible. Clark County impounds have actually gone down or gone up very little. That is what we need to look at and do.

MADLINE DAYTON doesn't feel like they are part of the team because they are pushed out. They are allowed to come to meetings but not allowed to function in the process. Input is almost like a pat on the head.

SUSAN KRISKO sees a lot of good things happening. She would like to see animal groups working more cohesively together and then going and working with Animal Control. Would like everybody to start from this point forward.

DR. GLASSMAN hears a lot of complaining about how we have to work together but they are not getting the information. She has been attending meeting for a couple years and with the exception of a number of people on one hand representing various animal rescue and humane groups, there is no attendance. If they want participation, why are they not at meetings? Judith is one person always at the meetings. They have no right after the fact to come in and say no one gave us information.

KARIN HOFF encouraged JOE BOTEILHO to bring problem areas to the Committee early rather than later in order to have an opportunity to structure the contract to how no kill shelters work in other places. She cannot imagine it will be the solution to all the problems in the community.

There are always animals that have to put down per SHARON KRISKO. Everyone should move from this point forward. Working together instead of concentrating on past problems.

The general feeling, according to JUDITH RUIZ, is that after AFI gets the contract, Mary Herro will come back and will take over licensing.

7. Set date, time and agenda of next meeting

Next meeting will be held on May 5, 2003 in Sunset Park Administration Conference Room at 6:30.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m

