

# CLARK COUNTY ANIMAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## MINUTES

**Parks & Community Services Administration Building  
2601 East Sunset Road, Administration Conference Room  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89120  
September 21, 2004  
6:30 p.m.**

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

**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 August 17, 2004 Minutes**

A motion to approve the minutes was made and seconded.

**4. Proposed Litter Permit Ordinance**

DAVE MARCH - Initial draft was sent out trying to exempt law enforcement and Seeing Eye dogs but it looked like they were exempted from ability to get exemption. Turned it around and put it in section b. We added "nor any unsterilized dog less than 3 months of age w/o fancier permit." Next change under section 4 is actual permit and requires microchipping of all animals on permit for positive id to allow proof for littering.

JOE BOTEILHO - We are making it a prohibition to have unsterilized animal w/o pet fancier permit. Section 2, no animal for sale w/o permit, exempt pet shops, shelters, and items already covered under Title 10. Fancier's permit number must be displayed when animal is offered for sale, must be on all advertising and appear on receipt at time of sale. We will put on our web site who is approved pet fancier by numeric system to identify. Section 4, adding the microchip of animal to insure which animal we are talking about. Section 5 adds minimum standards of professional animal care facilities such as size, quality and minimum standards for keeping and sale. Need to insure animal has been examined by vet and continues to be examined, that the animal is healthy, and if it has congenital defects, person gets refund. Same situation as what we do with pet shops. Don't see, hear or capture, we are not going to knock on doors to find animal. Dog impounded will be \$200 civil liability. They are already paying \$50; get \$35 sterile voucher and \$15 voucher for microchip. Second occasion RAL will raise to \$350 and all subsequent captures will be \$500 civil liability. If animal is sterilized within 30 days, we will waive liability fee.

SUSAN KRISKO – Those who already have a fanciers are covered. The only change would be microchipping. Most fanciers have animals chipped anyway.

KEN HORN – We are trying to come up with fines to put backyard breeders out of business. If

pet stores are required to alter pets, they will go out of business. We will then have ads for unaltered pets. Education is the answer. There are videos or other things available that can be taken to schools on proper care or being a responsible pet owner. Ads in the paper can be called by volunteers, check out environment, and if problem, call Animal Control. They will get shut down. Fanciers permit is way to start. We need more help from the good breeders to educate people who sell dogs. Get info out to the public.

KARIN HOFF asked Joe Boteilho to review requirements for getting fancier permit and how this version serves the original purpose, which is to provide some leverage for increasing sterilizations for groups out there doing free s/n. JOE – They have to show they are engaged in showing before they have fertile animals. If have an unaltered pet you must provide evidence that you are showing or engaging in one of the activities. The leverage is can you change policy to make it that unless you are a fancier and can meet qualifications, you will not be able to own an unsterilized pet. If we get a complaint, that is the time you will engage them about law and sterilization and what action we may take. KARIN believes this is stronger than what we talked about before.

DR. HENDERSON – Unintentional breeders would want to stay off radar. If go to Joe public backyard and he has 3 unsterilized pit bulls, what is penalty if no pet fancier? We need the carrot and stick. They don't see that their dog is not special. People are out there going door-to-door trying to get them to let us sterilize their dogs and cats. Need something that makes them get up in the morning and let us sterilize. We are not looking at Pomeranians, Shih-tzus and Poodles. We are looking at Chow (x)s, Shepherd (x)s, and pits. We need to decrease the population of unadoptable animals. Any animal making it to a shelter should be valuable. Need to change where America gets their pets so they come from a humane organization or legitimate animal shelter where it will be sterilized when they get it. JOE BOTEILHO - Dave and Greg will get call. When you buy a pet now from somebody on the street, you are on your own. As set forth in 10.30, now you have to give them a refund. Pet has to be seen by a vet before sold, has to certify that animal is healthy. Facility will be under review. Breeders will have to meet that standard. Pet fanciers said they meet higher standard so this is the best way to go. The deals from those doing it from their backyard go bad all the time. We get them every day. That is where real enforcement will take a hit and a toll.

