

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS*

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

Kern County Administrative Building
1115 Truxtun Ave., Bakersfield, CA 93301
3rd Floor, Multipurpose Room

November 16th, 2016 – 6:00p.m.

A. ROLL CALL: The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.
Commissioners Present: Ms. Anderson –Chairperson/Commissioner
Mr. Blackburn – Vice Chairperson/Commissioner
Ms. Geary – Commissioner
Ms. Taggart – Commissioner
Ms. Madigan –Commissioner

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

Staff Present:
Nick Cullen – Director, Kern County Animal Services
Bryan Walters – 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. October 19th, 2016 Regular Meeting.

Motion to Receive and File (*Taggart/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 Daniel Mariano from Sox Rescue location on Stockdale Highway. Mr. Mariano reports that Sox Rescue is a small 501 (c) (3) that started in San Bernardino County and they are a cat only rescue. They specialize in cats who are special needs senior or neonates. Since opening their doors in September, they have adopted 110 cats in 100 days. Mr. Mariano states that they would like to work closely with Kern County Animal Services to save as many cats as possible. Currently they are open Monday through Friday however do not have any paid staff. Commissioner Blackburn asks Mr. Mariano how they fund their current efforts. Mr. Mariano states that they have private donors that allows them to operate and that Purina donated 5,000 lbs. of litter to them. Commissioner Blackburn asks what their capacity is at their current location in which Mr. Mariano responds that they cap out at 16 and that they have been at capacity since the day they opened their doors. Mr. Mariano also states that they set up all their fosters and have training for people who are going to foster kittens. Commissioner Madigan states that Sox is very strict in their policies. Mr. Mariano states that they have received a good amount of volunteer and foster applications and the staff is currently going through and vetting them as fast as possible. Mr. Mariano also informs the group that their facility is staffed by volunteers 24 hours a day and people are run through a background check to become a volunteer with Sox. Commissioner Taggart points out that Sox is also adopting out of Petsmart. Mr. Mariano says that Sox welcomes any type of help or support. Commissioner Anderson clarifies that Sox currently rescues off of PTS lists in the Bay Area and they transport animals into Kern County. Mr. Mariano confirms that information.

Heard from Sue Bennett with Kern Humane. Sue gave an update on their spay/neuter voucher efforts.

E. STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS OR REPORTS:

1. DIRECTOR'S MONTHLY REPORT – Receive and File

Heard from Director Cullen who introduced himself to Sox Rescue. Director Cullen speaks to Sox Rescue and compels them to speak with Officer Sugg regarding ordinances and regulations that will apply to them at their Stockdale Highway location. Director Cullen recognizes the need for rescues such as Sox but also asks them to make sure they remain within the limitations set in the ordinances to do the most good for the most animals. Director Cullen highlights the statistics from the Director's report. He highlights that the litterless Lamont grant has been fulfilled and 350 surgeries have been done in Lamont. Director Cullen points out to Sox Rescue that at the shelter on Wednesdays from 55pm – 6:30pm the department offers feline vaccinations for \$10. Commissioner Madigan clarifies that city of Bakersfield residents can also receive core vaccinations from the county shelter. Director Cullen confirms, clarifying that city residents may not get a rabies vaccine from the county. Judi Daunell further clarifies that cats may get rabies vaccines because it is not tied to a license as it is with dogs. Commissioner Madigan asked Director Cullen to give her a summary of the discussion had 2 meetings ago regarding Locke vs. Kern County. He gives a brief explanation. Commissioner Madigan also asked about the Pet Retention program. Director Cullen responds that the effort the program needs has not yet been accomplished by the department as of right now however field services has expressed interest in helping further develop the program. Commissioner Madigan asked whether or not the xray machine has been acquired. Director Cullen responds that it has not been acquired and that some fundraising efforts will be needed to make it happen. Commissioner Geary asks if there is any information on the Animal Services website that will help people with problems they may be having with their animals and help them retain them. Director Cullen states that there is not and the department is currently working on revamping the website. Director Cullen spoke briefly on a pet adoption event that Animal Services attended in 2012 in the LA County area. It was a great experience and was well attended. The department would like to see an event like that in Kern County as well and is working toward getting sponsors and including all animal advocacy groups and rescue. He hopes to see this happen around late April of 2017. Commissioner Blackburn asks Director Cullen if there has been any push back from the community since the department raised it's promotion prices. Director Cullen states that not enough time has gone by to conclude anything. Commissioner Anderson commends Director Cullen on his leadership of the department.

2. VOLUNTEER UPDATE - Receive and File

Heard from Director Cullen regarding the volunteer update during his Director's report.

3. SPAY/NEUTER FUNDS UPDATE - Receive and File

Heard from Blake Smith who spoke in regards to spay/neuter funds. He reports 65-70% redemption on approximately 400 vouchers issued. Blake points out donations in 2015 versus in 2016 and reports an increase in donations in 2016 over 2015. Commissioner Blackburn asks Blake what he attributes the increase in donations to. Blake points out that an Eagle Scout project brought in a significant amount of donations in 2016. Blake reports that approximately 100 surgeries are being performed in the new surgery suite and Director Cullen reports that approximately \$75,000.00 has been saved so far having the surgery suite.

Motion to receive and file Director's monthly report, and spay/neuter funds update. (Madigan/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 Blackburn who discusses his visit with the management at Petco on Rosedale.

Heard from Commissioner Geary who reports that the Emergency Preparedness Sub-Committee continues to meet. Director Cullen reports that the County's policy for response to emergencies and disasters is complete and it just needs to be polished up.

G. OLD BUSINESS:

1. STAFF REFERRALS

Follow up on request made for report on donations and grants.

Heard from Blake Smith regarding this topic during his spay/neuter funds update.

2. EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS SUB-COMMITTEE

Heard from Commissioner Geary and Director Cullen during Commissioner Announcements and Reports.

3. FRIENDS OF THE KERN COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTERS UPDATE

Heard from Judi Daunell from Friends. She reports that Peggy has located an office trailer that they may possibly purchase for KCAS. They need to meet with Lisa Richardson and Deanna Alawahabi from KCAS to see if it will meet the needs of the department. The trailer would be purchased for kittens that are no longer bottle fed but not old enough to be spay or neutered and adopted out. Judi also reports successful spay/neuter efforts Kern River Valley Snip and tip in conjunction with Simi Valley Vet and FYDO. Judi reports 2 fundraisers for Pets for Vets but she doesn't have a total amount raised between the two events.

H. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Discuss whether or not to go dark in December

Commissioner Anderson poses the question if the Commission will go dark. Liz Keogh asks if there is anything pressing to be addressed in December to which Commissioner Anderson answers no and comments that two Commissioners will not be present.

Motion to go dark in December (*Blackburn/Geary*) – All in favor.

I. ADJOURNMENT:

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

The next Animal Services Commission meeting is scheduled for:

January 18th, 2017
6:00 p.m.

Attest:



Janice Anderson
Chairman

**A full recording of the proceedings can be heard at http://www.co.kern.ca.us/acd/AAC_AS.aspx*