

**SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS\***

**KERN COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
ANIMAL SERVICES COMMISSION**

**Kern County Administrative Building**  
1115 Truxtun Ave., Bakersfield, CA 93301  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Multipurpose Room

August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016 – 6:00p.m.

**A. ROLL CALL:** The meeting was called to order at 6:09 p.m.  
Commissioners Present: Ms. Anderson –Chairperson/Commissioner  
Mr. Blackburn – Vice Chairperson/Commissioner  
Ms. Geary – Commissioner  
Ms. Madigan –Commissioner  
Ms. Taggart – Commissioner

Commissioners Excused: Ms. Perez – Commissioner (*non-voting member*)

Staff Present:

Nick Cullen – Director, Kern County Animal Services  
Jerri S. Bradley – Deputy County Counsel  
Blake Smith – Business Manager, Kern County Animal Services  
Amber Chrissakis –Volunteer OSS, Kern County Animal Services

*[When names appear in parenthesis, the motion initiating action on the agenda item was made by the first Commissioner named and seconded by the second Commissioner named.]*

**B. APPROVAL OF SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS:**

1. July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016 Regular Meeting.

Motion to Receive and File as Amended (*Madigan/Geary*) – All in favor

**C. CONSENT AGENDA:**

1. CORRESPONDENCE FILED WITH THE COMMISSION - Receive and File

NONE

**D. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:**

This portion of the meeting is reserved for persons to address the Commission on any matter not on this agenda but under the jurisdiction of the Commission. Commissioners may respond briefly to statements made or questions posed. They may ask a question for clarification; make a referral to staff for factual information or request staff to report back to the Commission at a later meeting. Also, the Commission may act to direct the staff to place a matter of business on a future agenda. Please state your name and address for the record before making your presentation. **SPEAKERS ARE LIMITED TO TWO MINUTES.**

Heard from Liz Keogh reports that she intends to send out an email to the Kern County Animal Welfare Advocates email group in regards to meetings related to the City of Bakersfield. Ms. Keogh speaks about dates for the Kern County budget meetings and stresses the importance of showing support to the Board of Supervisors with regard to Animal Services budget and specifically for spay/neuter services.

**E. STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS OR REPORTS:**

- a. DIRECTOR'S MONTHLY REPORT – Receive and file

Heard from Director Cullen who comments that he hopes after budget hearings the department will be able to issue low income vouchers again. He then reviews the numbers from the Director's monthly report. Director Cullen specifically speaks about a Petco grant the department received that is allowing the department to focus on spay/neuter services for the Lamont area specifically. He also explains the department's Pet Detective program. Lastly, Director Cullen introduces the department's new Veterinarian, Dr. Arnold and speaks briefly in regards to the on-site surgical suite.

Judi Daunell asks about the Petco grant for Literless Lamont and the length of time it will continue. Director Cullen and Blake Smith respond that it should end around October. Judi suggests flyers about the services be sent to the schools in Lamont.

Commissioner Blackburn asks Director Cullen what he attributes the high adoption numbers to for the month of July and specifically if he thinks adopters are coming to adopt trying to further the shelter's goal of going no kill. Director Cullen responds that he believes the perspective of where to adopt an animal is changing and that more adopters feel more comfortable coming to the shelter to adopt an animal than they have in the past. There is brief discussion among the group about promotion prices the department offers versus the department's cost to care for the animal while in their care.

Commissioner Blackburn speaks about the intake and outcome numbers. Director Cullen responds that the number of TNR cats is calculated into those numbers which may make the number of cat intakes seem a little high. Commissioner Blackburn commends the departments efforts to raise live outcome numbers even during the summer months.

b. VOLUNTEER UPDATE - Receive and File

NONE

3. SPAY/NEUTER FUNDS UPDATE - Receive and File

Heard from Blake Smith who reports about the Litterless Lamont Petco grant.

Motion to receive and file Director's monthly report, and spay/neuter funds update. (Geary/Blackburn) – All in favor

**F. COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS OR REPORTS:**

On their own initiative, Commissioners may make an announcement or a report on their own activities. They may ask a question for clarification, make a referral to staff, or take action to have staff place a matter of business on a future agenda (Government Code Section 54954.2(a)).

