



City of Las Cruces®

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Animal Care Task Force Agenda

The following is the Agenda for the City of Las Cruces Animal Care Task Force for September 27, 2019 at 3:00 p.m., in City Hall, Las Cruces Conference Room (Conference Room 2007-A, 2nd floor, North wing), 700 North Main Street, Las Cruces, New Mexico.

1. Call To Order
2. Approval Of Minutes
August 23, 2019

Documents:

[CLC ANIMAL CARE TASK FORCE_SUMMARY MINUTES 08-23-2019 - DRAFT.PDF](#)

3. Topics - Discussion Only
 - a. Licensing vs. Microchipping
 - b. Community Cat Colony
 - c. Drakes
 - d. Others - specific to the draft ordinance
4. Action Items
 - a. None
5. Adjournment

If you need an accommodation for a disability to enable you to fully participate in this event, please contact us 72 hours before the event at [575-541-2271](tel:575-541-2271) or [541-2182/tty](tel:541-2182).

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Date Posted: 9/24/19



1
2 The following are summary minutes for the meeting of the **City of Las Cruces - Animal Care**
3 **Task Force** for August 23, 2019 at 3:00 p.m., at the City of Las Cruces, City Hall, Conference
4 Room 2007-A, 700 North Main Street, Las Cruces, New Mexico.

5
6 **Members Present:**

- 7 David Dollahon, Assistant City Manager for Operations
- 8 Gino Jimenez, City ACO Supervisor
- 9 Clint Thacker, ASCMV Executive Director
- 10 Marcy Driggers, City Attorney's Office
- 11 Jackye Meinecke, Coalition for Pets and People
- 12 Frank Bryce, Human Society of Southern NM
- 13 Susan Krueger, Animal Care Advocate
- 14 Rick Hahn, Coalition for Pets and People
- 15 Geri Wheelis, Boarding Director for Calista Animal Hospital
- 16 Jean Gilbert, Human Society of Southern NM
- 17 Renee Waskiewicz, Animal Advocate

18
19 **Others Present:**

- 20 David Aguayo, City of Las Cruces Codes/Animal Control
- 21 Julie Leonard, Citizen

22
23 **Members Absent:**

- 24 Kasandra Gandara, City Councilor Dist. 1/ ASCMV Board Chair
- 25 Mary Lou Ward, Dona Ana County ACO Chief
- 26 Athena Huckaby, Cat Colony Manager
- 27 Gina Roberts, Dona Ana County ACO Case Worker
- 28 Yvonne Flores, City Councilor Dist. 6
- 29 Vicki Lusk, Dona Ana County Codes Chief
- 30 Hannah Wilder
- 31 K.C. Alberg, Marshal for Town of Mesilla
- 32 Tom Townsend, Coalition for Pets and People
- 33 Cindy Richardson
- 34 Casey Jobling
- 35 Vic Villalobos, Dog Cruces

36
37 **Call to order** – 3:05 p.m.

38
39 **Approval of Minutes:** Frank Bryce moved; Julie Leonard seconded to approve the minutes
40 for July 26, 2019.

41
42 **Discussion Items:** David Dollahon discussed the draft ordinance updates. The definitions
43 for pigeons was moved to the definition section of the ordinance. On page 12 what was
44 added right above section 7-12 was a new "C" that says, "intact animal microchipped
45 registration fee."
46

1 There is a correction on page 21, section 7-20 "Pet Mill" was moved out of that section
2 because it is a prohibition and it was moved to 7-35. Gino Jimenez stated we always wanted
3 "Pet Mills" as its own section. It was then agreed to move it to 7-36 instead.

4
5 Page 24 where we get to pigeons all those definitions disappear and are moved to the
6 definitions sections which means "Maintenance Care and Confinement" of pigeons is the (A)
7 now.

8
9 The Community Cats part of the ordinance, 7-31 number 10, was discussed. On (B) this is
10 new language, Community Cat Caregivers are strongly encouraged to register themselves
11 with the Animal Control Unit. Mr. Jimenez asked why even put that if they're not required to
12 register with us. His thinking is making it a requirement. Mr. Dollahon said that gets back to
13 the whole issue that we're having now, them not wanting to register. It's not required and
14 there's no penalty if they don't do it but it kind of feeds back to "A" that the Community Cat
15 Caregivers shall assist in resolving complaints. So, if you know who the Community Cat
16 Caregiver is then you can help resolve the issues. I'm thinking of the lady up on Rinconada
17 because she has a problem with Community Cats and she's looking for a solution. She
18 doesn't want to harm the cats, but she's wants a Community Cat Caregiver to help her solve
19 the problem.

20
21 Clint Thacker asked why are we continuing to push the caregiver part when we've seen for
22 the last 5 years there hasn't been any interest in registering? If it's not enforced, then why
23 have it in there?

24
25 David Dollahon said they're strongly encouraged to register but they shall assist in resolving
26 complaints received by Animal Control and that's our biggest issue and not working with
27 their neighbors to resolve the issues. We're just trying to find the right balance amongst a
28 bad situation.

29
30 Mr. Dollahon continued reading, "(A) a trapped community cat may be released in the area
31 or vicinity by individuals or the shelter where trapped unless veterinary care is required. (D),
32 Gino and them need this, a trapped community cat received by Animal Control may be
33 returned to the area it was trapped or a community caregiver unless veterinary care is
34 required. (E) if an impounded cat has a microchip registered to a community cat caregiver
35 the caregiver shall be notified to retrieve the cat. (F) community cats, whether alone or
36 under the care of community cat caregivers, are prohibited from being returned within 150
37 feet of a licensed daycare center, public or private schools and any park. That's a public
38 safety issue. (G) the City shall by separate resolution adopt a trap, neuter and return policy
39 within 120 days of adoption of this ordinance.

40
41 Mr. Dollahon said our biggest issue is not with the cat caregivers and the cats, it's the
42 relationship with the neighbors.

43
44 Mr. Dollahon said I will be finalizing this language and will be working on a PowerPoint to
45 present to City Council at a work session on September 23. So, for everybody that is here
46 can I get a motion and a second that we recommend the modified ordinance to City Council
47 for a work session?

48
49 Renee Waskiewicz moved, and Clint Thacker seconded to recommend the modified
50 ordinance. Motion carried.

51

1 **Adjourn** – 4:18 p.m.

2

3

4 _____

5 Chair

6

7 Approved: _____