SUSAN KRISKO would like to see the entire section subject to graduated civil penalties rather than criminal. If they don't pay, it becomes criminal. JOE BOTEILHO - The donation assistance trust fund has not been enacted. There is a donation assistance fund through our department and we should look at legalities of designating that penalty go into specific fund. It can go for staffing or other needs. SUSAN - all of the Health district complaints have gone administrative instead of criminal so the mechanism is already out there. Dollar value of penalty would be \$200 for impounded animals. \$500 is the limit. Can just set it – \$200, \$350, \$500. JOE BOTEILHO - If you look at other jurisdictions, such as NLV, it is really high. If you get a ticket, \$500 fine and people go down there to pay the fine. They will reduce at window if you come in. Can set where we want up to - \$500 with a grace period of 30 days to sterilize. KARIN HOFF - It will be determined as a defacto requirement that anyone who does not show animals must sterilize. SUSAN KRISKO - If not a litter fee to stop breeding then this is one of the only ways. Why would anyone have an unaltered animal, except for health reasons? Exemption already exists from vet.

KARIN HOFF asked if we should build a fee for having an unsterilized animal w/o showing. If no pet fancier and can't meet requirements, pay \$100 for an unsterilized animal not showing or meeting requirements. JOE BOTEILHO – We are not head hunting them. Would much rather target those who are causing the problem. It is easier to wait for action and tell Board if we have complaints, we will take action. Joe Q citizen if no violation, won't see them. Could still have

chip requirement but if you don't require to either sterilize animals or participate in certain activities, less to quibble about. Just pay money. Will the board go for it? Don't know. Thinks this has a better chance than tethering. No problem unless violations. Could have as long as not in violation, not breeding and not contributing to our problem. Serious culture shift.

HOLLY SCHORR believes everyone in the room is on the same page. Pet fanciers permit is the problem. We are not pet fanciers. We are show breeders. We dedicate our lives to what we do. It is an affront. She could list at least 20 people who have pet fanciers who breed their dogs and do not go to a dog show. They just breed their dogs. This legislation is more realistic. The people who are not causing the problem but trying to help deserve some sort of exclusion to set aside from guy down the street that wants to breed dogs or thinks neutering male takes away from his masculinity. Would like to see every animal in Clark County sterilized unless involved in viable showing and breeding to protect dogs. If you made pet fanciers harder to get and then impose a fee for those who choose to have unsterilized, you might be able to enforce.

JUDY DONIERE thinks it is a good proposal but it will backfire. When a fine is imposed, you will end up with all the dogs and instead of having 200 or 300 in facility will end up with 1,000. Will say, "Hey that dog doesn't mean that much to me. Take it." How do we balance it where they want to keep the dog and not high enough for them to get rid of dog. SUSAN KRISKO - That is the reason there is a grace period so they can sterilize the animal. This is an either or. The number of animals put down may go up but the 100 animals they would have produced will not have to be put down. People who want to keep animal but don't have a lot of money will be able to keep it. DR. HENDERSON would rather put down 1 intact female than deal with her progeny. If they don't want the animal that much, it is better to put it down.

KEN HORN – there are a lot of people who have dogs that shouldn't. They sit in back yard and live there until it dies. Their life is not getting any better. Most dogs in pound are pit bulls. They won't want to pay a fee to chip a dog that will be used for fighting and tracked back to them. May pay the higher fee so don't have to chip to keep unaltered. Not as good in fight ring if sterilized.

MYRA GLASSMAN – one way to balance things would be to have 2 separate permits. There are people who rescue animals and sometimes end up with more than 3 and we still have to have a fancier under current law. Pet fanciers for rescued or foster care animals that don't have to be shown. Separate pet fanciers for show breeders – can have same fee. Doesn't want to discourage people from rescuing animals and keeping them out of the shelters.

KEN SONDEJ – will you turn vets into your own police. JOE BOTEILHO believes people will make a complaint about purchased animals and will want money back. Seller will end up getting criminally prosecuted.

