



BOARD OF ANIMAL SERVICES COMMISSIONERS
CITY OF LOS ANGELES

Tuesday, March 27, 2007
10:00 A.M.
CITY HALL
200 N. Spring St.
Room 1070
Los Angeles, CA 90012

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

ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL HEARING

Commission Vice President Riordan called the Commission meeting to order at 10:05 A.M. Present were Commissioners Riordan, Atake, Brown and Quincey. Commissioner Khero was absent.

1. Appeal of the General Manager's Decision in Barking Dog Case – **BD-06537 NC**
Appellant: Cynthia Sanchez
Complaining Witness: Harvey Woien
District Manager, North Central Animal Care and Control, Gil Moreno, Lieutenant
Hearing Coordinator, Department of Animal Services, Keith Kramer, Captain

After a tie vote of the Commission, Commissioner Atake motioned to continue the Appeal Hearing to the meeting of April 9, 2007. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown and passed on a vote of 4-0.

2. Appeal of the General Manager's Decision in License Revocation Case – **DA 06376 NC**
Appellant: Barbara Solorio
Complaining Witness: Anna Katiforis
District Manager, North Central Animal Care and Control, Gil Moreno, Lieutenant
Hearing Coordinator, Department of Animal Services, Keith Kramer, Captain

Commissioner Atake motioned to continue the Appeal Hearing to the meeting of April 23, 2007. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown and passed on a vote of 3-0 with one abstention.

COMMISSION MEETING

Commission Vice-President Riordan called the Commission meeting to order at 11:40 am. Commissioner Khero joined meeting at 12:25 pm.

1. PRESENTATION OF COMMENDATION BY THE COMMISSION TO EMPLOYEES FOR EXTRAORDINARY SERVICE: (Item 2 taken out of order)

A. Registered Vet Technician (RVT), Orlando Calayag, Harbor Animal Care Center.

District Manager, Captain Danny Pantoja commented on the exemplary service of RVT Calayag and how he has helped to increase adoptions at the Harbor Animal Care Center. General Manager Knaan commented that RVT Calayag has the most outstanding attitude and truly cares about the Department and the animals. Captain Pantoja thanked the Commission for recognizing RVT Calayag's dedication and continued service to the Department.

Public Comments:

Phyllis Daugherty: RVT Calayag is a veterinarian from the Philippines. Many of our RVTs have veterinary licenses from other countries. This is why we have such a high level of care in each of the Animal Care Centers. This needs to be recognized in addition to their attitudes and service.

2. ORAL REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER—EDWARD BOKS (Item 1 taken out of order)

- The most prestigious award presented by the City of Los Angeles is the Civilian Career Service Award. Each year this Award is presented to worthy recipients in five categories. In 2006, two of these coveted Awards are going to LA Animal Services employees: David D. Diliberto has been selected to receive the Acts of Heroism Award for his unflappable personal service above and beyond the duties and responsibilities of the job. Also, the staff of the West Valley Animal Care Center has been chosen to receive the Outstanding Teamwork Award in recognition of their high standard of professionalism and achievement in support of LA Animal Services' strategic goals and objectives under the most difficult of circumstances, effectually working in a construction zone while the new addition was being built. Award presentation will be on May 11th at 10am at City Hall.
- Highlights of the last few weeks:
 - On March 4, 2007- Voice for Animals recognized the Animal Cruelty Task Force, Dov Lesel, and Patty Shankhart for the role they play in the protection of the welfare of animals in Los Angeles.

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- March 24, 2007-Genesis Awards recognized the Animal Cruelty Task Force.
 - Assemblyperson Levine presented a certificate of recognition to the Department for the role it plays in protecting the welfare of animals in the City.
 - On March 18, 2007-Best Friends Adoption event, all 93 animals from LAAS Animal Care Centers brought to the event were adopted.
 - March 24, 2007, twenty pit bulls adopted from shelter that have been training for three months, passed the exam for the Canine Good Citizenship Award at the North Central Animal Care Center.
 - Need to step-up recruitment of foster parents for Bottle Baby Foster program. LAAS could receive more than 1000 neonate kittens per month during kitten season.
- As of March 26, 2007-Euthanasia rate is down 29.6% when compared to the same period of time in March 2006. This shows a trend in reduced euthanasia in Los Angeles. The challenge comes with the arrival of kitten season. By the end of last year, there was a 6.6% reduction in euthanasia rates overall. Looking for an 11% reduction in euthanasia rates for dogs and cats in 2007.
 - Since the Pawfect Match Event on February 4, 2007-only four animals have been euthanized for time and space. The No-kill moratorium is no longer in effect.

