

CLARK COUNTY ANIMAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

**Parks & Community Services Administration Building
2601 East Sunset Road, Administration Conference Room
Las Vegas, Nevada 89120
July 14, 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 June 16, 2004 Minutes

A motion to approve the agenda was made and seconded.

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

DR. HENDERSON moved for a discussion and vote. SUSAN KRISKO has in excess of 1,200 signatures in favor of the making it illegal to tether an animal unattended. Trying to keep it so people can't get an animal and tie it up in the backyard indefinitely. Animal Control is already at the breaking point. Approval of this ordinance should not be stopped due to lack of people working for Animal Control. It is another tool that can be used. It is discretionary. If they see a tethered animal, they can leave a notice to change. They don't automatically have to take the animal. DR. HENDERSON is in favor of ordinance. His concern is not just for the animal but also for public safety. Tethered dogs cause more and more attacks on both people and pets. Pets get off lead or out of the yard and there are so many aggressive breeds out there. He sees it numerous times in his office and is sure other vets can substantiate this. Tethered animals become aggressive. This is a public safety and humane issue. Tethering 24/7 should be outlawed. KARIN HOFF is sensitive to county staffing problems but this Committee was put together to advise the Board of County Commissioners how to handle animals. This is a well-documented humane issue. We have to put better tools in Animal Control Officer's hands. She is in favor of ordinance. TODD is in favor of ordinance. KEN HORN in favor. All in favor. Motion passed.

5. Proposed change for Spay/Neuter Animals

KARIN HOFF has questions about the fees – whether there would be charges per dog or a fee that covers dogs up to 6 like fanciers. She is looking at how to best structure fees so as not to undermine fanciers. SUSAN sees potential breeder as being the same cost as a fancier's permit. A major breeder would be more expensive - \$100 to \$125. Potential breeder is someone who does not have a fixed animal. If breeding, it should be per animal. Intent (DR. HENDERSON) is to give them a

financial incentive to not breed, to sterilize their pets. If you have an intact animal, you have to have breeder's permit. Jumping through hoops and getting inspections will take a lot of people out. We want to cut down on puppies for sale. The only way we catch breeding is when they put an ad in the paper. KARIN - Fancier's animals are named. Will the breeder permit have names too? Give another avenue to potential breeder's dogs over a year that are not ready to show that allows them to keep dog. Don't want general public to get a fancier's permit to allow them to breed. SUSAN – The only way to make this work for people actually breeding dogs in their backyard is to make the amount of money for the permit more than getting the animal spayed.

MIKE CONNELL, President Silver State Kennel Club, our main interest as show dog people is in showing. Could the major breeder be separated into show dog fancier where main thing is showing? When we have a litter, we have a genetic line they live by. Any defect, you don't breed, spayed and neutered and placed in a home. Breeding is way down the road. SUSAN – talking about a dog that is breeding for \$125 per year. If not breeding that year, pay \$25 or pay \$125 per female that is bred. MIKE doesn't advertise. He will tell Animal Control that he is going to have a litter but it is not 100% enforceable. Our thing is to have spayed or neutered if not able to show. That is payment for the dog when adopted out. SUSAN – We cannot write the perfect law.

DR. HENDERSON – potential breeder not necessarily a fancier but someone who has a bunch of dogs. They are potential breeders. Make them get that permit and then they are on record and registered and we can watch for breeding. Intent not to create a financial hardship. It is a privilege to bring dogs and cats into an already over populated world. We are 4 million plus domestic animals in Clark County. TODD - what would the fine be? SUSAN – civil penalty would be \$400. You have 30 days to get permit or get animal sterilized.

MYRA GLASSMAN - We seem to be talking as it applies primarily to dogs. There are a lot of cat cases. We need to make sure we get them as well. A good number of ads in the paper with puppies for sale are out of Clark County. We need to find some way of catching these people. Some of these are major puppy mills dumping unhealthy animals. We need to do something about that. DR. HENDERSON – if advertised, either have to get a business license or breeder's permit. SUSAN – we have no control over business license. MYRA - One other thing in terms of civil penalty, we need to make sure that it is per event so that if they have two bitches breeding they have a double citation. SUSAN believes it can be a per day civil penalty.

