

Monterey County Animal Advisory Board
Monterey County Animal Services Center
Meeting Date: September 17, 2008 Time: 3:30 p.m.

MINUTES

Members Present:

District 1	Tom Collier
District 2	Joy Rosales
District 3	Basil Smith
District 4	Darlene Drain
District 5	Susan O'Brien
Member-At-Large	Shirely Jorgenson
Member-At-Large	Barbara De Groodt
Member-At-Large	Tom Bailey

Members Absent: Member-At-Large Vacant

Ex-Officio Representatives Present:

Gary Tiscornia, SPCA of Monterey County
Lisa Hoefler

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. The minutes of June 18, 2008 were reviewed and approved.

Kathy Prew introduced Rhonda Somerton, who was at the meeting to present a proposal for consideration as an addition to the Monterey County Code regarding exotic animal regulations, which has been named the Tyke Ordinance. The Advisory Board has been asked to present a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors regarding this proposal. Ms. Somerton presented written materials regarding animals in circuses from Animal Defenders International, scientific research and several documentaries about life for animals in the circus, and an updated version of the proposed ordinance, much of which was written by Born Free, USA and its legal counsel, Nicole Paquette. Ms. Somerton said that she realized that the Board of Supervisors would re-write the proposal to fit into Monterey County's Code, and stated that she has referred it to individual members on the Board of Supervisors. The ordinance asks that the Animal Welfare Act standards be met in order for a permit to be issued, which would allow the circus' performance in this jurisdiction. She mentioned that a similar ordinance has recently been passed in Los Angeles. However, she stressed that this is a flexible document to which we can feel free to make any changes or comments, so that the Board of Supervisors would have everyone's input. Discussion followed regarding jurisdictional issues, enforcement difficulties with traveling circuses, and the cost and program operational concerns surrounding enforcement. Ms. Somerton indicated that this ordinance is intended for transient animals and is worded "for traveling displays", and is not meant to affect a permanent exotic animal display.

Kathy Prew stated that she had been asked to play one of the videos during the meeting, which Ms. Somerton distributed, which showed some of the abuses suffered by circus animals. Barbara DeGrootd suggested that it be played during the public comment portion of the agenda, which it was. Kathy Prew advised the group that the Director of Health has asked for a recommendation from the Advisory Board in November. Barbara DeGrootd asked for volunteers, who would be interesting in serving on a sub-committee to study the proposed ordinance, those being Gary Tiscornia, Darlene Drain, Joy Rosales and Tom Bailey.

Kathy Prew provided a Director's Report, stating that a hiring freeze has been placed on all positions within the Health Department, in anticipation of budget concerns facing the State and County, which will become more specific in September. Animal Services currently has only one vacancy, the Educator/Volunteer Coordinator position.

No progress has been reported on the Title 8 changes, which have been waiting in the office of County Counsel for final approval to go before the Board of Supervisors.

The next meeting was scheduled for November 5, at which time the sub-committee will bring it's recommendation regarding the exotic animal ordinance to the full Advisory Board. The meeting was adjourned.