

CLARK COUNTY ANIMAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

**Parks & Community Services Administration Building
2901 East Sunset Road, Park Police Conference Room
Las Vegas, Nevada 89120
June 16, 2004
6:30 p.m.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: HENDERSON, DAVID
 HOFF, KARIN
 HORN, KENNETH
 KRISKO, SUSAN
 ROGERS, TODD

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 May 12, 2004 Minutes

A motion to approve the agenda was made and seconded.

4. Proposed change for Spay/Neuter Animals

The proposed ordinance has permits for 2 different classes of breeders, intentional or unintentional breeding. Minor breeder would be anyone who maintains an intact animal unless there is a medical reason for it not to be fixed or dogs actively used for rescue or in care of Animal Control agencies, or rescue organizations that demonstrate ongoing sterilization plans. There is also an option of having a person opt out of permits if the animal gets sterilized. Civil penalties for violations rather than criminal penalties. KARIN HOFF wonders if the administrative cost of this program would be significant. JOE BOTEILHO would have to take a look at the new draft.

KEN SONDEJ - At the last meeting we discussed show dogs and an exemption to the fees. Is that there? SUSAN's understanding was that the fancier's permit covers show dogs. They can have a combination of intact and sterilized animals so it is covered. DR. HENDERSON - Would that be a loophole. We don't want to create a financial hardship. KEN HORN - Animal Control wants to see that you are actually showing the dog.

SUSIE OSBURN – It is not a loophole if they are shown. If not shown, they are spayed or neutered. SUSAN KRISKO's concern is spelling it out especially for people who show dogs. SUSIE knows there are people who come out to a local match and get a ribbon and say okay I show my dogs – that's a loophole. Active showing you will see evidence in the house.

BRENDA PAUL actively shows dogs, and breeds maybe once or twice a year. Was this trying to stop people who are breeding like crazy? She usually loses \$10,000 a year breeding and has never made money. Any animal she doesn't keep is sold on spay/neuter contract. She keeps show dogs for herself and will not sell a dog to someone who wants to breed. Sometimes dogs mature slowly

and are not ready to be shown until they are 4 or 5 years old. How do you classify that? MIKE CONNELL represents Silver State Kennel Club and has a fancier's. Show dog people do not breed under the age of 2, and then they go through extensive health screening, eye exams and other tests, running close to a \$1,000 to breed. Some don't mature until they are 2 or 3. At 2 if they come up with an abnormality they are not bred. With fancier's, it is difficult to maintain showing aspect. He has Akitas and they do not mature until 2 ½ to 3. He will show a new puppy just to maintain permit. He would like to see the permit changed so they could maintain more than 6 show dogs. If you have facilities, the area and finances, we should be allowed to have more. Could have straight fancier's for John Q. Public, spay and neutered, and he could have 3 or 4 or 5. For most of the show dog people, it is an ego trip. They make no money. He would be willing to pay more for permit with a difference in how it is worded. SUSAN will be happy to put on agenda if needed. This came about as a result of pet overpopulation in this town. We are here to stop people who are trying to make a quick buck or have dogs running loose breeding. MIKE CONNELL goes along with spay or neutering. Are there any plans to increase the number of Animal Control officers? They are so overworked. For 2 ½ million people and over 4 million animals there needs to be a push to double their number.

ANN AMBORT is a groomer and sees unaltered dogs, pure bred and otherwise, on a regular basis and there will be a push to inspect every home with animals to find out who has them. She has been at her address for 8 years and no one has ever come to check her animals.

DR. HENDERSON sees one of the ways of enforcing such an ordinance is to call people from the want ads and get the city and Henderson to comply. If they live in the county, there would be no puppies for sale unless breeder's permit number is listed. Flea markets, groceries have puppies to sell all the time. When you see someone doing that call Animal Control immediately, a penalty could be confiscation. SUSAN KRISKO knows they are overworked; they will not be going door to door. This is giving them a tool. Heaven Can Wait goes to trailer parks and they won't give their animals to him for spay or neuter. He can use the ordinance to get compliance. It will not fix all problems immediately. Would like to see a civil penalty that will go back to Animal Control and generate funds to help.

