

# CLARK COUNTY ANIMAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## MINUTES

Clark County Government Center  
2901 East Sunset Road, Park Police Conference Room  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89120  
May 5, 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 6:34 p.m.

### 2. Approval of agenda

A motion to approve the agenda was made and seconded.

### 3. Approval of April 7, 2003 Minutes

A motion to approve the Minutes was made and seconded.

### 4. Sheltering Contract Update

**JOE BOTEILHO** - We took input received from the public and the Committee and incorporated what we could into the contract; such as problems affecting the animals will have performance penalties. Some of the comments are policy decisions that will have to be developed, such as working with groups to establish a liaison. We hope to hold a meeting on June 9 to come back with a contract that is firmed up that this Committee can look at and see what they think. There is difficulty putting some of the comments into contract form. When it becomes an active contract, which will take lots of work, we will work on policies and procedures. One of the points brought up was a performance bond and having us work as a liaison with various groups, establishing some criteria to access service, keeping services and fee structure the same, and insuring a cost negative contract that from day one will save us money, that we get necessary access to shelter and from an animal care standpoint, County Code 10.30 be used as the baseline. Certainly performance incentives and performance penalties, and term of contract were important and we took all those things into consideration. AHA standard will be baseline in the care of animals in addition to 10.30 and various other procedures that need to be specific to care and housing. Staffing levels for animal volume of services and pay scales will probably not be specific but training of staff will be. The issue of not bringing back county

licensing is covered. Most of what was brought up we tried to include in the contract. The ordinance stipulates animals over the ages of 8 weeks must be sterilized. The City allows them to do it earlier. Development of the 8-week limit was probably at a time when it was still questionable and was the threshold this Committee thought was safe and proven. The City of Las Vegas isn't entering into a contract but City of Las Vegas, North Las Vegas and Clark County will have a sole lease agreement or memo of understanding to give us access to the property because they are deeding access to the building. All 3 entities have access to the facility.

KARIN HOFF invites questions brief from public.

KEN SONDEJ – one thing discussed at the April 26 meeting was kennel sizes. Will the kennel sizes be city or county code? Per JOE BOTEILHO, they will be county code 10.30

JUDITH RUIZ – write into the contract if animals impounded by county drop, then amount paid by county could be reduced to same percentage amount. Use it as an option. She doesn't want care of animals lessened. We expect them to come in and ask for more money when contract signed. We are working hard to lower impound rate by spay and neuter. JOE BOTEILHO as a performance measure overall we would like to see impound numbers drop. What you will find right off the bat is that county impound numbers will drop immediately from day one. Because conversely the animals that get abandoned or left unknown will not be listed as a county animal. If 10 animals are left at Dewey night deposits, they are listed as county if unknown. At AFI, unknowns will be listed probably as city not county animals. JUDITH – It would be nice to tie all contracts and everybody to one number because impounds valley wide, including Henderson Boulder City and Mesquite have an impact on number.

MYRA GLASSMAN has questions in terms of animal control function with this new setup. Will you have offices there or stay in the park? When are you foreseeing that this change over will take place? JOE BOTEILHO - We are not going to be housed at AFI. Currently, Public Response Office, Animal Control, Park Police and Aquatics are looking at leasing office space at the Spectrum Center at Mohave and Charleston. The hub is out of Sunset Park, so Animal Control will be run out of multiple areas but nothing on west side as the bulk of our work is on the east northeast side. We are due to expire with Dewey on June 30 2005, so we expect the change to begin on June 1, 2005, which will give us a window to move animals. The architects give us a 9-month construction window.

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

PETA's having a conference here in July. Susan has sign up sheets.

6. **Comments by the General Public**

KEN SONDEJ – If we drop totals going into the shelter, can we drop euthanasia rate?

Recommendation will be based on our ability to see that it is feasible (KARIN). Phoenix just went basically no kill and Reno. JOE BOTEILHO said in introducing negotiations on contract there are a lot of items that will be subject to policy discussion. Policy will be dynamic. It will be on the table but needs to be approached strategically. Contractor wants to keep all animals forever until they are adopted. They have stated that as their intention. If people partner together and are adopting animals, hopefully we will have enough of a conduit to get animals adopted and out of there. Everyone else needs to buy in for sterilizations. Animal Control was criticized for handing out sterilizations to general public. If we can give them away and get them done.....

