

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

March 15th, 2017 – 6:00p.m.

A. ROLL CALL: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.
Commissioners Present: Ms. Anderson –Chairperson/Commissioner
Mr. Blackburn – Vice Chairperson/Commissioner
Ms. Geary – Commissioner
Ms. Taggart – Commissioner

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

Staff Present:
Jerri S. Bradley – Deputy County Counsel
Blake Smith – Business Manager, Kern County Animal Services
Lisa Richardson – Shelter Supervisor, 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. January 18th, 2017 Regular Meeting.

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

C. CONSENT AGENDA:

1. CORRESPONDENCE FILED WITH THE COMMISSION - Receive and File

- a. Email received 01/26/17 from Stacy Pentz regarding "They killed my dogs"
- b. Email received 01/30/17 and 02/06/17 from Larry & Wade Grimshaw regarding "How many dogs allowed in (A) Exclusive Agriculture Zoning?"
- c. Email received 02/04/17 regarding "Cat Hoarding"
- d. Email received 02/26/17 from Carly Morris regarding "Kim Bennett"

Items a., b., and d. - REMOVED FROM CONSENT

- a. Commissioner Blackburn asked for clarification on what happened in this situation. Jerri Bradley informed Commissioner Blackburn of what occurred and informed that Animal Services followed all laws in regards to hold times on the dogs. Sue Bennett asked what the response was to the dog owner in regards to her complaint. Commissioner Anderson states that Nick Cullen had spoken to her on several occasions throughout the time the department had possession of the dogs. Also heard from Liz Keogh who wanted to clarify that the question was if the Commission responded to the email since it was to them and if not did they intend to. Commissioner Geary asks if they need to respond since Nick has spoken to her. Commissioners all agreed it wasn't necessary to repeat what Nick has already told her.

Motion to not respond to Ms. Pentz's email – (*Blackburn/Taggart*) – All in favor

- b. Heard from Blake Smith who states that Director Cullen spoke with the Grimshaws and informed them that the limit is only for residential areas and that while there is no limit for agricultural areas owners do have to properly care for, vaccinate and license the dogs they do have.
- d. Heard from Janice Anderson who read a statement from Director Cullen. Director Cullen's response states that Animal Services dispatch has received no complaints or calls in regards to a dead dog. Director Cullen did respond to this email by email. Director Cullen also states that the department did look into the situation and while Ms. Bennett is not a good animal owner, the department has not found any circumstances that gives them a legal right to remove the animals from property however if they do they will act within their legal right to resolve the situation. Commissioner Blackburn asks if Carly Morris is in the audience but no one responds. He states that if she needs to speak with them, during the meeting is the way to do so.

Motion to receive and file items a., b., and d. – (*Taggart/Geary*) – All in favor

Motion to continue item C.1.c. to April meeting – (*Geary/Taggart*) – 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 Liz Keogh who would like to clarify that Judi Daunell has not resigned from the Board of Friends of the Kern County Animal Shelters Foundation completely, she remains on the board however no longer as the President.

Heard from Teri Kahn who speaks about the Human Society of the United States and their efforts to target Kern County. She reports that she and some others attended a meeting held by the Human Society the night previous to this Commission meeting. She states that a lot of different threats made and that she and the others will be watching the Humane Society around Kern County.

Heard from Sue Bennett from Kern Humane. She brought a stack of papers which were vouchers for animals they have helped in the last 6 months. The stack was 1,992 vouchers. Commissioner Anderson thanks Sue for all Kern Humane does.

E. STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS OR REPORTS:

1. DIRECTOR'S MONTHLY REPORT – Receive and file
3. SPAY/NEUTER FUNDS UPDATE - Receive and File

Heard from Blake Smith in Director Cullen's absence who spoke about the statistics from the Director's monthly report. He gave a quick overview of the Foster program and the TNR program because there was a lot of new faces in the audience. An unidentified member of the public asked him to explain what it means to return them to their community, which Blake explains. E.J. Rutledge asks Blake if a dog is RTO'd or SOP while no one is home, if the officer notifies the owner that the dog has been returned. Blake responds that the officers typically do not contact the owner but may leave a business card to let the owners know that Animal Services has been to their residence.