DR. MYRA GLASSMAN – As a doctor, we are mandated by law to report certain kinds of things like communicable diseases, child abuse or elder abuse. As a physician if she does not report it, she can lose her license. We need to mandate veterinarians, groomers to report when they see an unaltered pet that has been bred. DR. HENDERSON doesn't think they would comply.

KEN SONDEJ doesn't think we need that type of Gestapo enforcement. Child abuse is a different situation. Animal abuse should be reported. Breed hunters in LA police and Animal Control went to homes, confiscated animals and set up fines, maybe this can start like that. Doesn't see a problem coming out of pet stores with info of this ordinance given to new owners, having pet stores report new owners to Animal Control on a monthly basis to follow up for spay/neuter.

SUSAN KRISKO - people actively selling animals are a major breeder. Minor would be someone whose animal is out running loose and is unsterilized, not actively breeding but has an unsterilized animal. You would have to keep a permit because of potential of breeding. TODD ROGERS thought it should be reworded.

JOE BOTEILHO – It is important to distinguish between those offered for sale, bartered or traded, and when the provisions of professional animal permit need to be imposed. This is one of the major loopholes. They don't have to meet animal care, animal veterinary inspection or a minimum standard for keeping of animals. Pet shops do. If RAL and unsterilized, \$400 citations on a civil penalty. Do you want a grace period. Great incentive could be done as a matter of a course of business.

Breeder's permit cost is not outlined. How many people offer dogs that are bred for sale. Minority would have to meet caging, care, vet inspection every 15 days and give guarantee as a pet shop would. If in Clark County, it should be imposed as a matter of doing business. The legitimate breeders are already doing these standards. Anybody doing this type of breeding is looking for improvement in the breed and temperament and wouldn't have a problem meeting that. If just breeding, you are in violation without a breeder's permit. If you sell, give away, barter, you must meet the standards. Zero tolerance for RALs.

SUSIE OSBURN has been breeding for almost 25 years in Clark County and it has been close to 20 years since she put an ad in the paper. Ninety-five percent go out of state. She is not contributing to any pet population. Sees this diminishing the breeder or cutting back on what they can do and opening the way for pet stores. It will then go to pet stores and make a bigger business for pet stores. SUSAN KRISKO – how do you see this permit diminishing your ability. SUSIE doesn't see a dollar amount. She knows, before she ever breeds, testing costs upward of \$2,000 and pays \$2,000 stud fee – close to a \$5,000 amount. Presold normally. She does not make any money and loses at least \$10,000 or more a year. She does not understand all the criteria. What if it is an intact animal not being shown and used in a breeding program but is shown for fancier's permit, then breeds, once or twice.

BRENDA PAUL - everyone in this room is actively involved in dogs in a kennel club, agility club, etc. It is hard to believe that only 3 people here sell a puppy out of this entire group. She keeps the ones that are best quality for the show ring but when she sells a pet puppy, she guarantees the puppy for life. If it becomes a problem, she will take it back for any reason. Comes up with a health problem, she gives two options, bring puppy back, she will replace with one of equal or better value. Lot of people have fallen in love and do not want to give it up. If they are willing to deal with the problem, she will give them another puppy of same value if they want to keep original puppy. She started sheltie rescue 10 years ago.

KRISTINA KLINGLER has one intact dog at home, which she co-owns with a breeder who does not live in Nevada. If bred, it will not be done in NV. Shows for performance and she is active in cavalier rescue in Las Vegas and get calls from people who purchased from a licensed pet shop and find out it has terminal heart problem or eye problems and will be blind or dead by the time it is 2. Inspecting for clean premises is not the only thing that should be done by a reputable breeder to insure animals go to a good home and are cared for.