JOEY CURTIN - who and how would monitoring of these ads fall on and is it just newspaper ads? There are magazines, Internet sites, how will it be managed. DR. HENDERSON – everybody would report to Animal Control. Obviously we will need a lot of help from people out there. Hopefully getting this enacted will motivate people to sterilize their pets. Animal Control can't go outside of Clark County to do inspections on breeders so we might need to look at another way. We can write in the law that newspaper can't publish without a Clark County breeder's permit.

KEN SONDEJ – Third time, you lose the animal. Any free ads should not be taken by newspapers cause that brings the potential of getting dog for some illicit means.

LINDA REESE, as far as the major breeder, \$125 isn't that much to speak of. You might discourage people but when they are backyard breeders and they are selling for a lot of money, that won't mean much to them. They will turn around and tell everyone they are a licensed breeder. Different levels to protect those who breed responsibly. When they have 10 puppies, \$125 is not a lot. SUSAN – they will have to have inspections and that will kick out some people

ADRIENNE SHEARER – She suggests \$125 fee for each puppy. Probably spends \$5,000 to \$10,000 a year on a dog. It should be another fee per puppy cause they are still making a ton of

money.

SUSIE OSBURN, having completed her 2003 taxes, knows that for every dollar she made, she lost \$3. To put another fee per puppy is preposterous. SUSAN - everyone is entitled to their own opinion. This will give groups in town a tool to allow them to target those areas where puppies are breeding. We need to do something. This is a way to start making things better. SUSIE OSBURN - every single one of her intact bitches that she has bred and sold puppies cannot breed without her knowing so she has control. How can you stop taking breeding dogs out of town to breed and come back with best puppies. SUSAN KRISKO the purpose is to make it better.

KARIN – if you get a major breeder's permit, it doesn't affect the number of dogs you can have in the house. If you have a fancier permit for 6 female pit bulls in your house and breed them all, what happens then? There is no limit on puppies up to one year. Couldn't keep stud dog on property, as it would exceed six. With the present law, you can have 3 bitches, bring in a stud and twice a year can have up to 40 puppies less than 4 months of age. DR. HENDERSON wondered if there was a venue to show pit bulls. Pits are UKC, couple that with fancier and major or minor breeder, you will get the people who are not showing the dogs. American Staffordshire Terrier is advertised. Ninety percent of people won't know what it is. As show dogs they are beautiful, sweet and well cared for.

KEN HORN – you would not be able to show a pit bull on AKC because they would go after someone or a dog. Wouldn't be allowed on grounds so can't register to go to a show. Take away the fun match.

SUSAN – what was purpose for fun match. DAVE MARCH – law is vague in how it says shown. Technically, a fun match is a show but to say you can't do it would not be held up in court. Initially it started out as a way to not force owners of retired animals to sterilize them. Once you open the fun match, it is opened. SUSAN KRISKO - it is something we can revisit.

SUSIE OSBURN has been showing dogs for 30 years and fun matches were put together for people with puppies to get experience. Each time she has had her inspection she has had to show written proof that dogs are shown. Fun matches produce no such proof. Fun matches, MIKE CONNELL, were put together mainly to train animals and to gain revenue for club. Will not have any run of the mill dog coming in getting into the match. You get a ribbon. There are judges who judge and grade but mainly for us to train the dogs. Other breeders have told KEN HORN they came to show just to get fanciers. We have to take it away.

KIP CONNELL, sometimes you don't get a catalog. Handlers will show for her. For AKC dog shows it has logo, name of show and date of show. Those should be accepted. The last time they accepted those ribbons. Another thing they can do is show superintendent confirmation as proof that you entered to show (DAVE MARCH). We don't require catalog but it is convenient as it has the name. Ribbons which identify animal at this show. If you can get something from a fun match that says this animal was shown it is okay.

