

**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

September 21<sup>st</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  
Jeff George – Volunteer Coordinator, 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. September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016 Regular Meeting.

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

### **C. CONSENT AGENDA:**

#### **1. CORRESPONDENCE FILED WITH THE COMMISSION - Receive and File**

- a. E-Mail received 08/25/16 from Leonor Martinez regarding "Unprofessional staff at Animal Shelter".

Removed from consent by Commissioner Madigan who just wanted to know if the issue had been addressed with personnel to which Director Cullen responded that it had been addressed. Commissioner Geary added that Ms. Martinez did have some good things to say about staff also.

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

### **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 Rebecca Countryman who is the Education Director at Anderson Acres. Ms. Countryman invites the Commission and members of the public to join them for the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual AKC Responsible Dog Ownership Day on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016 at Central Park at Mill Creek from 9am – 2pm.

Heard from Sue Bennett from Kern Humane who spoke about the August and September voucher/coupon day and the number of vouchers they have paid for. She also spoke about money that has gone out for emergency vet care. In August it was \$740 and in September it was \$590. She asked for suggestions for 2 emergency situations with dogs that Kern Humane cannot completely help with. Several members of the audience suggest different organizations for Sue to check into.

Heard from Liz Keogh who spoke about the most recent Tuesday's closed session of the Board of Supervisors in which she thought there was a performance evaluation of Director Cullen. Director Cullen clarifies that for a Director to speak with the Board during closed session regarding a situation they feel is important a Director must go through the County Administrative Office and request a performance evaluation. Liz inquires about Locke vs. Kern County and how that decision affects the county's ability to euthanize animals upon request. Liz would like staff to look into that decision. Director Cullen responds and says that there is verbiage in that decision that precludes Animal Services (Animal Control at the time) from

performing euthanasia upon request of the public however he was unclear on how long that applied. Jerri S. Bradley, County Counsel states that when the Hayden Act came along that provided owner surrender animals can be held the required time and then euthanized if medically necessary or they cannot be adopted. Jerri said she would read it again however it was her understanding that the Locke vs. Kern County decision had a 5 year limit.

#### **E. STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS OR REPORTS:**

##### **a. 3. SPAY/NEUTER FUNDS UPDATE - Receive and File**

Heard from Director Cullen who reports that the department just recently got approved to begin spending and that low income vouchers are available at all 3 county shelters, the Ridgecrest shelter, the Buttonwillow Family Resource Center, Taft City Hall, and Mountain Communities Family Resource Center. Vicki Thrasher from Critters Without Litters asks Director Cullen if the county is verifying income to purchase vouchers. Director Cullen explains there has always been income guidelines however in the last 2 years of the program the county was lenient with it's guidelines as to try and issue as many vouchers as possible and to spend the money allocated to the department for spay/neuter services. This budget year the amount allocated to the department has been lowered and the decision was made in order to get the most vouchers to the people most in need as the program was intended, that the guidelines will be more strictly enforced. Director Cullen confirms that the guidelines are based on 200% of the poverty level. Larry Keller asks if those guidelines are on the county's website and if they should be and Director Cullen responds that he will look into putting those on the website.

##### **b. DIRECTOR'S MONTHLY REPORT – Receive and file**

Heard from Director Cullen who speaks about the Pets for Vets program. He reports that no donations have been made for a couple of months and that there will be two fundraisers in November; one of which has not been solidified at The Broken Yolk Café and the other at Tahoe Joes on November 9<sup>th</sup>. People interested can purchase a voucher that is \$20 and offers a couple of dinner choices. All proceeds from those vouchers will go to the Friends of the Kern County Animal Shelters Foundation for the Pets for Vets program. Director Cullen had some available in case anyone wished to purchase one, otherwise they will be with Judi Daunell. Director Cullen reports the statistics from the Director's report. He briefly speaks in regards to the Foster Program and it's cost to the department. Director Cullen speaks about the amount of owner surrendered animals that come into the shelter. He reports that the department is going to launch a pilot program to help pet owners with resources to help keep them from having to owner surrender their pets. The program will launch October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016.

Commissioner Geary asks why the microchip numbers are so low. Director Cullen suspects but cannot confirm that the department raising the cost from free to \$15 may be the reason for the decline in numbers.

Commissioner Madigan shows her support for the department enforcing the guidelines for the low income voucher program.

Commissioner Anderson asks for specifics on donating to the shelter. She asked if someone or a company wanted to donate to a specific area of the shelter or to a program, could one do that or would it have to include the entire shelter. It was clarified for her through Director Cullen and Blake Smith that donations could be specifically made to programs or areas of the shelter.