MIKE CONNELL has an all breed dog book with care for any kind of animal. Available in school libraries. Show people have a contract if animal gets sick, they either get another dog, or if you have spayed or neutered we will replace with another show dog, microchipped before leave home. Keep it civil as long as you can and keep coming with money back to Animal Control. You may have to kill one animal but he won't do it again and he will tell his buddy. Best agent is word of mouth. He has no qualms with pet fanciers because we know we are breeding and showing (limited breeding) and we follow rules and regulations. Thinks it is an outstanding proposal.

JUDITH RUIZ - last she heard pet fancier's permit is \$25 in county. There is not much incentive. SUSAN KRISKO agreed that it is not a lot of money. Most of the people being targeted do not want anyone with a uniform showing up for an inspection nor want a microchip. That alone will

be an incentive not to do that. It is a yearly thing. If they know every year they will have to have an inspection and pay fee. DR. HENDERSON – to set a standard they will have to meet, which they will not meet, we need to promote \$200 penalty.

DOUG DUKE - It looks like a good ordinance. ANNI LABANSAT thinks everything she has heard tonight is outstanding. She is pleasantly surprised and hopes that it passes. It will make a huge difference. Even if a lot of animals end up in shelters because they are given up, it has to stop somewhere and this is way of stopping.

MOLLY LATHAM - \$100 a year for backyard breeder. We were reviewing rescue projects at meeting and a member said she has 4 unaltered dogs, 2 from same backyard breeder. He can make vastly more than \$100 and he will go ahead producing those animals if \$100 is all they are going to have to pay. Amount should be stiffer. Also definition of exhibiting is narrow. Interested in well-socialized happy healthy dog doing something fun with person, show obedience, tracking, earth dog, herding and other activities people do with their pure bred dogs.

PATRICK DAY - Although pet fancier permit is \$25 currently, he would not have a problem if it were \$150 if I am conscientious about what I am doing I don't have a problem paying. Most reputable breeders he thinks would support.

KIP CONNELL - A lot of AKA events such as agility, obedience, herding, tracking hunting, the animal does not have to be intact, only for confirmation.

AUDREY MAUCK - \$150 would knock her socks off. Hasn't seen any mention of pet shops in ordinance. Wanted to address but pet shops should make a suggestion that animals should be spayed or neutered. You don't get puppy unless spay/neuter. SUSAN KRISKO –it is not fair to discuss pet stores without having them here to complain.

TAMMY HORN - If you go to house because someone complained and they don't let you in backyard or in house, how do you find? Per JOE BOTEILHO - If won't let in house, need a search warrant.

KEN HORN - \$25 fee is an incentive. It will get people to do it. Also the fines are incentives. Keep price low so people get out there and get dogs permitted and shots.

JUDY DONIERE, with obedience, agility, fly ball, tracking, whatever, the dogs are usually not show dogs as far as confirmation. Would be better to stipulate confirmation dogs as far as show dogs under this ordinance. These other dogs are usually not breedable quality so should they be given permit to breed? If they are good enough for confirmation then these are the dogs that are bred. If not, we spay or neuter and go into other venues after finish, go into agility, tracking, obedience. DR. HENDERSON - we need to take a look at population of dogs at shelter being destroyed. Ordinance does not address pet or show quality.

DIANNE ORGILL – we are really on the right track here. Even if we call owners, less than 10 percent of animals coming into shelter are ever returned to owners. People who come in often say we can't afford this. Many times, especially if one of the breeds that is difficult to adopt, she will waive everything but make sure animal is sterilized and people won't agree. We have to start somewhere

AMBER STEVEN from Searchlight has a question about backyard breeders. When they turn in animals, what keeps them from starting all over again. How do we keep track of the people? JOE BOTEILHO – we track complaints.

ROSEANNE CONFORTO – we currently have a database where we can search by address, name, and animal. Each of our control cards is sent to us electronically weekly with all the information so we can track if there is something suspicious going on.

SUSAN KRISKO – From the shelter, chances are they will not be able to get another unaltered animal.

KEN SONDEJ – back east rabies tags altered, \$20; unaltered, \$80 something to think about. For the future if you would look at controlling a little bit better. JOE BOTEILHO – do you know what state? Ken will look it up. Thinks it is Michigan.