Public Comments:

Daniel Guss: Shocked that David Diliberto is to receive the Acts of Heroism Award. In regards to Pawfect Match numbers, he would like to know what the shelter population was before the Pawfect Match event and what the population was after the moratorium ended.

3. ORAL REPORT AND DISCUSSION REGARDING THE VOLUNTEER PROGRAM (Item 5E taken out of order)

Assistant General Manager Deborah Knaan gave a brief overview of the Volunteer Program. Ms. Erica Meadows has been hired on a contractual basis to evaluate the current program and has not yet presented her final report to the Department. We do not have a problem recruiting volunteers; we have a problem with retention. Highlights of the proposed new Volunteer Program include: (1) Volunteer liaisons at each of the Care Centers who are trained to work with and provide training to and oversight of the volunteers; (2) revamped volunteer orientation that is more engaging; (3) new educational materials for the public that will help open lines of communication; (4) new volunteer positions and six levels to which volunteers can aspire; (5) Pre-assessment of on-line applications to address any concerns of potential volunteers before they attend the orientation; (6) new volunteer handbook and a new application that helps ferret out volunteers skills and talents; and (7) On-site Pet Fests (mobile adoptions). New program developed as a result of needs

assessment survey. We can't succeed without the volunteers. General Manager Boks stated that decentralization of the Volunteer Program is key to its success and having levels of "career development" within program will help to enlarge the program.

Public Comments:

Ranelle Black: Helps to run three mobile adoptions per month. Concerned that with decentralization of the volunteer office that they will not get the supplies they need such as bandanas, badges, and t-shirts.

Jane Garcia: Glad to hear about new programs. Concern is that the volunteer liaisons are the same people who worked in the old Volunteer Department. Wrong and unfair to subject volunteers to military-like structure of LAAS. Volunteers donate their time and own money and should be respected.

Barbara Trelease: Spoke to her own experience as a volunteer.

Sherry Brewer: Volunteer at East Valley. Last Friday advised can no longer volunteer at East Valley. Very passionate about the animals. Would like to have a Commission Meeting to be reinstated to the East Valley Animal Care Center.

Deneice Gregory: Former volunteer 2004-05. Submitted 18-page letter to Heidi Huebner re: concerns about conditions at shelter. She was fired and denied access to the shelters. Met recently with Erica Meadows about reinstatement to program. She would like to see her personal file.

(Assistant General Manager Deborah Knaan responded that a grievance procedure has been instituted. Any volunteer that has been suspended or terminated will be given a copy of the procedure. Procedure consists of a clear cut series of steps that they can take if they wish to grieve any type of suspension or disciplinary action that occurred. The procedure still must be approved by General Manager Boks.)

Tatiana: Volunteers need to be able to do adoption counseling to protect the animals without fear of threats or retribution against volunteers or the animals.

Martin Waterman: Thinks that the Department has done a good job at getting new volunteers. The Department should designate someone to deal with the Mobile Pet Adoption Program and volunteers. They are having problems getting logistical support and supplies.

Lisa Edmondson: One of rabbit volunteers at South LA shelter. Many senior volunteers with years of experience and good credentials seems to be the ones that are taking the hit as a result of new volunteer program rules.

Dina Takouris: Concerned with the humiliation and degradation of volunteers by the staff. Senior and experienced volunteers are being accused of unsubstantiated allegations. Propose to have staff with complaints about a volunteer fill out a form and allow volunteers to face their accuser.

Daniel Guss: Long history intimidation and abuse of the volunteers. Concerned that HR functions being performed by untrained volunteer program staff.

Andrew Judge: Spoke to his positive experience adopting a rabbit at the West Los Angeles Care Center and the volunteer that assisted him throughout the process.

Lisa Whitaker: Coordinate Mobile Adoptions in Studio City and the Grove. Would like to change the name of "Rabbit Wrangler." Intimidation of volunteers is real and does happen. Need a full time Mobile Pet Adoption Coordinator position reinstated.

Michelle Kelly: Volunteer at West Los Angeles Care Center. Spoke about her suspension from the program.

Mary Catalano: Ex-volunteer. Spoke about why she was fired from the program. Stated that volunteers are unpaid and should not be harassed or demeaned by staff for their education or experience.