Liz Keogh asks if the budget cuts within the county have affected Animal Services. Director Cullen responds that vacant positions have been deleted however it has not affected the department on the front lines. Liz also asks if people can donate cash at the front desk of the shelters. Blake Smith and Jerri Bradley confirm that cash is accepted but people are encouraged to write a check rather than donate cash. Liz asks how that relates to the x-ray machine the shelter is trying to purchase. Director Cullen responds that anyone who would like to donate money for an x-ray machine need to donate to Friends and when the total cost is met Friends will disperse the money for the x-ray machine.

Commissioner Blackburn speaks about the statistics of the Director's report. He also commends the Pet Detective program which made the front page of the newspaper. Commissioner Blackburn talks about the manager at the Petco location on Gosford and the manager is passionate about helping adopt out cats at that location. Lastly, he asks Jerri about ethics training that he claims he is supposed to do and Jerri is unaware of any email that went out in regards to ethics training.

b. VOLUNTEER UPDATE - Receive and File

Heard from Director Cullen who read the volunteer statistics from the Director's report.

Motion to receive and file Director's monthly report, and spay/neuter funds update. (Geary/Taggart) – 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 who requests to be a representative of the Commission and send a brief email to Leonor Martinez who was discussed in item C.1.a. Jerri responds that it has to be a motion and agreed upon by the entire Commission and she suggests it be reviewed by counsel before sent.

Motion for Commissioner Madigan to act as a representative of the Commission in responding to Ms. Leonor Martinez's email and having it reviewed by County Counsel before sent by email to Ms. Martinez. (Taggart/Geary) – All in Favor

Commissioner Madigan expresses her support of looking into the option to euthanize on public request. She also talks about a flyer she created to help people looking for spay/neuter options and vouchers. She would like to see that flyer updated frequently and hosted on a website easily accessible to the public. Vicki Thrasher announces that Critters Without Litters would be more than happy to host it if the information is provided to them.

Commissioner Anderson reports that the American Kennel Club will be having Responsible Dog Ownership Day Oct 1<sup>st</sup>, at Mill Creek Park.

**G. OLD BUSINESS:**

1. STAFF REFERRALS

- a. Follow up on the property in Ridgecrest.

Heard from Director Cullen who reports that he, the Sr. Officer and the area Officer made a visit to the Ridgecrest property. They will continue to monitor the Ridgecrest property.

2. CHRISTOPHER CARLBERG

Heard from Chris Carlberg with Bee Rescue. His organization relocates honey bees. He reports that he helped Sue Bennett remove bees and Sue reports that she learned a lot from Chris and he was very helpful. Chris announces they have relocated 100 hives this year which equates to about 50,000 bees. He also requests that if anyone knows of any organizations that he could go and teach and educate about bees he would like to get involved. Sue states that Chris was a patient and informative teacher.

3. SAVE-A-LIFE

Commissioner Anderson asks Director Cullen regarding this item which was requested to be on the agenda by one of the Commissioners. Director Cullen states that a majority of the cats from Save-A-Life are in the County'

4. EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS SUB-COMMITTEE

Heard from Commissioner Geary who reports that they are meeting monthly with their L.A.R.I.A.T group. They are still working on a plan for domestic large animals in the greater Tehachapi area. Commissioner Geary introduces Fiona Nelson and Jeanie Taylor who are with Bear Valley Equine Emergency Plan and who are part of the L.A.R.I.A.T. group. There is discussion about how to get the presentation on the projector. Fiona and Jeanie set up their equipment.

There is a break in the recording for an undetermined amount of time and when resumed Fiona and Jeanie are giving their presentation on emergency evacuation in

case of emergency. Jeanie informs that it is an early notification plan, not to replace one's county emergency plan. Jeanie and Fiona discuss the specifics of their plan and how one would get a plan like theirs going in their own community.

5. FRIENDS OF THE KERN COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTERS UPDATE

NONE

**H. NEW BUSINESS:**

NONE

**I. ADJOURNMENT:**

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

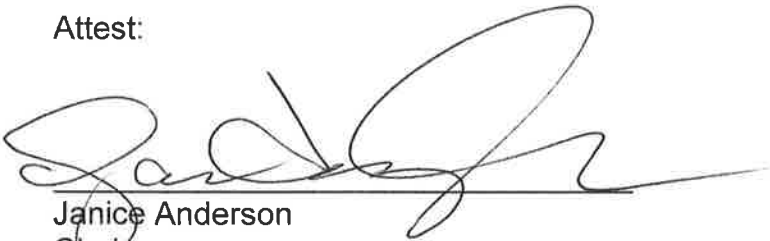
The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

The next Animal Services Commission meeting is scheduled for:

October, 19<sup>th</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)*