DIANNE ORGILL – We do allow an exchange but if they bring back twice we put in “do not adopt to.” We have a list where name pops up “do not adopt to.” Legitimate point (DR. HENDERSON) surrender unaltered dog to shelter if he does it again, some sort of stipulation where person would be criminally penalized for owning another intact animal. Two strikes and you are out. JOE BOTEILHO - we are on the verge of conquering that because we are at the end of writing an interlocal agreement using Chameleon software for City of Las Vegas, Henderson, North Las Vegas and Clark County. All info will be put in. When you put in a name, you will see this guy has this, has done this, and has been prosecuted for this. When Animal Control wants to research we can tell more globally, excludes Boulder City and Mesquite but it is pretty powerful for an animal info database.

AUDREY MAUCK is sure on rare occasion a dog will slip in and get taken to dog pound. Say I lost my dog and got out and dog pound gets it? JOE BOTEILHO – It will cost \$200 if you reclaim from pound. Breeders’ permittees should pay double. Part of inspection is to insure it is secure. If accident, you will have to pay fee. Breeders will have to keep higher standard. Can’t give an exemption for that.

HOLLY SCHORR believes in stronger regulation. Being grouped with irresponsible individuals was what bothered her. Pet fanciers should continue to exist for those who wish to have more than 3 dogs. The ability to do that is covered and addresses the issues and lets them be responsible w/o violating county ordinance. Concerned about the breeding legislation going on all over the country. Fought a battle in CA over earcropping for Doberman. Fighting in NH where they are trying to ban all breeding. Looking for protection and identification for County for people who are legitimate versus protection for us that will make us legitimate. She does believe pet fancier should stay just that but it does nothing for breeders and we are ones being squeezed to where we are afraid to breed. We get no distinction but if ordinance allows everybody to breed or pay a fee what good does that do for us. KARIN HOFF that is really not the intent. We are trying to define minimum standard in reducing the number of euthanasia. Not intended to help dog breeders but we want your cooperation. Defining the bottom not the high end. HOLLY is worried about legislation. There are townships that outlaw any form of any breeding by any person in CA, CO, east coast. We would like some sort of protection to pursue what we love. Would love to see breeding outlawed with exclusions.

SUSAN KRISKO is not comfortable with putting such a narrow exclusion into it. This is workable given everyone’s problem with litter fee. As written, this will address the problem. This does not give you stronger ways of dealing with national stuff. This is what we want to focus on. Would like your support. Needs to be some changes as far as penalties and maybe ability to have adoptable animals as written is enough to do what we need to do without penalizing you.

DR. HENDERSON - we want to encourage responsible pet ownership. Irresponsible pet owner is the problem.

HOLLY SCHORR - issuing a license gives any person who wants it a number and gives breeders same number. You will accomplish more by having a breeder have distinction. What stops public from going to Mary down the street cause county gave a number? Don't give them the number. If you give them a number and me a number, you are equalizing us. What is to stop them? You are just lumping everyone together. She understands but doesn't want to be lumped.

JOE BOTEILHO – before we had pet dog and pet cat fancier, we had pet fancier, dog fancier and cat fancier. Pet fancier was sterilized and couldn't intertwine the two, had nothing but complaints. If you want to tighten pet dog fancier to where this person has to have x number of champions before they can breed, it is tough to do. HOLLY – it would make a difference. JOE - will it be able to make it through the Board. Dog showers are one group. DAVE MARCH - There are differing experiences and it can be a fun match but if we try to eliminate to make it tight enough, you are eliminating large groups of people. HOLLY – any person who is actively involved in any type of show has at least a good number of the things that I listed. She can take him to people who have one or 2 of their dogs and in 5 minutes produce records. If cannot produce, not legitimate breeder. DAVE – in court judges don't know and don't want to hear. He did prosecute someone breeding pit bulls to improve the breed. The judge threw it out. He says he is breeding and improving breed, good enough for me. Judges don't know standards. Got to keep it simple. JOE BOTEILHO - think about when you first started. You have to keep door open for those who are going to start and hopefully get a dog who is a proven champ before considering breeding but we need to keep door open.

