



MINUTES
BOARD OF ANIMAL SERVICES COMMISSIONERS
CITY OF LOS ANGELES

Monday February 26, 2007
6:00 P.M.
North Central Animal Center
3201 Lacy Street, Training Room
Los Angeles, CA 90031

Commissioners: Tariq Khero, President
 Kathleen Riordan, Vice-President
 Marie Atake
 Glenn Brown
 Archie Quincey, Jr.

ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL HEARING

Commission President Khero called the Commission meeting to order at 6:15 P.M. Present were Commissioners Khero, Riordan, Brown and Quincey. Commissioner Atake joined the hearing at 6:16 P.M.

1. Appeal of the General Manager's Decision in License Revocation Case – DA 06514WL

Appellant: Windy Tamkin Litvak

Attorney for Appellant: Craig Lindberg

Complaining Witness: James Sadigh

District Manager, West Los Angeles Animal Care and Control, Derek Brown, Captain

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

Commissioner Atake motioned to overturn the General Manager's decision to revoke **License Number L07-191005**, for dog **"Ike,"** and reissue it with terms and conditions. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown and passed on a vote of 5-0.

Determination: License Reissued for Dog "Ike" with Terms and Conditions

The scheduled Administrative Appeal Hearing of License Revocation Case - DA 06514WL was adjourned at 7:12 P.M.

COMMISSION MEETING

Commission President Khero called the Administrative Appeal Hearing to order at 7:12 P.M.

1. ORAL REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER – EDWARD BOKS

- The Department is working to increase support for Assembly Bill 1634: the California Healthy Pets Bill. The Bill requires mandatory spay/neuter of dogs and cats in California with the goal of eliminating euthanasia.
- The Department is developing an ordinance to address the transfer, transport, and selling of animals within the City.
- The selected representatives from the various City Departments involved with Humane LA would be meeting to coordinate and enhance the existing services and programs offered to the community.
- The systems team has unveiled the Department's new Website.
- Members of the media and the community were able to preview the new East Valley Animal Care and Control facility. The Department is anticipating the opening of the West Valley and Northeast Valley Animal Care and Control facilities in the near future.
- The Department is putting together its annual report to present before the Board in April.
- Dr. Eric Jones, DVM, will begin working for the Department the first week of March. The Department is in negotiations to hire another veterinarian. The Department is also in negotiations with Western University to develop an intern program to help recruit additional veterinarians.
- The Department is working the Amanda Foundation and Best Friends Cat Nippers to provide spay/neuter services for the North Central and South Los Angeles clinics.
- The Department recently celebrated National Spay Day in San Pedro. 125 animals were successfully sterilized.
- A volunteer dog-walking program has now been implemented in the shelters.
- The volunteer program review conducted by the consultant has produced many recommendations for improvement and enhancement of the Department's programs.
- April 28th 29 is the Big Sunday Event for the City of Los Angeles and the Department will be the beneficiary.
- The Baby Bottle Feeding Program is now under the leadership of Ms. Leslie Dorticos.
- The Paw-Fect Match Event resulted in 322 adoptions, with 14 animals returned to the shelters.
- The preliminary Budget Hearing with the CAO went positively. The Department would continue working with the CAO on additional program needs.

2. OLD BUSINESS INCLUDING MATTERS FOR BOARD ACTION

A. Approval of the Commission Meeting Minutes of February 12, 2007

Commissioner Riordan motioned to approve the minutes for February 12, 2007 with the requested changes from Commissioner Atake. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Atake and passed on a vote of 5-0.

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

Commissioner Atake volunteered at dog adoption events on February 17 and February 24. She also attended the In Defense of Animals fundraiser event on February 15. Commissioners Khero, Riordan, Brown and Quincey had nothing to report.

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3. GENERAL MANAGER RECOMMENDS FOR BOARD ACTION

A. Request for Devising and Distributing a List for Animals Pending Euthanasia

Commissioner Atake left the Commission Meeting due to a conflict of interest.

Assistant General Manager Deborah Knaan provided a brief overview on the procedures for animals listed under the New Hope program's At Risk and Red Alert categories. She addressed the issue that one of the Commissioners had made the statement that there was a policy set by the Commission regarding the dissemination of the 24-hr pre-euthanasia list. Management Analyst II, Mr. Ross Pool had researched the Commission policies and was unable to find that such a policy had been enacted by the Commission. Mr. Pool indicated that on the Commission Meeting of June 27, there was a discussion regarding the Euthanasia List, but that the Commissioners never formally voted it on. Commissioner Riordan said that she would look through her documents on the Euthanasia List and forward them to the Department.

Ms. Knaan explained that animals in the shelters after fourteen days would automatically be placed on the Green Alert List. Animals could also be placed on the Green Alert List after seven days at the discretion of an ACT supervisor. Animals on the Green Alert List are available to all New Hope Partners at no cost. Animals appearing on the Red Alert List would remain on the list for seven days, giving rescuers more time to make arrangements to rescue the animals out, as opposed to the 24 hours previously provided.

Public Comments

Michelle Kelly: Supported the new system of the Green Alert and Red Alert Lists. Wanted to be notified if rabbits appeared on the lists.

Susan Romaine: Pleased with using the new lists, but said that there are some logistical errors. Encouraged mother animals and babies to also be placed on the Green Alert List.

Scott Sorrentino: The policy was not approved under the Participant Shelter Task Force. The Rescue and Humane Alliance presented the idea of the Kill List and it was rejected. The former General Manager introduced the idea, but it was never approved as a policy. Felt that it was still important to include a separate list of animals on their last day.

Jane Garcia: Ms. Garcia stated "I think it is unnecessary to recuse Commissioner Atake." Supported the 7-day Red Alert List but suggested that the inclusion of a 24-hr euthanasia list would help enhance the program.