Blake also discusses the Spay/Neuter report. He briefly explains how the low income vouchers work and how many TNR surgeries and how many vouchers have been issued. Sue Bennett states that Blake has agreed to accept Kern Humane coupons as the \$20 copay for a low income voucher from Animal Services. Commissioner Anderson informs the new faces in the audience that it is Animal Services' goal to become no kill in 5 years and it is because of these programs that make that goal attainable. An unidentified member of the public asks if there is a "repository" of all the services offered. Blake gives out the website address, and tells people

there's a Facebook page and Instagram page. Blake gives a brief history of the department and how far they have come in the last 3-4 years.

Commissioner Blackburn comments on the statistics for the Wednesday vaccination clinics.

2. VOLUNTEER UPDATE - Receive and File

Heard from Jeff George, Volunteer Coordinator gives statistics from the Director's report. Jeff explains to the audience the different groups that contribute to the monthly volunteer hours. He speaks about volunteers working with the veterinary staff which is a newer program. He also started a program in January with CSUB students taking a Animal Behavior and Sciences course. They are required to go to a shelter and provide 15 hours of service and they are required to write a paper on what they did and how animals effect human behavior. April 29th is Volunteer Day at the shelter and there will be events and tours from 10am-2pm. An unidentified member of the public asks about one day volunteers and how they can go about doing so. Jeff explains the one day volunteer process. Liz Keogh mentions that the monthly volunteer newsletter is available on the back table. Commissioner Anderson asks if the one day volunteers eventually become long term volunteers. Jeff responds that typically does not happen. Commissioner Blackburn tells everyone that before Jeff George the volunteer hours were minimal compared to what they are now and he thanks Jeff for his hard work. Commissioner Blackburn asks Jeff to explain the Pet Detective program, which Jeff does briefly. Judythe Kaufman speak up and tells the audience that there are also breed ID classes held at the shelter by California Federation of Dog clubs upon occasion that they may be interested in.

Motion to receive and file Spay/neuter funds update and Volunteer Update, motion to continue Director's monthly report to April's meeting. (*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 Blackburn who spoke about Petco. He calls up Lisa Richardson who is the Shelter Supervisor. Commissioner Blackburn speaks briefly about the Petco adoption process. Commissioner Blackburn talks about how he called Lisa to have more cats delivered to Petco and then asks Lisa to tell people her response. Lisa responds to Commissioner Blackburn that they do not have any cats to send to Petco and for the last 2-3 weeks people have been waiting outside to adopt cats. Lisa says that in the 7 years she has worked with the department she has not been able to say that. She also reports that they are holding a Foster shower at the shelter the Saturday coming up from 10am – 2pm where people can learn about the program, learn to bottle feed kittens and sign up for the program. Commissioner Blackburn also mentions that he and Jeff George have been discussing the Citizens Patrol that they are trying to form.

G. OLD BUSINESS:

1. STAFF REFERRALS

NONE

2. EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS SUB-COMMITTEE

Heard from Commissioner Geary who reports on February 3rd Director Cullen and his staff and members of the L.A.R.I.A.T Tehachapi group got together to review the Animal Disaster draft plan. They made it through half and they will meet next month to go through the other half. They also invited Naomi Flann from Central California Animal Disaster Team who helped during the Erskin Fire. L.A.R.I.A.T. has decided to join forces with C.C.A.D.T. and doing a training in Tehachapi in the near future. L.A.R.I.A.T. will fall under C.C.A.D.T.'s 501(c)(3).

3. FRIENDS OF THE KERN COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTERS UPDATE

NONE

H. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Discuss the importation of foreign dogs as requested by Chairperson Anderson

Commissioner Anderson would like to continue this until the April Meeting

Motion to continue Item H.1. until April meeting (*Blackburn/Geary*) – All in favor

2. Discussion regarding the frequency of future Animal Services Commission meetings

Commissioner Anderson states that the ordinance requires that the Commission meets 2 times per year. It was brought up if we need to continue monthly meetings. Commissioner Geary has concerns that not meeting as often, efforts would lose momentum. Commissioner Blackburn and Taggart concur with Commissioner Blackburn. Commissioner Anderson suggests trying bi-monthly and if it isn't working that way they can always go back to monthly. Danny Spanks thinks there are great things happening with KCAS and this meeting is part of the reason why. He thinks to decrease the number of meetings would be a mistake. Commissioner Blackburn suggests everyone thinking about it until next month and discussing it again then.

Motion to continue item H.2. until the April meeting (*Blackburn/Geary*) – All in favor

I. ADJOURNMENT:

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

The next Animal Services Commission meeting is scheduled for:

May 17th, 2016
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*