

Monterey County Animal Advisory Board

Monterey County Animal Services Center

Meeting Date: July 25, 2007 Time: 3:30 p.m.

MINUTES

Members Present: District 4 Darlene Drain
District 5 Susan O'Brien
Member-At-Large Barbara DeGroot, Chair
Member-At-Large Tom Bailey
Member-At-Large Shirely Jorgenson

Members Absent: District 1 Tom Collier
District 2 Joy Rosales
District 3 Vacant
Member-At-Large Vacant

Ex-Officio Representatives Present:

Barbara Carvalho, SPCA of Monterey County

Staff:

Kathy Prew, Director of Animal Services
Nancy Ratto, Animal Services Supervisor

The meeting of the Monterey County Animal Advisory Board was called to order at 3:30 p.m. A quorum was not available to approve the minutes.

Dale Huss from Ocean View Farms spoke during the public comment portion of the agenda. Dale is the chair of the Agriculture Crime Prevention Committee, which has expressed concerns for food safety when stray dogs run through agricultural fields in Monterey County, particularly since e coli bacteria has become a major concern for growers during the past year. There are now buffer zones for many fields, within which State inspectors prohibit any kind of animal intrusion, and some buyers are threatening to refuse to buy the product if there is any chance of contamination from an animal, potentially causing large financial loss for the grower. Dale was interested to know if there was anything the Advisory Board could do to help the agriculture community seek restitution for financial loss due to dogs which damage crops. Currently the County Code allows for restitution for loss of livestock, but not of crop loss. Darlene Drain indicated that a legal remedy would be available as a civil matter if the owner of the dog had adequate homeowner's liability insurance. Barbara DeGroot suggested posting signs around the property prohibiting dogs might serve as a deterrent and education measure. We expressed our willingness, as an animal control agency, to respond as quickly as possible to calls regarding dogs in fields, and do our best to catch them; and if not successful, set humane traps to try to trap the dogs as soon as possible.

A quorum of members was reached as latecomers arrived; the minutes from the meeting of 4/18/07 were reviewed and approved.

Kathy Prew gave the Director's report. The newly assigned County Counsel attorney has responded to a request from Len Foster, Director of Health, to review four proposals sent to him, including a permit requirement for numbers of animals allowed per residence over a prescribed number, in order to discourage hoarders. Other counties contacted stated that, when their staff encountered violators, their agency's response was to issue citations, repeatedly, if

necessary. No other counties reported seizing the animals when a resident possessed more animals than allowed, providing unlawful neglect or abuse were not present.

Kathy also reported that Judi Adams, Humane Investigator at the SPCA, had invited Kathy to attend the Agriculture Crime Prevention Committee, because Judi is a member, and stray dogs are causing problems for growers. Growers are becoming fearful of possible large financial losses should State inspectors observe a stray animal in their fields. Judi has advised the Committee members that it is illegal to shoot a dog despite crop damage, and showed photos of wounded animals, including purebreds, which have been shot but not killed. Kathy handed out catalogues to the Committee of humane traps that they might purchase or borrow from our agency, and recommended that they advise their field worker to not feed the dogs in the field.

Barbara DeGrootd reminded everyone that the annual Homeless Pet Day and candlelight observation sponsored by From the Heart Dog Training will be held on August 19, 2007.

The next meeting was scheduled for October 10, 2007.

The meeting was adjourned.