MIKE CONNELL - reputable breeders seems to be grouped in same category as pet stores. Pet stores are not even AKC registered any more, they are state registered. AKC puts demands on breeders. Puppy mills are not doing it. They should not be put out on the street because they are not healthy. SUSAN KRISKO - breeders are not being lumped in with pet stores. They are two separate things. Pet stores have a lot more requirements.

JUDITH RUIZ - some of the breeders losing \$10, \$20 or \$30,000 a year in order to insure quality of animals. She thinks that if an ordinance like this is passed, it would make their animals all that more valuable. We know what pet stores charge. Would like to know what average price is.

MIKE CONNELL had one litter in 9 years, which was presold. He is not in it for the money. We may get that one dog that may put our name at the top of the ego list of the group. As dog show people, you want to be number 1 so I can look at Susie and say "naner, naner, naner I am number 1 and you are number 3." Sure I spend \$40-\$50,000 year on the dogs. We are not wealthy. It is more of an ego trip.

JUDITH RUIZ – we are losing track of why we are doing this. Out of 53,000 animals impounded,

more than 23,000 are put to sleep and a third of them were “purebred”. We have to stay focused on stopping the killing and we need to focus on the breeding and focus on stopping indiscriminate breeding. Clark County spends millions and millions of dollars, rounding up animals, have them sheltered and then killed. Focus on the issue.

KARIN HOFF wants to focus on major breeders. When people who are concerned about specific breeds and are in it for the ego and want to have a litter, you pay a certain amount and Animal Control comes out and inspects your premises. Is that really a hardship? DR. HENDERSON agrees with the line Karin is taking. If into the show and taking all the precautions and losing all that money a year, is the fee as far as leverage for the non-papered animal, going to hurt you. We are trying to make a difference in the 25,000 that for the past 10, 12 years are being killed.

MIKE CONNELL agrees spay and neuter must be done. Dog fanciers are less than 1/32 of one percent of animals in Clark County. Will that improve any of the conditions.

TODD ROGERS – we need to do this so that the legitimate people don’t feel as though they are being penalized. It could be the equivalent of getting a fishing license. This license or permit for breeders/fanciers should not be seen as a penalty but as leverage with fines.

JOE BOTEILHO – We could make it as simple as making a potential breeder and a breeder. If you are going to have intact animals with an approved dog fancier’s permit and have intact animals being shown pursuant to provisions, this will satisfy. The breeder’s permit criterion is: if you are going to sell them, we will not be able to discriminate between those who do it in the backyard, pet stores, flea markets. If they come to your home and tell Animal Control, this year I am planning to breed this bitch and offer for sale, then at that time get the permit. The fees should not be exorbitant.

ANN AMBORT is not a breeder, has an intact dog, and is showing. If he is finished showing and goes out to stud, anybody he studs out to is out of state. Is she considered a breeding dog in town?

JOE BOTEILHO - Yes, it would be a breeder. People think they only need a fancier’s permit when they go over 3 animals. This gives you latitude. I have a fancier permit. I am going to breed this year. Not big on getting fees up front. \$25 to look at premises. Have 3 pit bulls and I am going to breed them. If you have an intact dog, you are a potential breeder. You will be selling puppies so we need to look at that. For breeder’s permit, the professional animal standards create a safety net for those unscrupulous breeders who sell a dog and then comes up with a problem. They can say sorry, it is your problem. Person with the stud dog goes, does his thing, and has no liability. If legitimate, the onus is on the bitch to get the permit and sell pursuant to guidelines in Clark County.

DAVE MARCH – male dog as defined would be either a minor or potential breeder so only females would be breeders. Any loophole, anything that excludes you can exclude a potential backyard breeder. In order to go into court to establish reasonably to a judge whatever standards we set, it has to be inclusive. None of us want to go after legitimate breeders but we have to make it enforceable.

LINDA REESE – anybody that has 2 dogs is a breeder. It doesn’t say AKC registered. What are rules and regulations to get a permit? Backyard breeders aren’t going to care about \$100 to get a permit and if we eliminate dogs without papers and focus on backyard breeders and if heavily scrutinized, will find puppies and adults not in good shape. Should have to have papers.