Commissioner Riordan motioned to approve the seven-day Red Alert List and that the Department return to the Board and report on how to improve it. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown and approved on a vote of 4-0. Commissioner Atake rejoined the Commission Meeting.

4. REGULAR AGENDA DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Discussion Regarding the "Headin' Home" Adoption Program

Commissioner Brown motioned to hold the agenda item over to the March 12, 2007 Commission Meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Riordan and passed on a vote of 5-0.

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5. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Lori Golden: Inquired about a discussion item on licensing issues. Suggested that the Department partner with members of the community in increasing licensing. Mentioned that a friend in the Valley would be willing to work with the Department in trying to get animals licensed at his pet supply store. Pointed out that it was still unclear on who in the Department is responsible for responding to reports of animal tethering.

Phyllis Daugherty: Also concerned about licensing and suggested looking into establishing an automated system. There is a lack of accountability. The goal of animal control should not be to adopt animals out of the shelter, but to keep animals from going into the shelter. There is no control over cruelty, barking dogs, and dangerous dogs if they are not licensed. The Department is not enforcing anti-tethering laws.

Jane Garcia: Asked that the Department to consider revoking adoption privileges for rescuers who dump animals back into the shelter. Recently rescued a dog that had been returned by another rescuer, and reported that this individual was rescuing other animals and taking them to private veterinarians to be euthanized.

Elizabeth Menes: Commended the Department on working towards implementing No Kill policies for dogs and cats, and urged the Department to include similar policy for rabbits. The key to the success in saving rabbits at the shelters is to retain the large number committed volunteers.

Scott Sorrentino: Thanked the Department, event teams, and volunteers for all their work on the recent adoption events. Mentioned that 40 adoption counselors were successfully trained. Said that a final day notice of animals signed off for euthanasia would be helpful to rescuers if made available on the Website. Pleased that the situation under New Hope has made more animals available to rescuers at the reduced rates. Felt that it was important to review the entire New Hope Program and make necessary improvements.

Lisa Edmondson: Wanted to recognize the efforts of Ms. Michelle Kelly on the recent adoption event held on February 11. Asked why the Department did not offer spay/neuter vouchers for rabbits like it did for cats and dogs. Concerned that PETCO would soon be launching a program of selling baby rabbits already spayed and neutered. Said that the public is often more interested in adopting baby rabbits, but pointed out that the rabbits would be returned to the shelter if owners lost interest.

Michelle Kelly: Distributed a No Kill proposal. Advised of the need to focus on spay/neuter education and financial assistance. Currently, the City does not offer financial assistance to help spay/neuter rabbits. Spay/neuter coupons are very much needed. Emphasized that the key to No Kill was empowering the volunteers. Mentioned that PETCO promised not to sell rabbits at any of their stores within the City, if the Department could manage to hold one mobile adoption event at their stores every month. Announced that she would be working to establish another chapter of House Rabbits Society in Los Angeles to recruit more quality volunteers for the shelters.

Barbara Trelease: Commented on the success of the recent adoption event. Thirty-three rabbits were adopted out due to the cooperative efforts of the staff and volunteers.

Fran Einberg: Inquired about the upcoming March 18 Best Friends event in Burbank, CA. Was interested in a discussion of the possibility of transferring dogs from the County's Carson facility to the new West Valley

facility. Commented on the lack of staff at the shelters during Monday and holiday hours.

Cari Daly: Expressed support for the L.A. Rabbit Foundation. Mentioned that Bunny Bunch would be working with the New Hope Program. Suggested that volunteers partner with New Hope rescuers in saving and helping animals. Proposed forming a pet transport group. Hoped to implement using care sheets to help inform staff and owners on how to provide care for the smaller animals. All suggested that the Department provide low-cost microchipping and spay/neuter services for rabbits and guinea pigs.

Amanda St. John: Shared her experience of saving Katrina animals in New Orleans with her husband. Mentioned that she and her husband now have the contract to evacuate all animals in emergency situations for the entire state of Louisiana. Wanted to offer their services to the City of Los Angeles.

Jacky de Haviland: Commented on the General Manager's Website Blog and indicated that the Department had issued a moratorium on killing. Inquired to what extent animals were being transferred among the City shelters and what recourse there was for Captains not implementing the Department's policy on transferring.

Evelyn Walton: Requested that the Department display kennel card information on the Website for the public to view. Also felt it would be in the interest of the community if they could view current pictures of an animal's physical condition on the Department's Website.

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Requests from Commissioners For Future Agenda Items

- Commissioners Khoro wanted a discussion item on Department language and a standard of terms to be placed on the agenda.
- Commissioner Riordan requested a review of the New Hope Program and a report on shelter rabbits.
- Commissioner Riordan wanted the Department to look into whether pet shops and veterinary offices be made into "independent contractors" to try and license pets in exchange for a commission (percentage of the license fee).
- Commissioner Riordan wanted a discussion item on the sale of baby rabbits.
- Commissioner Riordan asked for a report on what would the result be if we (Commission) directed the department to cease and desist the killing of all treatable and feral animals. She would like those issues (need for more space, staff, adoption PR, medical care training/rehab, etc) brought to the commission so that we can assist you (the department) on tackling each one of those obstacles.
- Commissioner Riordan requested a discussion item on the Department's enforcement of anti-tethering laws.

Public Comments

Michelle Kelly: Wanted a discussion item on the overall rabbit program. Mentioned using alternatives to the word euthanasia to create a greater sense of clarity and transparency within the Department.

Jane Garcia: Concerned about the lack of veterinarians and the effect that it has had increasing the stress on animals in the euthanasia process. Suggested considering the use of sedatives for the animals.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Riordan motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Atake and passed on a vote of 5-0. The Commission Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 P.M.