Heard from Commissioner Madigan reports that she has a friend who has lost a dog and is leaving flyers for people to take.

Commissioner Anderson reports that the American Kennel Club will be having Responsible Dog Ownership Day Oct 1<sup>st</sup>, at Mill Creek Park. Bakersfield City will be hosting and Animal Services will be there with adoptable animals and licensing.

**G. OLD BUSINESS:**

1. STAFF REFERRALS

- a. Follow up on correspondence filed with the Commission from July 20<sup>th</sup> regarding Jane Pruetts concern about trapping and relocation of colony cats.

Director Cullen reports he talked with Ms. Pruetts and the department will continue to monitor the situation.

- b. Follow up on a possible auto-reply for the Commission email so that public is aware their email has been received.

Director Cullen reports that that has been achieved.

- c. Follow up on the property in Ridgecrest.

Heard from Director Cullen who reports that the situation is ongoing and the department is monitoring the situation. Director Cullen had a meeting with Teresa and Commissioner Madigan. Commissioner Madigan states that from her perspective one of the highlights is that the situation is multifaceted in regards to different jurisdictions and agencies and she encourages people to approach it from all angles.

## 2. EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS SUB-COMMITTEE

Heard from Commissioner Geary who reports that they are calling themselves L.A.R.I.A.T. They are using the CARES (California Animal Response Emergency System) system and a system that has been in place in Bear Valley that works well and they are combining them. Officer Smith is working on an in house plan and the Sub Committee is working on one for the greater Tehachapi area. They plan to have a draft by the end of the month.

## 3. FRIENDS OF THE KERN COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTERS UPDATE

Heard from Judi Daunell speaks about the Snip and Tip program which is a TNR program up in Tehachapi. Tickets can be purchased for a drawing in which a nice saddle will be the prize. The saddle was donated and money from the drawing will go back into the Snip and Tip program. Valley Vet clinic has agreed to spay/neuter cats for \$40 per cat if they can ensure there will be 40 cats per day. Friends will likely be at Responsible Dog Ownership Day and has a couple of fundraisers coming up in October. Friends is also working on trying to get a 20ft trailer for a kitten nursery for Animal Services. Judi gives her experience with the foster program. Judi also announces that the Peddler's Faire will be in Kernville on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016.

Commissioner Blackburn asks why the percentage of foster babies being adopted out is so high. Director Cullen responds.

## H. NEW BUSINESS:

NONE

## D. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

This item was heard again per the Chair to allow late participants to speak.

Heard from Ruben Lopez from Save-A-Life Sanctuary in Mojave. Mr. Lopez shared his concern about the seizure that occurred at Save-A-Life.

Heard from Jerri Mitchell from Save-A-Life Sanctuary in Mojave. Ms. Mitchell shared her concerns about the seizure that occurred at Save-A-Life.

Heard from an unidentified member of the public who was a ranch hand at Save-A-Life and also shared his concern with the seizure that occurred at Save-A-Life.

Director Cullen responded briefly about the letter and bill they received. He clarifies that if the bill is paid, that would obligate the department to hold the cats until the end of a case if one occurs and would not necessarily mean the cats will be returned to them.

**I. ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion to adjourn (*Geary/Taggart*) – All in favor.

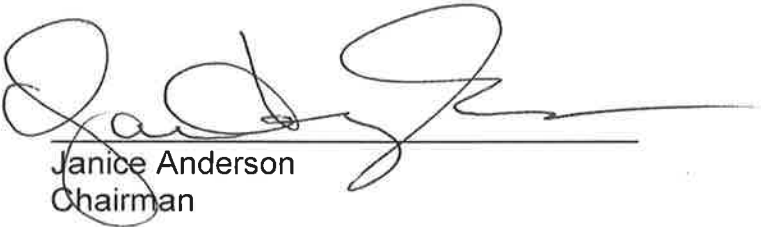
The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

The next Animal Services Commission meeting is scheduled for:

September, 21<sup>st</sup> 2016  
6:00 p.m.

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Attest:



Janice Anderson  
Chairman

*\*A full recording of the proceedings can be heard at [http://www.co.kern.ca.us/acd/AAC\\_AS.aspx](http://www.co.kern.ca.us/acd/AAC_AS.aspx)*