BECKY LOPE cannot say just AKC there are UKC registered as well. Would have to be wider than AKC. AL TAGGARD - as far as the pet stores, they never have an AKC dog. They have UKC.

BRUCE HALSTEAD - pet stores continue to sell dogs from out of state breeders. Will this have

breeders register here to show proof that they are AKC and have them registered? KS or MO have been doing lots of inbreeding. Pet stores have no guarantee of dogs. There is no control of what pet stores bring in from out of state.

AMY VINING - fanciers showing dogs are not contributing to pet overpopulation. It is wrong to penalize them. Laws have to make a distinction between backyard breeders and fanciers. Fancier's permit not mentioned in regulations does fall under something else?

SUSAN KRISKO – you can have a fancier's and a breeder' permit. You would have to have both if you are a fancier planning to breed.

BRENDA PAUL - when she goes through the shelter, she sees the same types of dogs every day. Pit bulls or pit mixes, chows - dogs people have bought but find they cannot handle so they dump. When she rescues a dog, it is usually old and comes to her house until it passes away. If you are going to pet stores and examine them and inspect them, why not follow up on dogs they sell locally because these are the dogs that breed. Follow up on people who buy.

JOE BOTEILHO - We are going to contact people who are in violation. Yes, you will get complaints from a neighbor saying they have intact male. There are approximately 250 fanciers and only a small fraction is here. Lots more are getting fanciers. Dave could name addresses where they show papers that they are showing, that is the loophole. The fancier's permit already has the loophole. Lot of people don't want conditions imposed. How many report it as extra income. If doing it legitimately, you would want to report it. Those who aren't legitimate are those who will not want to report it. Sure you have facilities and you already use or exceed that standard of care.

MIKE CONNELL - what stops Joe Q from using newspapers without a breeder's permit. JOE BOTEILHO - We make it a public record, with a breeder permit number, name and address. Say meet me at the Smiths for dog or cat. Make sure that it comes back to "who" and he lives at such and such.

KIM BUCHAN - when they come out and want to see proof dog is being shown. Wanted to see proof that all 6 dogs are currently shown but what if you have retired champions that don't show. Retired ones are sterilized. (DAVE MARCH- it is a combination permit) Anything sterilized does not have to be shown. Fun matches were started so that they can take to a senior match or a fun match so you have the time to breed. Law says shown. Shown is fairly broad. Retired champions who cannot get into AKC can get into fun matches.

KEN HORN has heard it mentioned a number of times that they can go to a fun match to keep an intact dog. Officer wants to see name in a show catalog. Per DAVID MARCH, they can show a receipt. They have to show that that dog was at that match. If you don't have a receipt or a catalog or something that shows your dog was in a show, it doesn't count. Catalogs are the best source for Animal Control.

SUSAN KRISKO – The goal is to make sure we don't put down 26,000 animals a year. One of your concerns is the money. We want to deal with 90 percent of people out there who have unsterilized animals who don't think it matters.

PENNY LOPE - A lot of people who have fanciers who are not breeders have performance dogs, like agility dogs. Those types of dogs might not be breeding but do they fall in that category. Is it covered under fanciers? Confirmation is proof that you show in agility.

PENNY HUSSEN feels you are picking on the wrong people. Everyone here loves animals and wouldn't do any of those things that you are worried about. Over breeding causes unhealthy

animals. You have us all here, what do you want us to do to help except put out money for a license.

JOE – The BCC decided that responsible people's pets do not RAL, are properly vaccinated and have ID. If Chihuahuas not running loose, we will not see you. If your animal is running loose, \$50 for impound, \$10 for board and buy rabies vaccination. You get money back if you want to use services. You get a \$35 sterilization certificate and \$15 microchip voucher. Most often they don't negotiate certificates and don't want to have animals sterilized. He is not worried about getting money on the permit.

