



**SPECIAL MEETING**  
**BOARD OF ANIMAL SERVICES COMMISSIONERS**  
**CITY OF LOS ANGELES**  
Tuesday March 27, 2007  
10:00 A.M.  
**LOS ANGELES CITY HALL**  
**200 N. Spring St.**  
**Room 1070**  
**Los Angeles, CA 90012**

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

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. For information please call (213) 482-9501.

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

**REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING WILL COMMENCE IMMEDIATELY  
FOLLOWING THE APPEAL HEARINGS SCHEDULED FOR 10:00 A.M.**

**COMMISSION MEETING**

- 1. ORAL REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER**
- 2. EMPLOYEE COMMENDATION FOR REGISTERED VET TECHNICIAN,  
ORLANDO CALAYAG, HARBOR ANIMAL CARE CENTER**
- 3. COMMISSION BUSINESS**
  - A. Approval of the Commission Meeting Minutes of February 26 and March 12, 2007.
  - B. Oral Report by the Commission on Meetings and Events attended.

**4. GENERAL MANAGER RECOMMENDS FOR BOARD ACTION**

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

That the Board approve an increase in payment schedule to Veterinary Hospitals for the cost of sterilization for the Department's pre/post release Spay and Neuter Adoption Program and Free Spay/Neuter Program, commensurate with increases in costs over the last ten or more years.

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

That the Board approve making mandatory, collection of the existing one-time voluntary \$5.00 cat registration fee for new adoptions and owner redemption's only.

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

Request the Council to direct the City Attorney to prepare an Ordinance amending the Municipal Code to waive the annual kennel permit fee for defined animal rescue organizations. Direct Staff to enact policies and regulations pursuant to such Ordinance, upon Council enactment of Ordinance.

**5. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

A. Definition of Euthanasia Terminology.

Discussion and review of a definition for the term "Euthanasia," as requested by the Board on February 26, 2007.

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

Discussion and review of Department procedures as requested by the Board on February 26, 2007, that sedation is used prior to euthanasia only on a case-by-case basis.

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

D. New Website walk-through.

E. Oral report and Discussion regarding the Volunteer Program.

**6. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD - (Comments from the public on items of public interest within the Board's subject matter jurisdiction and on items not on the Agenda.)**

**7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Requests from Commissioners for future Agenda Items

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## **8. ADJOURNMENT:**

Next regular Commission Meeting is scheduled for April 9, 2007. The meeting will be at 10:00 A.M., in Room 1060 of City Hall, 200 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012

**AGENDAS** - The Board of Animal Services Commissioners (Board) meets regularly every second (2<sup>nd</sup>) and fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) Monday of each month at 10:00 A.M. Regular Meetings are held at City Hall, 200 North Spring Street, Room 1060, in Los Angeles, CA 90012. The agendas for Board meetings contain a brief general description of those items to be considered at the meetings. Board Agendas are available at the Department of Animal Services (Department), Administrative Division, 221 North Figueroa Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90012. Board Agendas may also be viewed on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Public Bulletin Board in City Hall East, 200 North Main Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012. Internet users may also access copies of present and prior agenda items, copies of the Board Calendar, as well as electronic copies of approved minutes on the Department's World Wide Web Home Page site at <http://www.laanimalservices.com/CommissionAgendas.htm>

Three (3) members of the Board constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. The Board may consider an item not listed on the Board Agenda only if it is determined by a two-thirds (2/3) vote that the need for action arose after the posting of an Agenda. Some items on the Agenda may be approved without any discussion.

The Board Secretary will announce the items to be considered by the Board. The Board will hear the presentation on the topic and gather additional information from Department Staff. Once presentations have finished, the Board President will ask if any Board Member or member of the public wishes to speak on one or more of these items. Each speaker called before the Commission will have one (1) minute to express their comments and concerns on matters placed on the agenda.

**PUBLIC INPUT AT BOARD MEETINGS – Public Participation on Agenda Items.** Members of the public will have an opportunity to address the Board on agenda items after the item is called and before the Board takes action on the item, unless the opportunity for public participation on the item was previously provided to all interested members of the public at a public meeting of a Committee of the Board and the item has not substantially changed since the Committee heard the item. When speaking to an agenda item other than during Public Comment (see Public Comment below), the speaker shall limit his or her comments to the specific item under consideration. California Government Code Section 54954.3.

**Public Comment.** The Board will provide an opportunity for public comment at every regular meeting of the Board. Members of the public may address the Board on any items within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board as part of Public Comment.

**Speaker Cards.** Members of the public wishing to speak are to fill out one speaker card for each agenda item on which they wish to speak and present it to the Board secretary before the item is called.

**Time Limit for Speakers.** Speakers addressing the Board will be limited to one (1) minute of speaking time for each agenda item. The Chairperson, with the approval of a majority of the Board, may for good cause extend any speaker's time by increments of up to one (1) minute. Total speaker time on any agenda item will be limited to ten (10) minutes per item and fifteen (15) minutes for Public Comment, unless extended as above.

