



MINUTES

BOARD OF ANIMAL SERVICES COMMISSIONERS

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

Monday, June 13, 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

COMMISSION MEETING, 9:00 A.M.

Commission President Riordan called the Commission meeting to order at 9:12 a.m. Commissioners Riordan, Rubalcava, Khero, Knaan and Brunson were present.

ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL HEARING

1. Appeal of the General Manager's Decision in Barking Dog Case –DA 04568 (WV)

Mr. Howard Ellis, Management Assistant, introduced the facts of the case and the actions of the General Manager to revoke the dog's license in a dangerous animal case. Mr. Charles Liplow, the complaining party failed to appear. Ms. Elisa Rodriguez and Ms. Cynthia Puno presented facts consistent in support of their appeal. They no longer have custody of the dog-named Cesca (License No. LO4-042832). They have complied with the previous Terms and Conditions set-forth by the Department. Additionally, the dog owners have installed/repared fencing on their property. Ms. Puno and Rodriguez reported they had spent approximately \$1,400 in training their dog. A motion to overturn the Decision of the General Manager to suspend the license was made by Commissioner Knaan and seconded by Commissioner Khero. The motion passed 5-0 to overturn the General Manager's recommendation to suspend the dog license.

Appeal of the General Manager's Decision in Barking Dog Case –BD 04569 (WV)

Mr. Howard Ellis, Management Assistant, introduced the facts of the case and the actions of the General Manager in a barking dog case. The dog Mr. Karsh, left the meeting prior to the case being called and did not appear on his behalf. The Complainants, Robert and Diane Winters alleged excessive barking. A motion by Commissioner Brunson to set aside the General Managers Report and reinstate the dog's license, with conditions was made and seconded by Commissioner Rubalcava. The motion to affirm the decision of the General Manager to reinstate the license with previously issued conditions along with training and maintaining the dog indoors between the hours of 10:00 P.M. and 7:00 A.M. was approved 5-0

Appeal of the General Manager's Decision in Barking Dog Case –BD 04714 (SL)

Mr. Howard Ellis, Management Assistant, introduced the facts of the case and the actions of the General Manager in a barking dog case. The Complainants, Cherell Chappell and Tommy Watson alleged excessive barking and failure to adhere to the terms and conditions previously issued. The dog's owner Mr. Steven Boston, presented evidence that he had purchased anti-barking collars but they did not work. Commissioner Rubalcava made a motion to uphold the General Manager's decision to revoke the dog's license. Commissioner Khero seconded the motion. The motion was approved 3-2 with Commissioners

Riordan and Brunson voting no.

REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING

1. REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

A. Ms. Heidi Huebner, Volunteer Coordinator reported on the “Ask the Trainer” program. The sessions will be held at the East Valley Shelter every Tuesday and Sunday. There are seven trainers who are donating their time to the Department. A behavior workshop will be held for free for anyone who has adopted a shelter dog. The workshop will be held on the last Sunday of each month. Each week there will be a different topic discussed.

B. Upcoming Events:

June 9 – 12, 2005 – The Department of LA Animal Services will have a booth, with volunteers and employees representing the Department at the San Fernando Valley Fair each day.

June 11, 2005 – EV will be attending Verdugo Hills High School & Multi Media Magnet School for a Community Showcase Day from 6 – 9PM

June 11, 2005 – SEU is attending the Norwood Street School Health & Peace Family Festival from 10AM to 2PM

June 13, 2005 - WLA is going to attend the Brentwood Park Homeowners Association 48th Annual City Official Dinner.

June 16, 2005 – NOC will be attending the Corina Union School Career Day.

June 20, 2005 - Cesar Millan “The Dog Whisperer” Lecture, 7 pm – 10 pm
Gardner Street Elementary School, 7450 Hawthorn Avenue, Hollywood

June 25, 2005 - SNTF and DART will be attending the City Council Neighborhood Empowerment, Congress of Neighborhoods from 7:30AM to 3PM.

June 25th SLA Adoptions

June 25, 2006 – WV will be attending the Kiwanis “Children’s Pet & Dog Show” from 10AM to 4PM.

June is also National Shelter Cat Month.

Public Comment

Zsuzsa Blakely: Complimented the Department on the Ask the Trainer program. Also commented on the failure of the General Manager to send out instructions regarding fee waivers for adoption of animals.

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2. COMMISSION BUSINESS

A. Approval of Minutes For May 23, 2005.

Commissioner Knnan asked the minutes be continued until the June 27 Commission Meeting. Commissioner Khro seconded the motion. The motion to continue the minutes was passed 5-0.

B. Meetings/Events Attended

Commissioners Brunson reported that she had visited animal care and control facilities while in Paris and other portions of Europe.

C. Consideration of Future Agenda Items

Commissioner Riordan requested information on the cost to provide humane officer training to Department staff. Commissioner Knaan commented on the problems associated with the Department's Interactive Voice Response (IVR) phone system. A review of the IVR system will be performed in conjunction with the ITA Department and a report to the Commission will be reviewed. Commissioner Knaan requested that any and all press/media the new Public Information Officer has put out for the previous month, specifically advertisements for animal adoptions and the mobile adoptions be reported to the Commission on the second meeting of the month. Commissioner Knaan also requested for the update on the meeting that was supposed to have taken place between Mr. Stuckey and the City Attorney's office regarding the new filing procedures and timeframes as set forth in a G.M. Memo.

Public Comment:

Zsuzsa Blakely: Animals killed by the Department.

3. REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

A. None

GENERAL MANAGER RECOMMENDS FOR BOARD ACTION

B. Board Report: Equine Disaster Literature

Commander David Diliberto, Director of Field Operations reported on the Department's efforts to rescue animals during natural disasters. Commissioner Brunson made a motion to approve the General Managers report. Commissioner Rubalcava seconded the motion. The motion was approved 5-0.

C. Mr. Howard Ellis, Management Assistant, presented the General Manager's recommendation to execute a personal services contract for the operation of the Mobile Spay and Neuter Van to the Sam Simon Foundation.

Public Comment

Teri Austin: Commented on the number of surgeries performed under the new contract. Ms. Austin asked if the San Simon Foundation would perform 7,000 surgeries utilizing one or two vans.

Phyllis Daugherty: Discussed the operation of the Spay and Neuter Van.

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Pam Wilkinson: Commented on the operation of the Spay and Neuter Van.

Rachel Paap: As a representative of the Sam Simon Foundation, Ms. Paap reported that the foundation will operate two mobile spay and neuter vans and would perform up to 7,000 surgeries utilizing the van contracted for by the City.

A motion to approve the award of a contract to the Sam Simon Foundation was made by Commissioner Brunson and seconded by Commissioner Khero. The motion was approved 5-0

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

Zsuzsa Blakely:

Melaine Pozez: Complemented Teri Austin on the job the Amanda Foundation did while operating the spay and neuter van. Commented that she has known the Sam Simon Foundation for years and believes they will do an excellent job operating the spay and neuter van.

Phyllis Daugherty:

Pam Wilkinson:

Teri Austin:

5. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 12:15 P.M.