JUDITH RUIZ - It seems we are spending a lot of time on just breeders. At least 3 different people said they spent \$10, 20 or \$30,000 and not making any money. More than 85,000 animals were put to death in Clark County over the last 5 years. We all need to get together and stop the breeding. Millions and millions of dollars are spent to round up defenseless animals so they can be put to sleep. This is really what we are here to address.

ADRIENNE SHERER is here to support the animals not the breeders. Animals need someone to speak for them in Clark County.

LINDA REESE, being a breeder who doesn't breed a lot she works heavily with rescue and it is sad to see dogs coming in abused and not taken care of. It is not us you have to approach. Mandatory law that anything that is not papered would have to be spayed or neutered. As far as monitoring, she works for construction company and they have to monitor. Best way is stop people who have unpapered animals and approach backyard breeders. That is where it has to start.

JUDITH RUIZ – anyone who breeds has to take some responsibility for the fix that this community is in.

SUSAN KRISKO has seen AKC stuff come up and now there is CKC. Even if we tried that route someone else will come up with papers to keep animals from being sterilized. Best way to get those people who are working to get animals sterilized is to say you need to get a permit or have it sterilized. Step by step process. We are working with people who are here to make it as livable for you as possible while still understanding we need to address a huge problem.

DR. HENDERSON – papered vs. non papered – would rather see hybrid animals bred rather than some of the stuff coming out of the pet stores. We need to start. There will always be a way around it. We want to make the people jump through the hoops and at least they will be on the radar screen.

PENNY HUSSON, while we are talking about pet shops why can't we make a law that to sell puppies they must be spayed or neutered first. We all know people spend \$800, \$900 to get a pet well and then breed. So why can't they be fixed before they are sold. SUSAN - to redo anything with pet stores our legislature has determined that if we impact a business we have to do a business impact statement. She would like to see it happen in the future . They come out in force. PENNY – they will close, so what. SUSAN - they are probably giving donations to the people who are getting elected. She would like to see that but at a later time. Shouldn't that come first (PENNY) . KARIN - what we want to do is put tools in animal control's hands in a way that doesn't impact you.

HAROLD VASCO, co founder of Heaven Can Wait does a program at ground zero where they go to less fortunate areas. 10 percent of people causing 70 percent of problem. We bring mobile vet and go door to door to fix animals. If owner says no, I don't want to, he continues to have puppies or kittens. We mostly do mobile home parks, no phones no transportation. They are giving us the leeway to say your animal is not fixed, I will have to call Animal Control to let them know. This gives us a tool, We know you are not the problem. All we need is this ordinance to give us a hammer . Mobile home parks are starting to pass out rules. At one trailer park, Mountain View Estates, we did 500 animals. Last year got 30 calls to pick up litters not one call this year. This is what we are targeting. This is what they are doing. Giving us a tool to go from 24,000 to under 5,000. You are not the enemy. You are not who we are targeting. Trying to give us a hammer.

ANN AMBORT – since this will be a county law, will it cover all cities. SUSAN – no. Can we campaign in those towns (ANN) SUSAN – yes, we need to campaign in other jurisdictions.

DR. HENDERSON – by giving Heaven Can Wait leverage to make these people spay or neuter these animals, anything with a county prefix you can enforce. Let's start here and see if we can get it in the city of Henderson, North Las Vegas, and Vegas.

MYRA GLASSMAN – in discussions with JOE BOTEILHO back in going over sheltering options one of the things Animal Control has been working on is ways of getting unified regulations throughout the area. The fact there will be a single campus is another step in getting unification in animal ordinances. Positive in terms of convincing them to enact same ordinance.

KEN SONDEJ – whatever law is put down, whatever fee is put down, has to be uniform to be constitutional. Once this basic is down then go after pet stores and importing dogs from out of state.

Ken would suggest fines on a 1, 2, 3 set up - first fine \$400, 2nd time \$1,000, 3rd time \$2,500 and lose animal. It has to be uniform or will be poking holes.