**Brown Act.** These rules shall be interpreted in a manner that is consistent with the Ralph M. Brown Act, California Government Code Section § 54950 et seq.

**STANDARDS OF CONDUCT.** Speakers are expected to behave in an orderly manner and to refrain

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from personal attacks or use of profanity or language that may incite violence.

All persons present at Board meetings are expected to behave in an orderly manner and to refrain from disrupting the meeting, interfering with the rights of others to address the Board and/or interfering with the conduct of business by the Board.

In the event that any speaker does not comply with the foregoing requirements, or if a speaker does not address the specific item under consideration, the speaker may be ruled out of order, their speaking time forfeited and the Chairperson may call upon the next speaker.

The Board, by majority vote, may order the removal from the meeting of any speaker or audience member continuing to behave in a disruptive manner after being warned by the Chairperson regarding their behavior. Section 403 of the California Penal Code states as follows: "Every person who, without authority of law, willfully disturbs or breaks up any assembly or meeting that is not unlawful in its character, other than an assembly or meeting referred to in Section 302 of the Penal Code or Section 18340 of the Elections Code, is guilty of a misdemeanor".

**VOTING AND DISPOSITION OF ITEMS** – Most items require a majority vote of the entire membership of the Board (3 members). When debate on an item is completed, the Board President will instruct the Secretary to "call the roll". Every member present must vote for or against each item; abstentions are not permitted unless there is a Conflict of Interest for which the Board member is obliged to abstain from voting. The Secretary will announce the votes on each item. Any member of the Board may move to "reconsider" any vote on any item on the agenda, except to adjourn, suspend the Rules, or where an intervening event has deprived the Board of jurisdiction, providing that said member originally voted on the prevailing side of the item. The motion to "reconsider" shall only be in order once during the meeting, and once during the next regular meeting. The member requesting reconsideration shall identify for all members present the Agenda number and subject matter previously voted upon. A motion to reconsider is not debatable and shall require an affirmative vote of three members of the Board.

When the Board has failed by sufficient votes to approve or reject an item, and has not lost jurisdiction over the matter, or has not caused it to be continued beyond the next regular meeting, the issue is again placed on the next agenda for the following meeting for the purpose of allowing the Board to again vote on the matter.



**SPECIAL MEETING  
APPEAL AGENDA**

**BOARD OF ANIMAL SERVICES COMMISSIONERS  
CITY OF LOS ANGELES  
Tuesday March 27, 2007  
10:00 A.M.  
LOS ANGELES CITY HALL  
200 N. Spring St.  
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**ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL HEARING 10:00A.M.**

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
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

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GLENN S. BROWN

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CALIFORNIA



**ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA**  
MAYOR

DEPARTMENT OF  
**ANIMAL SERVICES**  
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Los Angeles, CA 90012  
(888) 452-7381  
FAX (213) 482-9511

**EDWARD A. BOKS**  
General Manager

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## **Report to the Board of Animal Services Commissioners**

**Edward A. Boks, General Manager**

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**COMMISSION MEETING DATE:** March 27, 2007

**PREPARED BY:** Catherine D. Garcia

**REPORT DATE:** March 19, 2007

**TITLE:** Management Aide

**SUBJECT: Mandatory Collection of the One-Time \$5.00 Cat Registration Fee for New Adoptions and Owner Redemptions**

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### **BOARD ACTION RECOMMENDED:**

That the Board approve making mandatory, collection of the existing one-time voluntary \$5.00 cat registration fee, payable at the time of adoption or reunification only, and direct the General Manager to implement this policy effectively immediately.

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### **SUMMARY:**

During the Mayor's Fiscal Year 07-08 Budget Hearing, discussion occurred regarding implementation of mandatory collection of the existing \$5.00 cat registration fee, to be payable at the time a cat is adopted or returned to its owner only. Participating in this meeting were the Deputy Mayor of Finance and Performance Management and the Interim City Administrative Officer, both of whom overwhelmingly supported implementation of this fee. Current Department policy does not mandate the collection of this fee, however, it is permitted under Section 53.19 (a) of the Municipal Code which states, "Upon payment of a \$5.00 fee, there shall be issued at the request of each cat owner or person having custody or control thereof, a cat identification tag to be worn by the cat for which it is issued."

Implementation of this fee would result in the following benefits:

- An increase in cat-owner reunifications, and attendant decrease in euthanasia.
- Program would be advertised as a means of saving cats and increasing cat-owner reunifications.

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**Subject: Mandatory Collection of the One-Time \$5.00  
Cat Registration Fee for New Adoptions  
and Owner Redemptions**

- Registration confirmation letters sent to owners would include language to encourage the registration of additional cats and the mandatory licensing of any unlicensed dogs, thus expanding our outreach database.
- A portion of any future fee increase in registration could be surcharged to the Animal Spay and Neuter Trust Fund to provide additional pet sterilizations for low-income residents and lower the euthanasia rate, thus assisting the City in achieving its “No Kill” policy/goal.
- Accumulation of statistical information about cat ownership.

