



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

LOLO L. M. MOLIGA

GOVERNOR

American Samoa

LEMANU P. MAUGA

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

March 19, 2014

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 003 - 2014

EXECUTIVE ORDER CREATING A TASK FORCE TO DEVELOP AN ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL PROGRAM TO REDUCE PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH STRAY DOGS AND CATS IN THE TERRITORY

Section 1. Authority

This Executive Order is issued under the authority granted to the Governor in Article IV, Sections 6 and 7 of the Revised Constitution of American Samoa and the American Samoa Code Annotated Section 4.011.

Section 2. Preamble

WHEREAS, American Samoa currently has an overpopulation of stray dogs and cats, which can be associated with adversely affecting the quality of life in the territory;

WHEREAS, medical personnel at the Lyndon B Johnson Tropical Medical center report treating dog bite-related injuries on a frequent basis, many involving small children;

WHEREAS, people often dispose of unwanted puppies and sick adult dogs in public parks, on government land, and in remote locations to escape the responsibility of caring for their animals;

WHEREAS, links between leptospirosis, stray dogs, and humans in the territory endanger public health and welfare;

WHEREAS, other health issues of concern include, but are not limited to parasites such as hookworms, mange and fleas that are present in the dog population and are transmissible to humans;

WHEREAS, there are daily occurrences of rubbish being spread from receptacles by malnourished dogs, resulting in an eyesore; and

WHEREAS, the nuisance and endangerment to public health as a result of stray dogs and cats hinder the territory's ability to develop a thriving tourist industry.

Section 3. Purpose

WHEREAS, it is the mission of this Animal Care and Control Task Force to greatly reduce the stray dog population through a variety of sustainable programs and increased public awareness in responsible management and care of pets and animals.

Section 4. Establishment of a Task Force

THEREFORE, it is hereby created the Animal Care and Control Task Force to develop the Animal Care and Control Program and to facilitate the implementation of its goals and objectives. To carry out this mandate, the following members are appointed to the Task Force:

- Enele Ta'atasi, American Samoa Power Authority (ASPA)
- Peter Gurr, Dept. of Agriculture (DOA)
- Marion Fitismanu, Dept. of Health (DOH) - Chair
- Ken Tupua, Dept. of Parks and Recreation (DPR)
- Maanaima Fualaau, Dept. of Public Works (DPW)
- Lea'e Mauga, Office of Samoan Affairs (SA) – Vice-Chair
- Mona King, Alofa Mo Meaola (AMM) Non-profit Animal Care Org.
- Nick King, Alofa Mo Meaola – Secretary
- Brenda Smith DVM, Dept of Agriculture (DOA)

The chair, vice-chair and secretary shall be selected from among the membership. Furthermore, members may be replaced or added at the pleasure of the Governor.

Section 5. Objectives and Responsibilities

The Animal Care and Control Task Force shall carry out the following objectives and goals:

- Establish a full time animal clinic at the Department of Agriculture to provide veterinary services, to include spay/neuter clinics, administer medications, provide treatment and surgeries, and vaccinations for disease control (i.e. parvo, distemper and leptospirosis);
- Issue licenses for all spayed or neutered dogs and to maintain a computer database of all licensed dogs and their owners;
- Design and implement an aggressive public awareness campaign to inform the community of the *Animal Care and Control Program* activities, the prevention/control of pet diseases and parasites and benefits to the public derived from the responsible care of pets;
- Review and research current applicable laws and regulations and propose legislation necessary to achieve the mission and objectives of this Executive Order;
- Designate funding sources necessary for the establishment of an animal clinic, including the costs for personnel, services, medications, equipment, supplies and maintenance;
- Establish a program to manage the population of stray cats and dogs, roaming pets and the responsible euthanization of animals;

Section 6. Effective Date and Duration

This Executive Order shall be effective immediately upon signing, and shall remain in effect until accomplishment of its purposes as jointly determined by the director of the Department of the Health and the director of the Department of Agriculture.

Dated: March 31, 2014


DORE M. MOEIGA
Governor