PENNY HUSSEN – how do you want us to help. We care but we never know what is going on. JOE BOTEILHO - you are giving us the input we need. We want to hear your ideas. We have made substantial gains tonight. PENNY – we appreciate animal control. We just need to know what you want us to do. SUSAN KRISKO would like to see you here every time we have a meeting. Lot of issues we deal with on a monthly basis that she would love to see this support.

KARIN HOFF – if ordinance goes forward it will require support at BCC and if legitimate breeders come forward saying we like this, that would be wonderful. Show up to support.

KEN SONDEJ – people getting upset over paying a fee, even if fee is \$5 or \$10, you are legitimate. Ten percent are legitimate and the 90 percent that they are trying to attack are not legitimate. If you don't have permit, you get big fine at court. Has to be done equally so that everyone is accepted as equal otherwise it won't work at court. We have to give a little to protect ourselves. Need to get rid of backyard breeders but it has to be equal across the board. There is leeway but we need something to stop the backyard breeder. SUSAN KRISKO - we made some headway but this will not be decided tonight.

MYRA GLASSMAN – lobby your commissioner to allocate more funds for more staff for Animal Control.

KIM BUCHAN - can we impose a law that they get a 2 or 3 strikes you are out, they are mandatory spay or neuter. JOE BOTEILHO – law says you come down to pick up your animal, you get \$250 ticket or you can have it sterilized. If not done in 30 days, county get \$250. Comes down to a property issue. KIM – you can force someone to smog his or her car. JOE BOTEILHO - if someone kills some one with a car, they get it back. MYRA GLASSMAN feels the ticket for RAL should have to be paid upfront and then if they come back with proof of spay or neuter within 30 days they get money refunded. SUSAN KRISKO - put on again next month with possible changes.

5. **Possible changes to Ordinance Title 10 Chapter 24 regarding tethering of animals.**

Over 400 citizens signed petitions to outlaw unattended tethering which were handed over to Staff. Tying animals up causes aggression. DR. HENDERSON believes tethering should be illegal for humane reasons and from a public safety standpoint. So often you walk through, see a large aggressive breed of dog tied and staked in a front yard. As a matter of public safety, the dog could easily charge, break the lead collar and put the public at great risk. It has been reported that 17 percent of dogs involved in fatal attacks from 1978 to 1998 were restrained on property when attacked. The USDA came out with a statement that they believe it to be inhumane to restrain animals. KEN HORN – most of the children that are bitten are by tethered dogs. There are lots of people in support and no one expressing lack of support.

BRENDA PAUL, it makes them stronger when they pull against the chain and constantly builds muscles. DR. GLASSMAN, they can hang themselves. The item will be on the agenda next month for action.

6. Bow Wow “Ow” Video

Video was shown. Every school in the State of NV received a copy.

7. Document on Homeless Pets

The video was shown. Joanie Spina said it started out as a school project on overpopulation in Las Vegas on feral cats but now includes dogs and follows a member of the humane society as she feeds and traps animals around town. Will be at Cina Vegas film festival tomorrow and in NY city and in Palm Springs, Sacramento and Hollywood and will put Las Vegas on the map as to what Las Vegas is doing to stop animal population.

DR. HENDERSON - Feral cats can be trapped and killed or trapped, neutered and released to a caretaker. We almost have to look at them as part of the wildlife. This is more humane than killing. All you have done is improve condition of the cats. It is not a perfect situation but better than trap and kill. It is an imperfect solution to an imperfect situation.

8. Information-sharing by Committee Members

None

9. Comments by the General Public

Dr. Glassman, the homeless pet film should be shown to state legislatures and county commission. Karen Layne would like to have Animal Control talk about procedures in case a mobile home complex will be closed down. Just went through this with CLV and appeared that the animals were considered at the last moment. What would the process be? Will there be established procedures? JOE BOTEILHO - if you have people being moved or displaced, hopefully they will take pets with them. Maybe have emergency procedures on agenda. Would like to hear what they have to say.

10. Set date, time and agenda of next meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, July 14, 2004, at 6:30 p.m. in the Administration Conference Room at Sunset Park.

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.