Evelyn Walton: Former volunteer at West LA Care Center. Would like to see a mechanism for volunteer transfers or a volunteer-at-large.

Paul Shaper: Rabbit enthusiast. Thinks that Michelle Kelly should be hired as a consultant for the rabbit program.

Vivian J. Edmondson: Volunteer at West LA. She believes reprimanding, suspending, or firing of a volunteer should be reserved for extreme circumstances only. If volunteers treated better or shown they are appreciated by staff it would help with volunteer retention.

Periel Stanfield: Thinks that on-site adoptions are a good idea. She believes that the Department is getting rid of some of its best volunteers on the basis of technicalities and erroneous policies.

Commissioner Atake commented that they also have received numerous emails, all which say that Erica Meadows has asked several volunteers to sign documents regarding unfounded accusations. She would like to know if it is true. Assistant General Manager Deborah Knaan stated that LAAS is not at liberty to discuss specific allegations regarding anybody. The City Attorney will have to advise if Commission is allowed to see volunteer files. She advised that since the Department cannot comment, the Commission is only hearing one side of the issue. Commissioner Riordan stated that we are often in a "he said, she said" type of situation and inquired when we are going to get cameras in the shelters for purposes of security and this type of situation. She also had questions regarding volunteer qualifications and conflicts of interest on the volunteer application. Assistant General

Manager Knaan clarified what type of situation would be considered a conflict of interest.

Commissioner Riordan suggested that the volunteers need a designated volunteer spokesperson as a remedy to claims of retaliation as part of the grievance process. Volunteers need to be provided the same protections as staff. Assistant General Manager Knaan pointed out that there is a chain of command and if volunteers are having problems and they are not being resolved to their satisfaction, then they need to take the concern to the next level. She also clarified that volunteers who have been reprimanded do not have to sign a confession. The volunteer is told what is discussed and they are asked to agree or not agree to certain conditions to remain in the program. General Manager Boks stated that we are trying to implement form and structure into the volunteer program.

Commissioner Riordan questioned whether policies that they have approved have been implemented, such as the Do Not Adopt policy. Assistant General Manager Knaan answered that any staff person who wants to put in a Do Not Adopt (DNA) brings it to her for approval as part of a checks and balances process. They input about 30-40 DNAs into Chameleon per month.

Commissioner Atake commented that there seems to be a lot of communication problems. She suggested that the volunteers have a committee that includes volunteers with expertise in different animals (i.e. dogs, cats, rabbits). She questions why Erica Meadows is terminating volunteers. General Manager Boks states that Erica Meadows is not implementing policy. She was contracted to review procedures and she has not terminated anybody. That would be the responsibility of staff. Assistant General Manager Knaan stated that under the current volunteer program structure, instead of a committee, the volunteer with a particular expertise may be made a volunteer mentor.

Commissioner Riordan commented that they also have received several emails that have praised the staff. She also suggested that instead of dissecting the volunteer program at this time, they should wait to see the results of the evaluation and the Commission should have input and vote on the recommendations prior to implementation. Discussion resumed on whether volunteers are being required to sign "confessions". Commissioner Brown suggests that an ombudsman system be put into place. Discussion resumes on the grievance procedure and whistle blowing.

Erica Meadows stated that no one has been terminated in the last two months since she has been contracted by the Department and only four counseling sessions have occurred. A number of the volunteers that were terminated before she arrived never understood why they were terminated. Purpose of the counseling session is to discuss the policies of LAAS and come up with a plan that allows volunteers to get back on track as opposed to termination. Her goal is to stop terminations unless they are truly warranted. Discussion continues about concerns regarding new volunteer program and grievance procedures. Suggestion made to try new grievance procedure for a few months and then review.

Vote on appeal hearing. Commissioner Khero motions to continue motion on appeal hearing in four weeks. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Atake and passed on a vote of 5-0. Commissioner Brown departs meeting at 1:40 pm.

NOTE: The Tape Back-up system failed at this point in the Meeting

4. COMMISSION BUSINESS

- A. Approval of the Commission Meeting Minutes of February 26 and March 12, 2007

Action Item: Approval of the Minutes to return as an agenda item for the Commission Meeting on 4/9/07

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

None.

5. GENERAL MANAGER RECOMMENDS FOR BOARD ACTION

- A. Increase in the Payment to Veterinary Hospitals for Sterilization.