KEN –our group has taken a few litters of puppies born in shelter out of there and brought them back to be spayed or neutered before adopting. Contract states spay/neuter done within 60 days. If it is not done and paperwork not done, we will ask Animal Control to come with us to confiscate animal. The animal will be spayed or neutered or they lose the animal. SUSAN KRISKO - they cannot come in without a search warrant.

MADLINE DAYTON – on spay and neuter SB54 license plate passed and money will be available. Joe Boteilho told her that he wants the money for the license plate.

JOE BOTEILHO - that is not accurate. He told her Clark County gets the proceeds from license plate. I don't want the money but NRS states that Clark County will get the money.

MADLINE DAYTON– The Clark County Treasurer gets the money to distribute to the 501c3 non funded organizations which would be Las Vegas Valley Humane, SPCA or whoever is doing spay or neuter. It is not Dewey or Lied or a funded organization. It was written so that in areas where there are no 501c3s they go to the counties.

KARIN HOFF - are you proposing an action that is pertinent? MADLINE thinks that behind the scenes Clark County and Joe Boteilho are looking at that money. Lied wants that money and they are not entitled to that money. License plate money that goes to Treasurer i.e. earmarked for certain actions (Per KARIN) funding must be accounted for. Nothing we can do about rumors.

JOE BOTEILHO - The law states proceeds from license plate go to County for sterilizations and adoption of animals and that is for the County to decide. The Board of County Commissioners may designate or distribute such monies to 501c3 for same purposes, sterilization and adoptions. Doesn't say they will. It says they may. It will be a policy decision that will probably come before this Committee. License plate under review by law enforcement and probably within the next month will go into production.

KARIN HOFF - we can put it on a future agenda. JOE BOTEILHO recommends that when county starts collecting money, we start talking about it and how to foster sterilizations and adoptions.

JUDITH RUIZ – Clark County Animal Control bought 50 or 70 traps a while ago and there is a several week wait. JOE BOTEILHO we are working on replacing the traps. We have only 32 traps plus each officer has one and a 3-week wait. We used to have a policy where we would hold the funds and they would go into the general fund but Internal Audit suggested we change our policy. We now have an imprest checking account and have to deposit and write checks. Internal Audit was here doing a one year follow up and set up a procedure on how we will be able to access that money. We do have intentions to replenish the traps.

MADLINE DAYTON is interested in two things – almost every problem we have in the county has a citizen task force except for the animals why would that be? As far as advisory board what is term of office and what are qualifications to sit on board. Citizens task force where you have citizen input more than just coming to a meeting and venting our feelings. Wants it to be where you actually have some say in what is happening. Even the hospital has a task force. JOE BOTEILHO - you have something higher than a task force. The Animal Advisory Committee is made up of a private citizen, a wildlife care expert, a breeder or animal handler, a veterinarian and a humane group. This Committee, made up of community of stakeholders, makes recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners. Most task forces are appointment for an amount of time and then disappear. This Committee has a great say in what goes on with animals and the laws. Term is one year and you have to submit application. Each person serves at the pleasure of the Board of County Commissioners.

A list of list of members of the Committee was given out so the groups would have access to them.

MYRA GLASSMAN– access to the board members is great but when it comes to major discussions, you have to watch because of the open meeting law and it may be that it has to be brought to meeting.

MADLINE would still like to see a task force. Per JOE BOTEILHO, the exotic animal ordinance was put together and a task force created of stakeholders from exotic stakeholders, animal owners, and PETA members and was a subcommittee or a regional planning coalition group, which put together a law using the task force.

## **7. Set date, time and agenda of next meeting**

Next meeting will be held on June 23, 2003 in Administration Building at 6:30 p.m. at which time the Committee will be able to review a draft of the contract with AFI.

## **8. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.