



MINUTES

BOARD OF ANIMAL SERVICES COMMISSIONERS CITY OF LOS ANGELES

Monday, January 10, 2005
9:00 a.m.

**CITY HALL
200 N. Spring St.
Room 1060
Los Angeles, CA 90012**



Commissioners: Kathleen Riordan, President
Alex Rubalcava, Vice President
Erika Brunson
Tariq Khero
Deborah A. Knaan

Sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices, or other auxiliary aids and/or services may be provided upon request. To ensure availability, you are advised to make your request at least 72 hours prior to the meeting you wish to attend.

Si require servicios de traducción, favor de notificar la oficina con 24 horas por anticipado.

COMMISSION MEETING, 9:00 A.M.

The meeting was called to order at 9:12 A.M. by Commission President Kathleen Riordan. Present were Commissioners K. Riordan, A. Rubalcava, E. Brunson, Tarik Khero, and D. Knaan.

1. REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

- A. Commission President Riordan reported that Agenda Item 3G - Unweaned Program-Participant Shelter Task Force and 3I - People Who Care should be continued to a future meeting. The motion was recommended by Commissioner Knaan and seconded by Commissioner Brunson and passed 5-0.
- B. The General Manager reported on a dog that was lost and returned to the owner two-years later due to a microchip.
- C. The General Manager is working with a group called Catnippers to establish a feral cat program with one of our shelters.
- D. The Spay and Neuter Van contractor will no longer participate in the program after December 31, 2004. The Amanda Foundation has agreed to provide the requisite spay and neuter services after that date.
- E. A Special Needs section has been posted on the Department's Website for animals who require additional care.

Public Comment:

Daniel Guss – Commented on care of animals at Jefferson Avenue and adequacy of humane reports.

Phyllis Daugherty – Commented on the need to cover all issues during an investigation such as guard-dog licenses.

Commissioner Knaan – Requested microchip implantation hours be changed at the shelters.

2. COMMISSION BUSINESS

- A. Approval of Minutes for the meeting of December 13, 2004 were continued to the next meeting on a motion by Commissioners Khero and seconded by Commissioner Brunson and approved on a vote of 5-0.
- B. Commissioner Knaan reported that she had visited four shelters.
- C. Agenda Item 3G - Unweaned Program-Participant Shelter Task Force on the Unweaned animals was continued until the February 14, 2005 meeting and the People Who Care was continued to the February 24, 2005 meeting.

Public Comment:

Phyllis Daugherty – No mention of the Anti-cruelty Task Force. Also commented on various humane issues.

3. REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

A. Canine Court Update

Avis Ridley-Thomas, the administrator of the program, presented an update on the status of the City Attorney's Canine Court program. Ms. Ridley-Thomas reported on the history of the Dispute Resolution Program. The program is funded through the County of Los Angeles that does not allow mandatory hearings. An animal behavior expert was brought into the program to encourage residents to use the Dispute Resolution Program. Currently, all portions of the Canine Court process are on a volunteer basis. In the event the dispute cannot be resolved in the mediation session the problem can be returned to the Department for a hearing. Deputy City Attorney III Susan Strick reported on the process that is used to invite residents involved in a dog dispute, such as a barking dog issue, to the Canine Court. The program works closely with West Los Angeles Shelter. Also, use of the Canine Court program does not preclude use of the Department's Administrative Hearing Program. Commissioner Knaan suggested that a paragraph be inserted into the Department's letters inviting residents to participate in the program. Assistant General Manager Regina Adams commented on the ability of residents to avail themselves of the Department's Administrative Hearing Program in the event one of the parties does not live up to the agreement reached in Canine Court.

Public Comment:

Zsuzsa Blakely – Commented on the Dispute Resolution Program.

Daniel Guss – The program is a failure. Discussed a case that his organization, The Stand Foundation, is representing in Canine Court. Addressed most of his comments to the representative from the Office of the City Attorney.

Jacqueline de Haviland – Requested to know what was whispered between Ms. Regina Adams

and the City Attorney's representatives. Ms. Adams responded that she informed the City Attorney's representatives to respond to questions from the Commissioners. Ms. De Haviland requested that parliamentary procedure be re-instituted into the process.