Assistant General Manager Linda Barth reports that there has been no increase in the amount that is paid to spay/neuter vets since 1991. While some of the current vets we work with are still doing spay/neuter surgeries for \$40-\$48 reimbursement, the amount is below competitive market rates and discourages new clinic contractors. \$7 from the current licensing fee will go to the Spay/Neuter Trust Fund and all the monies in this fund will be expended this year.

Public Comments:

Evelyn Walton: She is dramatically in favor of the increase and hope it will bring more rabbit vets into the program.

Daniel Guss: Some vets will not accept spay/neuter vouchers because the reimbursement is below market rates. Inquired about the fair market rates for spay/neuter procedure.

Commissioner Atake motions to increase the payment to veterinary hospitals for sterilization. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Quincey and passed on a vote of 4-0.

- B. Mandatory Collection of One-Time \$5.00 Cat Registration Fee for New Adoptions and Owner Redemptions.

The Board decided to hold the agenda item over to the April 9, 2007 Commission Meeting.

C. Dog and Cat Kennel Fee Waiver for Non-Profit Rescue Organizations.

The Board decided to hold the agenda item over to the April 10, 2007 Commission Meeting.

6. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Definition of Euthanasia Terminology

General Manager Boks gives overview of euthanasia terminology. Commissioner Atake provides list of definitions taken from on-line dictionaries. She expresses need to cultivate awareness and usage of the term in an honest and transparent fashion. Commissioner Atake provided 2 pages of dictionary excerpts and stated as follows:

“As attached, the typical interpretation of the word is: the act of putting to a painless death a person or animal suffering from a painful, incurable disease or injury.

I recall when I had a passing conversation with Ed shortly after he started his position. He said that we should keep the staff feel not horrible about putting animals down for space or whatever reasons. I understand and appreciate his sentiment that by calling it euthanasia, they wouldn't have to feel guilty about taking their lives.

Without facing the truth, no improvement can be made. What the management has to help them understand are:

1. Our City indeed has the overpopulation problem.
2. That it is not their fault. The staff are not causing these animals' death.
3. These animals, as well as the staff who have to deal with this heartbreaking task, are unfortunately ending up with the short end of the stick.

Keeping ourselves in denial would not lead us to resolve this problem and accomplish becoming the no-kill city. Not only the hands-on staff, but we, each member of the public, has to recognize that this is a collective failure of the city at large. This is also the reason why I wanted to talk about the reality on the website, to cultivate the public's awareness. If they don't know their help is needed, how can we expect them to help us.

As long as we continue painting the pretty picture and making the numbers look good by using the word “euthanasia” in a deceptive way, then these killing will never decrease. If we want to make this city the true no-kill, we must acknowledge and accept that we are killing perfectly healthy animals, and not hide behind the word “euthanasia.” We have to let the truth be our force to make everybody in this city accountable for these animals' fate. It is the general public that will make the

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difference. We are only facilitators. So let's put our egos aside, and face the truth and use the word "euthanasia" in an honest, transparent fashion. We have to use words that are most simply understood by the general public, on public materials."

Commissioner Riordan states that owners relinquishing animals need to be aware that there is a chance that their animal may be euthanized. She suggested that there needs to be a way to distinguish animals killed for time and space in our statistics. Perhaps this distinction will assist with budgetary needs. Also, she expressed a desire for a therapist to counsel staff that must euthanize animals. Commissioner Atake states in the book, Los Angeles: Structure of a City of Government, which was endorsed by the Mayor, the word "destroy" is used twice on page 105.

Commissioner Atake said she was neither suggesting nor implying that the Department should use harsher words, such as "kill" or "slaughter." She suggested that the Department use "put to death" or even abbreviate it "PTD" because the only purpose of not using "euthanasia" was for more accuracy; i.e., how many animals are put down for medical reasons and how many are for other reasons, and for what reasons.

Public Comments:

Marlene Goodman: Concerned that the Department wants to change the word instead of the method.

Bill Dyer: Stated that language is important and using the term "euthanasia" is sugar-coating the situation. Suggests kill/destroy. Suggests that changing terminology may encourage spay/neutering.

Scott Sorrentino: We are a long way from No-kill if we are still debating the language.

Periel Stanfield: Agreed with other speakers.

Patty Shenker: Animals are being killed. Using the term "euthanasia" is contributing to the problem.

Phyllis Daugherty: Euthanasia is gentle. We should give kindness to the staff who have to perform the procedure.

Mary Catalano: People still do not know that animals are killed in the shelters. This should be reflected in the language.