JOEY CURTIN thinks prohibitive fees would be wonderful. If it sounds prohibitive, they will say this is too much. It will not work in community. SUSAN KRISKO - Misdemeanor fine can only be \$1,000. Civil penalty can only be \$500. Can be fined per day.

TODD - doesn't sound like we are going to legislate away breeders. Can't say everyone has to be AKC. Will not be possible. We need to get the people who have animals and encourage strongly to follow rules and make it very unpleasant if they don't follow rules.

KIP CONNELL – too many puppies around. Puppy stores are flooding county with puppies. SUSAN KRISKO we have to start somewhere now and the stats show that most of the people who are causing the problems is where we need to start. Can work on pet stores but we need to get going on something. Would like to see this happen.

LINDA REESE – enforcement those who jump in and help monitor, will Animal Control take the call. Will they be able to handle? SUSAN KRISKO – goes back to giving them tools. She would like to see money generated stay with Animal Control. Animal Control needs personnel. They are out of whack with rest of nation as far as people and Animal Control officers. Need to have Committee go to Board Of County Commissioners to be more proactive. We need to have more money coming to Animal Control.

JIM HOLT – There are only 11 uniformed officers. He applauds the efforts but there is no way we can handle it. SUSAN KRISKO – there will always be too many calls to handle in a day. Still not a reason to preclude tool from being available.

JUDITH RUIZ – Humane society has been keeping stats since 1997 and has copies from last two years and would like them passed out.

SUSAN KRISKO would like to put this on for discussion and vote. DR. HENDERSON - we need to come up with a dollar value. SUSAN proposes \$125 for breeder permit per animal per year and \$25 for a potential breeder for premises. Add to section for permit being necessary for ad being run in the newspaper. SUSAN will make amendments and send them to Roseanne for discussion at the next meeting. DR. HENDERSON– pet fanciers not breeding up to 6 dogs and showing. Breeder – you are breeding and \$125 and then potential breeder up to 3 and all 3 will require inspection by Animal Control. Thinks this will get a lot of animals sterilized. They don't want Animal Control coming to their house. SUSAN couple of areas for exceptions - law enforcement, rescue agencies, dogs and cats in shelters, animal rescue that have demonstrated adoption and spay/neuter plan, medical (age) excuse signed by veterinarian.

SUSIE OSBURN – lot of breeders breed back to back and then go 2 or 3 cycles. If those two breedings occur in that same year are they paying \$125 or \$250. DR. HENDERSON would make it per litter per breeding. SUSAN if breeding twice in one year, 2 litters would be \$250. Would apply when you are planning to breed. Active planning.

KEN SONDEJ – will permit go for a longer period of time. Just because they plan does not mean they will have a litter. Will there be a refund? SUSAN KRISKO – no. KARIN – be able to catch multiple violations at same address. SUSAN will make amendments and we have on next agenda for discussion and action.

6. Complaint against an Animal Control Officer and investigative procedures

SUSAN KRISKO – What are Animal Control’s procedures if there is a complaint against an officer?

DAVE MARCH – The proper procedure to make a complaint regarding an employee of Animal Control is to contact the office and speak to their supervisor. You will be asked to provide written voluntary statements so the supervisor can investigate complaints, whatever the issue is, and a determination will be made. SUSAN KRISKO - do you have independent ways of logging and care of animals. As for tracking animals, officers keep a truck log and dispatch keeps a log of where they were and when they left. It is all recorded and filed so we have both sets of log sheets.

KAREN LAYNE – The immediate supervisor may not be responsive to the complaint. Do you get back to citizen? Is there any external and internal review of complaint. DAVE MARCH – The results are taken to Chief of Code Enforcement, who ultimately makes decision on whether it has been sufficiently investigated and whether it should go to personnel action and whether or not the complaint is unfounded. If a personnel action, employee is entitled to privacy and public not entitled to any information.