B. Internal Transfer of Animals

Dr. Casandria Smith reported that transfers are allowed between shelters provided the animals are in good health. In conjunction with the Petsmart Foundation, a pilot program is being planned to transfer animals to other shelters such as Irvine Animal Care and Control and the County of San Diego. Commander David Diliberto reported that all shelter managers have been instructed to maintain contact with each other and transfer animals from overcrowded shelters to ones with vacant space. Commissioner Knaan recommended a policy where each shelter is required to call other facilities and query them regarding the availability of animals. She also requested that a formal policy/procedure be prepared for the Commission to vote on.

Public Comment:

Phyllis Daugherty – Commented on the Department's past practice of transferring animals between shelters.

Zsuzsanna Blakely – Commented on sending animals between shelters is not a solution. They are still euthanized. It is better to send them to Orange County where there is a need for animals.

Mary Catalano – Never seen animals transferred between shelters. Requested the cat room be cleaned. Requested that the public be educated on kennel cough.

Dr. Casandria Smith – Reported on the new cleaning protocol.

Commission President called for a five-minute recess.

Jacqueline de Haviland – Requested the type of pain medication used on an animal at South Los Angeles.

Dr. Casandria Smith reported on the protocol of administering pain medication. She requested the impound number of the dog in question so she could check on it.

C. Possible Assumption of Duties for City of Beverly Hills

Assistant General Manager Adams reported on the background of where the request to assume animal care duties for the City of Beverly Hills. Commissioner Brunson reported that the Department might receive public relations funding as a result of assumption of the duties for the City of Beverly Hills. Ms. Maria Rychlicki, a representative from the Beverly Hills City Manager's Office reported on the current contract with the County of Los Angeles. For the City to build its own shelter would not be cost effective. Currently, many residents of Beverly Hills take stray animals to the West Los Angeles Shelter. Beverly Hills would like the licensing, dead-animal pick up and shelter service and microchip service. Paula Kent Mulin indicated that very few animals are being licensed in the City of Beverly Hills. Feels

the distance between Beverly Hill and the County facility in Carson is too far. Believes that public-spirited residents of Beverly Hills might be counted on to provide marketing support toward the Department. Currently, the City of Beverly Hills collects approximately \$30,000 in licensing fees annually. Licensing fees are collected by the County of Los Angeles and offset against animal services costs. Ms Rychlicki reported the City of Beverly Hill would like a short-term contract to ensure the program works and follow it with a long-term contract. It is estimated that between two and eight animals are impounded each month from the City of Beverly Hills. All marketing efforts would cover both the City of Beverly Hills and the City of Los Angeles.

Public Comments:

Phyllis Daugherty – Commented that it might be illegal for the City of Los Angeles to absorb duties in other cities. Also reported that only two officers are deployed throughout the City of Los Angeles each night.

Mary Catalano – Suggested that the City of Beverly Hills purchase the old West Los Angeles Shelter and use it as a no-kill shelter.

Zsuzsa Blakely – Beverly Hills should build several no-kill shelters and have people bring the animals to them.

GENERAL MANAGER RECOMMENDS FOR BOARD ACTION

D. Commission Meeting Schedule for the 3rd & 4th Quarter of Fiscal Year 2004-05

The Commission voted to accept the Department's recommendations for the Commission Meeting Schedule for the 3rd & 4th Quarter of Fiscal Year 2004-05. Commissioner Rubalcava moved to move the March 28 meeting to March 29 and accept the report. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brunson and passed 5-0.

E. Spay & Neuter Van – Request for Proposal

Commissioner Brunson recused herself from the meeting. Mary Carbajal reported on the Department's efforts to obtain a contract for operation of the Spay and Neuter Van (van). The Department requests the Commission to reject the two proposals received for the operation of the van and direct the Department on the actions required to resubmit the Request for Proposal (RFP). A discussion on the number of procedures under the new RFP ensued. The high number of procedures called for under the RFP might have discouraged bidders in-as-much as only two bids were received. The Amanda Foundation is operating the van through the current contract period. It is unclear what the Amanda Foundation would charge the Department if it received the permanent contract. Dov Lesel, Deputy City Attorney commented that the Commission has the authority to reject the recommendations set forth. A discussion of the criteria used to evaluate the proposals ensued. The criteria are financial capability, previous experience, quality and ability of assigned managers.