Daniel Gus: Suggested that instead we should be looking at a total dead body count and then pull out the numbers of animals that were truly euthanized. Should create categories about what signifies suffering.

Barbara Rogoff: Gave reasons why owners relinquish cats.

Jane Garcia: Stated that a lot of adopted animals go to horrible homes and then end up back at the shelter. LAAS should pre-qualify adoptees.

Commissioner Riordan left meeting at 2:25 pm.

B. Contraindications on Sedation of Animals as part of Euthanasia Protocol

The Board decided to merge the agenda item into public comment.

C. Oral report by the General Manager on the status of veterinarian recruitment.

The Board decided to hold the agenda item over to the April 10, 2007 Commission Meeting.

D. New website walk-through

The Board decided to hold the agenda item over to the April 10, 2007 Commission Meeting.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Michael Bell: Gave brief presentation about benefits of administering sedatives to animals before euthanasia. Questioned why only some animals in LAAS Care Centers are administered a sedative.

Periel Stanfield: Agreed with other speakers.

Cheri Shankar: The shelter environment is stressful and the animals should be sedated before euthanasia.

Phyllis Daugherty: These are unfamiliar animals and the shelter staff does not know how they will react to the sedatives. Sedation can wear off and animals can hallucinate or veins collapse. Giving animals a sedative shot means the ACTs will have to handle the animals twice and this is not safe.

Bill Dyer: Believes animals should be given sedatives.

Evelyn Walton: Proposed that all affected volunteers be reinstated until the grievance procedure is instituted and any signed complaints removed from the volunteer's files.

Daniel Guss: Would like Michelle reinstated back to the volunteer program.

Mary Catalano: She would like the free spay/neuter banner to be larger on the website. Would like to know how many animals returned after the Pawfect Match

weekend. She believes that LAAS should investigate owners who relinquish animals for the stated reason of "too many."

Jane Garcia: Comments about volunteer issue. She does not believe David Diliberto should get the award.

Dina Takouris: She believes animals should be sedated. Does not understand why volunteers cannot provide info about their rescue organizations.

Michelle Kelly: She wants spay/neuter vouchers for rabbits. She also is concerned about sensitive information in volunteer files not being properly secured.

Barbara Turlease: Spoke about volunteer harassment.

Scott Sorrentino: He supports sedation of animals.

Sherry Brewer: Discussed problems with volunteer program. Believes animals should be euthanized on Mondays, as opposed to Fridays, when the shelter is closed to the public and calmer.

Denise Gregory: Discussed puppy mills. She believes that all volunteers should be able to inspect their files.

Marlene Goodman: Discussed volunteer program issues.

Martin Waterman: He thinks that LAAS has done a good job on the website. He would like the mobile pet adoption announcements to be more prominent on the home page.

General Manager Ed Boks gave a brief overview of his report on why the Department only uses sedation of animals before euthanasia on a case-by-case basis. The following is a copy of Mr. Boks comments:

Eighteenth century English jurist, philosopher, legal and social reformer, and animal rights advocate Jeremy Bentham penned the most quoted footnote of all time in a book entitled, "**Principles of Morals and Legislation**". Talking about animals, he said, "*The question is not, Can they reason?, nor Can they talk? but, Can they suffer? Why should the law refuse its protection to any sensitive being? The time will come when humanity will extend its mantle over everything which breathes .*"

LA Animal Services is committed to extending this mantle of protection over every sensitive being in our care. It has been suggested that one way to extend this mantle is to administer sedatives orally to all animals prior to the administration of Sodium Pentobarbital, the drug used to painlessly end an animal's life.

While sedating animals at this time may seem intuitive and natural, it is not. Sedation certainly has its place and LA Animal Services does routinely sedate animals as

appropriate and indicated by a veterinarian. However, it is not necessarily good medicine to administer sedatives to all animals. There are a number of reasons for this:

1. It is impossible to guarantee that the required dosage of any drug is properly ingested. Oral administration brings with it the risk of either under or over dosing an animal.
2. Oral administration of sedatives may create a risk of an animal aspirating on the very food used to administer the drug, causing an animal to choke on its own vomit.
3. Sedatives are unpredictable when given orally and can vary considerably in their effect from one animal to another - causing some animals to be profoundly sedated, while others are only slightly sedated. The onset of action can be prolonged when given orally-especially if there is food in the stomach. In some instances animals can become more fractious after dosed. The unpredictable effects of sedation can cause the most docile animal to become anxious and fractious in a shelter environment.
4. Some cats do not readily consume food that has been adulterated with medicine. Staff would likely have to pill these cats, or use an injectable drug. This increases the stress and risk for both the animal and staff.
5. Sedatives can produce ataxia in some animals rendering them immobile and unable to get up after being tranquilized. In this state the animals would have to be carried by hand or stretcher to the euthanasia room or euthanized in the kennel.
6. Sedation may lower an animal's blood pressure making it difficult to find a vein to administer the sodium pentobarbital. The consequence can be increased discomfort for the patient.
7. Administering sedatives to all animals prior to euthanasia is contraindicated for many of the reasons listed above. There is also a significant cost factor involved considering the increased staff time required to administer the single drug or combinations of drugs to every animal. I want to emphasize that neither the additional cost to purchase the additional drugs nor the additional staff required to essentially double this work load process would preclude Animal Services from sedating all animals if there was any evidence this practice would effectively and efficiently reduce the anxiety experienced by all animals about to receive a dose of sodium pentobarbital. Pentobarbital acts on the central nervous system and produces an instantaneous peaceful sleep when given intravenously. It is really just a heavier dose of a general anesthetic. Pre-medicating all animals is unnecessary not only for the reasons listed, but also because there is great variety in the personality types in animals, just as there is in humans. Some are more anxious than others, while some are more relaxed and laid-back. It is the clinical judgment made by compassionate, caring veterinary professionals that should determine when to use pre-sedation in a euthanasia protocol. To arbitrarily administer sedation to every animal prior to their euthanasia is to create potential problems that could be avoided for a procedure that is tantamount to the reverse of taking a blood sample. Also, animals do not have the phobia of needles that

humans do and therefore do not anticipate the reality of long or short-term discomfort

Animal shelter professionals and veterinarians across the nation know from experience that prolonging the euthanasia process by inducing a bewildering, confusing and often frightening altered state through the administration of a sedative to an un-fractious animal and then to handle the animal in this state, may only increase the animal's anxiety. This is why students in veterinary schools, especially those with Shelter Medicine programs, are taught to administer sedatives only as medically required, on a case-by-case basis.

LA Animal Services is committed to mitigating all unnecessary stress and discomfort prior to euthanasia. If an animal is exhibiting fractious, aggressive behavior, a licensed veterinarian will make the clinical decision to utilize pre-sedation in the euthanasia protocol. When this decision is made, there are multiple choices of drugs that can be used to achieve the desired result and the shelter veterinarian has access to all of them.

Animal Services is committed to providing dignified and humane care to all animals, especially when euthanasia is performed. We are in the process of implementing a variety of additional stress reduction techniques such as soft lighting, soothing music, and quilt blankets over the steel tables in the Euthanasia Rooms. Sodium pentobarbital is administered only by those who are qualified as expert phlebotomists and performed under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian or by the veterinarian himself/herself. This further reduces any potential discomfort that an animal may experience. When sedation is indicated, the sedated animals are given quiet time away from harsh lights while the drug takes effect. No animals are euthanized in the presence or view of other animals.

All of our processes are open to review and are reevaluated as new information comes to light. If or when a drug is found that can deliver predictable calming effects through ingestion equally to all animals we will of course consider including that drug in our protocol.

I have spoken to a number of veterinarians from across the United States and most of these professionals confirmed that Animal Services' protocol of sedating animals based on each animal's medical and psychological needs was medically and ethically sound and appropriate.

Some may disagree with LA Animal Services' position on this topic. However, it is my hope that this or any disagreement will not alienate anyone from the task at hand. Only by working together will we finally end the use of euthanasia or killing as a method for controlling pet overpopulation.

During the report Mr. Boks mentioned the names of two veterinary schools. The schools were Western States Veterinary School and the University of California, Davis.

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Commissioner Khero confirmed that the agenda items for the April 9, 2007 Commission Meeting would be: **The Approval of Mandatory Collection of One-Time \$5.00 Cat Registration Fee for New Adoption and Ownership Redemptions, Dog and Kennel Fee Waiver for Non-Profit Rescue Organizations, The Discussion on the Sedation of Animals as Part of the Euthanasia Protocol, Oral report by the General Manager on the status of veterinarian recruitment, and New Website walk-through.**

9. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Khero motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Atake and passed on a vote of 3-0. The Commission Meeting was adjourned at 3:00 P.M.

NOTE: Minutes approved at June 25, 2007 Commission Meeting