



MINUTES
BOARD OF ANIMAL SERVICES COMMISSIONERS
CITY OF LOS ANGELES

Monday February 12, 2007
12:00 P.M.
CITY HALL
200 N. Spring St.
Room 1060
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Commissioners: Tariq Khero, President
 Kathleen Riordan, Vice-President
 Marie Atake

COMMISSION MEETING

Commission President Khero called the Commission meeting to order at 12:05 P.M. Present were Commissioners Khero, Riordan, and Atake.

1. ORAL REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER – EDWARD BOKS

In the absence of General Manager Edward Boks, Assistant General Manager Linda Barth gave the Oral Report of the General Manager.

- The “Paw-fect Match” event presented by the Rescue and Humane Alliance-Los Angeles in partnership with the Department and SALA (Shelter Animals of Los Angeles Foundation) was a huge success. The event drew great media attention over the weekend, and resulted in 254 adoptions, 32 adoptions for rabbits.

Commissioner Atake pointed out that there was an issue of confusion concerning the discounts advertised in the Los Angeles Times. She commented that the Department could improve on their internal management and public relations efforts. Commissioner Riordan asked for a breakdown comparison between the average number of animals adopted out during special event weekends and the average number animals adopted out during normal weekends.

Public Comments

Daniel Guss: Informed the Board that Mr. Scott Sorrentino had released a public relations announcement in the middle of the adoption event on Saturday, and that he was requesting the hiring of the event’s Public Relations person. Felt that there was a conflict of interest.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 P.M. for the scheduled Administrative Appeal Hearing of License Revocation Case - BR 05534NC.

ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL HEARING

Commission President Khero called the Administrative Appeal Hearing to order at 12:20 P.M.

1. Appeal of the General Manager's Decision in License Revocation Case – BR 05534NC

Appellant: Donald and Julie Butcher

Complaining Witness: Charles Settle

District Manager, North Central Animal Care and Control, Karen Stepp, Captain

Hearing Coordinator, Department of Animal Services, Helen Brakemeier, Captain

Commissioner Atake motioned to uphold the General Manager's decision to reissue **License Number L06-137144**, for dog **"Rudy"**, **License Number L06-137179**, for dog **"Molly"**, and **License Number L06-137149**, for dog **"Mocha"** with terms and conditions. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Riordan and passed on a vote of 3-0.

Determination: License Reissued with Terms and Conditions

Commission President Khero called the Commission Meeting back to order at 12:45 P.M.

2. OLD BUSINESS INCLUDING MATTERS FOR BOARD ACTION

A. Approval of the Commission Meeting Minutes of January 22, 2007

Commissioner Atake motioned to approve the minutes for January 22, 2007 with the requested changes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Riordan and passed on a vote of 3-0.

B. Oral Report by the Commission on Meetings and Events attended

Commissioner Atake volunteered at dog adoption events on January 27, February 3, and February 10. She also attended the rabbit adoption event in Westchester on February 11. Commissioner Riordan served as a witness for a recent USDA hearing. Commissioner Khero had nothing to report.

Daniel Guss: Concerned about public relations advertising the recent weekend as a No Kill weekend. Pointed out that most euthanasia occurs during the week. Further commented on the press release from the business partners of the Rescue and Humane Alliance, which demanded an immediate offer of a job for the Public Relations person.

3. GENERAL MANAGER RECOMMENDS FOR BOARD ACTION

A. Implementation of the Best Friends Forever Adoption Program

The proposed Best Friends Forever program is a strategy designed to increase adoptions while, at the same times, keep bonded animals together. Animals considered as "Best Friends" are those animals brought in together or picked up together and get along well; or animals observed to get along well together during the course of their stay at an Animal Care Center. To encourage the adoption of BFF animals, the Department will offer as an incentive free microchipping and free spay/neuter for the second and any subsequent animals

adopted into the same new family.
Public Comments

Phyllis Daugherty: Expressed concern that if most people were aware of “Best Buddies” they would not want to adopt the animals because they would not want to break up the pair. Advised that it was not a good idea to open waivers like the County did.

Commissioner Riordan motioned to approve a concept of the implementation of a bonded animal adoption program, which provided free microchipping and spaying or neutering on each subsequent animal adopted after full fees paid on the first animal adopted, but that the Department come back with another name. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Atake and passed on a vote of 3-0. The Commission

B. Request for Devising and Distributing a List for Animals Pending Euthanasia (Continued from January 22, 2007)

The Board decided to hold the agenda item over to the February 26, 2007 Commission Meeting.

4. REGULAR AGENDA DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. None

5. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Phyllis Daugherty: Commented on a recent barking dog case between two neighbors in which the situation has not been resolved. The Department should look into working with other agencies such as the City of Riverside on how to improve the hearing process. Also expressed concern on the balancing of the Department in taking dogs into the shelters. Felt there needed to be changes made to the City Rules.

Scott Sorrentino: Very proud of the joint efforts of the Department, the Rescue and Humane Alliance, and SALA, and of the accomplishments of the weekend adoption events. Hoped to soon find out about the final number of animals adopted out. Apologized and clarified that the email that had been sent out regarding public relations had been a personal email that accidentally got out. The email was not meant to serve as a press release representing the Rescue and Humane Alliance or the Department.

Daniel Guss: Commented on a recent news article that appeared in the Daily News in which New York had blamed General Manager Edward Boks for many of the city’s problems regarding animal care and control.

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Requests from Commissioners For Future Agenda Items

- Commissioner Atake wanted an updated report on the missing rabbit numbers to be placed on a future agenda.
- Commissioner Riordan requested to see a draft on a Department Low Kill/No Kill Plan.

Public Comments

Scott Sorrentino: Was very pleased with the success of the recent weekend adoption events and working with the Department. Requested that the Department investigate and consider the administration of sedatives for animals in regards to euthanasia.

Daniel Guss: Suggested that the Department develop and write a job description for their public relations positions and list the qualifications of a Director of Communications.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Riordan motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Atake and passed on a vote of 3-0. The Commission Meeting was adjourned at 1:35 P.M.