SUSAN KRISKO wants to focus on dealing with small number of people producing largest number of animals. Ask Harold to talk about.

HAROLD VOSCO - everyone thinks what is happening in this town is because of the pet shops. Ten percent of the people cause 70 percent of the problem. He can almost go to zip code, 89115. That is where the problem is. They have less money, cannot afford to get animals fixed. If you take 1,000 that never get fixed, half female, that is 500. In the next six months, have a litter of 6, if you take out 2 ½ years, 243,000 animals we have to deal with. If I am exaggerating it is 70,000 and 35,000 that will have 6 to another 210,000. We have to have something to force these people to get their animals spayed or neutered. We knock on door; we will give you a ride, shots. I can say I will call Big Joe and he will take care of you. We are only one little group; rescues have done over 10,000 this year. We may be little but can guarantee number went down. Anywhere in country that has made a difference it is targeting people who are casing the problem.

HOLLY SCHORR - It would be effective for all of the dog community to get together and get commissioners to address additional officers. She wants protection with help for solution. Legitimize one group of individuals. Same as going to a legitimate jeweler rather than a schlock jeweler. If you have a distinction that makes this group better maybe public will turn to them. We have always been seen as the enemy. We are trying to do something to help. Feels this is a solution to change public opinion of having legitimate breeders. With current pet fancier license you are allowing those with no credentials to breed dogs.

ANNI LABANSAT agrees with the enforcement tool being necessary. They are targeting the root. Wonderful what they are doing. Thinks if a person wanted a specific type of dog and willing to pay they would research and if responsible they would be able to find a top breeder. Feels we do need this for the protection of the animals and there is changing situation throughout country. More and more people realizing breeding can be a problem. It is not just a showcase. It is an animal and should be respected as such.

SUSAN KRISKO has some changes but not everyone is going to agree. Changes made that were proposed and put on as action item for next month. Motion passed. If you have proposals get to Roseanne before next meeting and it will be part of the packet.

HOLLY SCHORR - if we are going to address changes, the way it is written you are enabling people to breed; not stopping them. SUSAN KRISKO - right now everyone is enabled. DR. HENDERSON agrees would like to make it more stringent. JOE BOTEILHO would like to see breeder community read title 10.30 and tell me they can live with that. Will have to meet a high standard. He can almost guarantee other people cannot meet the standards set forth in that title as well as the after sale. By making it part of the standard, you will see. It has to be in the details.

GREG WALLEN, currently inspection detail assignment, professional animal standards with fancier permit, regular patrol officer might take 15 minutes for inspection for permit to make sure you are in compliance. When we do a pet shop inspection, it is not uncommon to take 2 or 3 hours. He has gone someplace and tied up business all day long very thorough very detailed, caging, sanitation, record keeping temperature, humidity. Take a look at that.

DAVE MARCH – Your association can take out a permanent ad in newspaper, telling public to look for seal of approval from the association before you adopt. Like the Good Housekeeping seal of approval that says you are a member in good standing. Gold standard not from county. Get association to come up with a program as to what to look for when you are adopting a pet.

**5. Update on Tethering Ordinance**

60 more petitions were signed and added to the record. JOE BOTEILHO reported we are still waiting from Legal. DA Civil places it in a priority system and if they have human health and safety issues, it will not get done until they resolve those. SUSAN KRISKO's concern is that this board is not a way to blow off steam. She asked Joe to check and let the DA know the board is asking when it will get through. Put on next month for update.

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

104 feral cats were sterilized this month.

**7. Comments by the General Public**

September 30 at noon is the first installment of County Critters on channel 4. This is a live TV show and our guests will be Harold Vosco and Dr. Henderson regarding Heaven Can Wait's sterilization program. There will be dialog where we will show what is going on every month. It will be web cast in addition to being on channel 4. People can call in with questions, e-mail and address field reports.

**8. Set date, time and agenda of next meeting**

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, October 19, 2004, at 6:30 p.m. in the Administration Conference Room at Sunset Park.

**9. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 p.m.