

Pima County Board of Health  
Minutes  
December 11, 2013  
Room 1108, Abrams Building  
3950 S. Country Club Road  
Tucson, Arizona 85714

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Dr. Horwitz called the meeting to order at 3:08 pm.

Mr. Schlueter called the roll as follows:

Mr. An - absent  
Mr. Elías - absent  
Mr. Gastelum - absent  
Mr. Geoffrion  
Ms. Gonzales  
Dr. Horwitz  
Ms. McComb-Berger  
Mr. Rojas  
Dr. Smith  
Mr. Stopani - absent  
Ms. Trowbridge

A quorum was established.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Geoffrion led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. MINUTES ADOPTION

- Adopt Board of Health October 23, 2013 Minutes

The motion was made and seconded (McComb-Berger/Rojas) that the October 23, 2013 Minutes be adopted as written. The motion carried 7-0.

4. DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY PRESENTATION ON ILLEGAL DUMPING

Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Director Ursula Kramer introduced Enforcement Manager Jennifer Lynch, who utilized the attached PowerPoint presentation to brief the Board on illegal dumping. Pima County Code Title 7 covers storage and disposal of solid waste. It is unlawful to dispose of waste anywhere but landfills, transfer stations, or via a permitted waste hauler. Illegal dumping pollutes, creates breeding grounds for disease carriers, is a fire hazard, is hazardous to people and wildlife, is an eyesore, lowers property values and costs taxpayer money. Solid waste / illegal dumping complaints can be made to DEQ over the phone or on line. Complaints are investigated and evidence may identify the dumper. Property owners who illegally store waste and illegal dumpers are issued a Notice of

Violation. Responsible parties are required to remediate the site, pay County court costs and document to DEQ the proper disposal of the waste. Repeat violators face court-ordered fines and can face jail time for contempt of court if ordered by the judge. Since 2011 DEQ has issued 1,107 Notices of Violation and the County Attorney's Office has been referred 149 cases for litigation. On public land when the illegal dumper cannot be identified, the agency owning the land is responsible for cleanup. Since 1989 DEQ has cleaned up 3,917 tons of waste.

5. NOVEMBER 15, 2013 "REVIEW OF ANIMAL CARE SERVICES IN SIX CITIES/COUNTIES" REPORT BY THE OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR FOR HEALTH

The Board was provided with copies of the November 15, 2013 *Review of Animal Care Services in Six Cities/Counties* report along with the November 18 cover memo from County Administrator C.H. Huckelberry. Kim Janes, Manager of the Pima Animal Care Center (PACC), went over the attached PowerPoint presentation to inform the Board on this topic. The report compares Pima County's animal care services to five other western jurisdictions. In Fiscal Year 2013 the PACC handled 26,100 animals, which is a service volume of 1,535 animals per full time employee equivalent (FTE). This figure is drastically higher than those from other reporting jurisdictions in the report; the other jurisdictions reported volumes ranging from 894 to 453 animals per FTE. Other than animals turned in for euthanasia, PACC's current (first quarter of Fiscal Year 2013/14) live release rate is 72 percent, up from 64 percent in Fiscal year 2012/13. PACC's ability to treat animals is extremely limited. PACC is mandated to keep strays for three days and owned dogs for seven; these animals are treated as needed.

6. PET TREATS LINKED TO PET ILLNESS AND DEATH

Health Department Director Francisco García said there has been recent media attention about pet jerky treats related to pet deaths. Special Staff Assistant Jodi McCloskey said since 2007 the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is aware of 580 pet deaths reported to the FDA as attributed to jerky treats. The Health Department contacted the Pima County Attorney's office regarding whether or not the Health Department has the jurisdiction to ban these treats, and the answer was the Health Department does not have regulatory authority over animal food. The Arizona Department of Agriculture has the authority, but only for food produced in Arizona. These treats are not made in Arizona; many are from China, so the body with jurisdiction is the FDA. The FDA has done testing on jerky treats and has been unable to identify what is causing harm to pets. The Health Department is trying to raise awareness about the issue and steer complaints to the FDA. A Press Release will be released and posted on the Health Department website.

7. DISCUSSION ON STATUS OF PIMA ANIMAL CARE BOND PROPOSAL

Dr. Smith reported that the County's current, Bond Advisory Committee bond package of over half a billion dollars in bonds, including the \$22 million Pima Animal Care Center (PACC) Improvements Bond Proposal, is recommended postponed, and is therefore not expected to go before the voters in 2014. The Board discussed PACC's current volume challenges and how a delayed vote plus planning and construction would push the realization

of a new Animal Care Center far into the future. The appeal of presenting the PACC proposal to the voters separately was discussed and it was pointed out that the PACC proposal was very favorably rated in a survey conducted regarding the pending proposals.

The motion was made and seconded (Rojas/Gonzales) that, in light of current overcrowding at PACC, and in light of the *Review of Animal Care Services in Six Cities/Counties* report, the Board of Health recommend to the Board of Supervisors that the PACC Improvement Bond Proposal go to the voters in 2014. The motion carried 7-0.

8. CALL TO AUDIENCE

Jane Schwerin, from People for Animals in the Prevention of Cruelty and Neglect, Inc. said that in light of pet deaths related to jerky treats she placed an ad in the paper in November and passed out flyers (attached) urging people not to feed jerky treats to pets and urging people to report jerky treat related issues to the FDA and the Health Department.

I regards to overcrowding at PACC, Ms. Schwerin urged the passing of an ordinances to help prevent animals from being born, such as an ordinance banning the sale of dogs and cats at pet stores. She said there are a number of cities, including Los Angeles, that already have such an ordinance. Regarding PACC operations, Ms. Schwerin agreed that the shelter needs more staff, but added that PACC also needs more Field Officers. Finally she said she hopes PACC never increases the fee for euthanasia because it would discourage people from bringing their sick suffering animals to PACC for that service and animals will suffer more.

9. SUMMATION OF ACTION ITEMS AND PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS

Dr. Horwitz gave a brief summation of the meeting. The only action item going forward was a letter to the Board of Supervisors supporting the PACC Bond Proposal. There was also a request to have the next meeting at PACC and have a tour of PACC at that time.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.