KAREN LAYNE – In law enforcement, citizens who contact police about a complaint against an officer are advised. They have the same privacy right as Animal Control Officers. It seems to her there should be feedback to that citizen in terms of any action in terms of substantiation or not. DAVE was speaking to any personnel action that may result from a complaint. We generally do not get into whether or not it is substantiated.

7. Emergency Evacuation Procedures for Animals

KAREN LAYNE – At Sky Vue Mobile Home Park, it became clear the whole issue of evacuation of animals was an after thought. Many animals were separated from their owners with horrendous results. This is not just about closing a mobile home park but any evacuation that might occur. What are procedures in terms of getting animals out with owners? DAVE – as I understand from the last meeting, Joe asked for groups to come back with ideas as to what they are doing. We refer them to hotels that are pet friendly. We have coming on line the mobile emergency shelter but we would prefer they go to a facility where they can keep their animals. The FEMA trailer would only be a temporary staging area. Central receiving location on site, get in and move out to veterinarians who will house.

KAREN LAYNE – fine to talk about taking animals to animal friendly accommodations. What happens when people receive notification, most don’t have transportation. They use buses. The issue is moving people and the animals together. Will the FEMA van be used for those purposes and is there a way to attach an animal to a person. With Sky Vue, animals were moved to Lied where they had ten days to find the animals. Her understanding is that all the animals were put down. Doesn’t want that to happen in Clark County. DAVE – what will groups do? KAREN – we were not allowed to go into Sky Vue until everyone was moved out of the park. Animal Control went in and moved animals the last day. If you give permission before the park closes, I can find out where they are going, how long they need to be sheltered. DAVE - we would not be in control on site. If we were able to allow you in, we would invite you. KAREN LAYNE was told by city animal control they could not go in. The issue is that the animals were a last minute thing. All the groups to help people were there and Animal Control was involved at the end. Animal rescue groups were not involved at all. Need to involve human service groups but also animal rescue groups. There was an ad hoc committee developed out of the major’s office but Animal Control was not considered until the last minute.

DAVE – in Clark County we are not generally the last to hear. We had the federal exercise where they pretended to release plague. We ran logistics. They called us to participate. Joe has always

been involved in the Office of Emergency Management (OEM). Haven't let go of that involvement and we continue to let people know we need to consider the needs of the animals. We would not be the last people considered and we would certainly want people to help

KARIN – is there a formal protocol for emergencies as to what county departments are contacted. DAVE - OEM has a contact list and we are on it. Animal rescue groups would not be part of the county hierarchy. We would have limited ability and would look for help. KAREN - Do you have lists of animal rescue orgs and contact numbers. ROSEANNE has some lists and resources. If you have a list, she would be happy to have. DAVE – what we did see in any action is a lot of people came out of the woodwork to help. You want to be in control of who is helping with the animals. You need to organize how you want to be contacted and how you want to be contacted. Roseanne has vets and vet techs.

MYRA GLASSMAN – disaster preparedness – couple of years ago invited to Lions club to teach how to do pet first aid. They are involved in disaster preparedness and expressed an active interest in helping in any way they can in terms of animals in disaster and we have an on going dialog with them.

8. Information-sharing by Committee Members

Tethering will go before commission after review by District Attorney. Notify AAC members and then notify all who receive agendas in enough time before it goes before the Board.

9. Comments by the General Public

MYRA GLASSMAN spoke with Diane Orgill at Lied to see what is going on with construction. They are chomping at the bit waiting for performance bond to be funded ready to break ground. Should hear announcement of group breaking within next week or two.

MIKE CONNELL along with emergency preparedness, Vicki Vitorino and Silver State Kennel Club are raising funds for oxygen masks for animals. \$2,008 was raised for fire and rescue units. Want to open up a fund at bank where community can contribute and any overflow money would go for bulletproof vests for canine vests for police departments.

10. Set date, time and agenda of next meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, August 17, 2004, at 6:30 p.m. in the Administration Conference Room at Sunset Park.

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.