Public Comments:

Zsuzsa Blakely – Questions the requirement for the Spay and Neuter Van to provide its own advertising when the Department has its own Public Relations section. Most important thing is to look at the quality of the vet services.

Melanie Pozez – Commented on the strength of the Sam Simon Foundation to perform spay and neuter procedures from the van.

Phyllis Daugherty – Not a lot of competition because veterinarians do not want to perform spay and neuter procedures on a continuous basis.

Mary Catalano – Why the North Central Spay and Neuter Clinic was not used and why the Department has a problem hiring veterinarians.

Scott Sorrentino – Suggested contacting vendors and find out why so few bids were received and if there was a problem with the proposal. Concerned the funding will be eliminated by the City. Acceptable to require fewer surgeries.

Jim Jenvold – Department does not understand the procedure. Commented on one of the vendors.

Commissioner Rubalcava motioned the Commission reject the two proposals. Commissioner Khoro seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

Commissioner Rubalcava motioned the Commission allow the Sam Simon Foundation to operate the van through March 28, 2005. Commissioner Knaan seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

Commissioner Rubalcava motioned the Commission recommend the RFP for a Spay and Neuter Van is re-issued and/or lower the number of surgeries and the number of days the van operates. Commissioner Knaan seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

Commissioner Khoro recommended a motion to reconsider the motion to reconsider rejecting the two proposals. Commissioner Knaan seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-1 with Commissioner Rubalcava voting nay.

A motion to re-do the motion to reject the two Spay and Neuter Van proposals was made by Commissioner Rubalcava and seconded by Commissioner Khoro. The motion to reject the two Spay and Neuter Van proposals for service passed 3-1 with Commissioner Riordan voting nay.

Commissioner Khoro requested a five-minute break.

Commissioner Brunson re-joined the meeting.

Please join us at our website: www.LAAnimalServices.com

F. Deferral of the \$94.50 Unaltered Dog License Fee for Adoption Partners

The Department presented a report to the Commission for a formal vote for the Deferral of the \$94.50 Unaltered Dog License Fee for Adoption Partners that adopt dogs that are sick/injured at time of adoption. Assistant General Manager Adams reported on the purpose of the vote. Commissioner Knaan requested a future agenda item to extend the fee waivers to private residents.

Public Comment:

Zsuzsanna Blakely – Thanks to Commissioners Riordan and Knaan for the waivers. Believes the fee is illegal in and of itself.

Sheryl Greene – No financial impact if the animal remains un-neutered. Questioned whether a Veterinarian Technician must check each animal to determine whether the animal is altered.

General Manager Stuckey - Indicated no animal would be destroyed due to a bureaucratic rule.

Scott Sorrentino – Has a list of conflicts between the Department and the Participant Shelter Task force. the February 24, 2005 Commission Meeting.

A motion to modify the report to limit it to only dogs and accept the remainder of the report was made by Commissioner Knaan and seconded by Commissioner Khoro. The motion passed 5-0.

G. Unweaned Program-Participant Shelter Task Force – Deferred to the February 14, 2005 Commission Meeting.

H. Approval of Changes to LAMC Section 53.11 (o) and (p)

No Board Report was presented to the Commission. Commissioner Riordan explained fee waivers and changes required under LAMC Section 53.11 (o) and (p). A motion to continue this item was made by Commissioner Rubalcava, but died for lack of a second. The item was continued until the meeting of January 24, 2005.

I. Board Report: People Who Care – Deferred to the February 24, 2005 Commission Meeting.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD - (Comments from the public on items of public interest within the Board's subject matter jurisdiction.)

Catherine Doyle – Reported on Ruby and Guita the Elephants at the Los Angeles Zoo.

Bill Dyer – Commented on Guita the Elephant at the Los Angeles Zoo.

Scott Sorrentino – Objected to Participant Shelter Plan as presented by the Department. Listed differences between the Plan and what the Participant Shelter Task Force agreed to.

Zsuzsa Blakely – Commented on adopted animals that are returned to the shelter as unwanted animals. Also spoke on the \$100 adoption fee.

Deniz Bolbol – Spoke on Tara the Elephant at the San Francisco Zoo. Commented on zoo elephants and the death of elephants.

Mary Catalano – Comment on elephant care at the zoos. Questioned pain medication prescribed for animals. Requested family night at the shelters.

5. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:36 P.M.