In light of the above-referenced benefits, it is proposed that a Departmental policy be adopted mandating the collection of a one-time \$5.00 registration fee at the time of adoption or reunification. All subsequent cat registration renewals (i.e., for address change or new registrations for owner changes) would be strictly voluntary in contrast to the mandatory annual licensing of dogs. The Department will likely also work to increase the registration fee to \$10.00, which would bring the amount in-line with the former base cost of a dog license.

Upon approval, the Department will immediately notify all staff responsible for the collection, tracking, and accounting of fees connected to this policy to ensure prompt implementation.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Animal tags cost approximately \$0.25 each. The cost to the Department of this program will be minimal, since the fee will be assessed at the same time as other fees are being processed.

The following is a historical overview of the potential revenue that would have been derived from cat adoptions, cat-owner reunifications, and New Hope placements annually, had the one-time \$5.00 registration fee been in effect during the period of 2004-2006.

Cat Shelter Adoptions			
Year	Number of Adoptions	Fee	Potential Revenue
2004	4,670	\$5	\$23,350
2005	5,133	\$5	\$25,665
2006	5,378	\$5	\$26,890

Cat-Owner Reunifications from Shelters			
Year	Number of Reunifications	Fee	Potential Revenue
2004	270	\$5	\$1,350
2005	573	\$5	\$2,865
2006	289	\$5	\$1,445

**Subject: Mandatory Collection of the One-Time \$5.00  
Cat Registration Fee for New Adoptions  
and Owner Redemptions**

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New Hope Placements			
Year	Number of Adoptions	Fee	Potential Revenue
2004	1,942	\$5	\$9,710
2005	2,860	\$5	\$14,300
2006	2,398	\$5	\$11,990

Approved:

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**Edward A. Boks, General Manager**

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**BOARD ACTION:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Passed  
\_\_\_\_\_ Passed with noted modifications  
\_\_\_\_\_ Tabled

Disapproved \_\_\_\_\_  
Continued \_\_\_\_\_  
New Date \_\_\_\_\_

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**EDWARD A. BOKS**  
General Manager

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## **Report to the Board of Animal Services Commissioners**

**Edward A. Boks, General Manager**

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**COMMISSION MEETING DATE:** March 27, 2007

**PREPARED BY:** Victoria  
Anaya/Brenda Van Den Bosch

**REPORT DATE:** March 16, 2007

**TITLE:** Management Assistant  
Sr. Clerk Typist

**SUBJECT:** Increase in the Payment to Veterinary Hospitals  
for Pre/Post Release and Free Certificate  
Spay and Neuter Programs

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### **BOARD ACTION RECOMMENDED:**

That the Board approve the increase in payment schedule to Veterinary Hospitals for the cost of sterilization for the Department's Pre/Post Release Spay and Neuter Adoption Program from \$40 - \$48 to \$60 - \$68 and for the Free Spay and Neuter Certificate Program from \$60 to \$70.

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### **SUMMARY:**

The Pre/Post Release Spay & Neuter Adoption Program was first introduced in November of 1991. The development of this program was in response to the closure of the Department's own Low-Cost Spay/Neuter clinics, which were discontinued due to the high cost to maintain these facilities. At the time of the calculation of the appropriate rate to reimburse the participating veterinary hospitals, the Department benchmarked with a number of veterinary hospitals in the vicinity of the City of Los Angeles to arrive at a fair and affordable rate for the cost of these services. In 1991, the average cost for a female sterilization was \$48 and the average cost of a male sterilization was \$40. Since 1991, the Department has not increased these fees due to the financial impact it would have made on the Department's spay and neuter trust funds. An increase in the payment for these sterilizations would involve only the subsidy the Department pays to

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the veterinary hospitals from the Animal Sterilization Trust fund (Fund 842), not the portion currently paid by adopters.

The Free Certificate Program began on August 2001. This Program covers the full cost of sterilization for any dog or cat. The original value of the Free Certificates was \$50 with an increase of \$10 occurring in Fiscal Year 2003. The request for the additional \$10 increase was to stay competitive in the market and to retain the veterinarians who currently participate in this program. Since 2003, the Department has not increased these fees due to the financial impact it would have made on the Department's Animal Spay and Neuter Trust Fund (Fund 543), which pays for animal sterilization subsidy for low income, disabled, and senior residents in our communities.

Veterinarians who provide spay and neuter services to the Department have voiced their concerns about the shortfall of the current payment under our spay and neuter programs versus typical current costs of sterilization surgery.

The current spay and neuter program price schedules are as follows:

1. Pre/Post Release Spay and Neuter Adoption Program – per surgery
  - Cats and dogs – Female \$48, Male \$40
2. Free Spay and Neuter Certificate Program – per surgery
  - Cats and dogs – Female or Male \$60

Veterinarians feel the cost is too low as compared to spay and neuter fees that veterinary hospitals in the vicinity of the City of Los Angeles are charging the public.

Veterinary clinics in the surrounding vicinity of the Department's Animal Care Centers and who currently participate in the Department's Spay and Neuter Programs were surveyed. Currently, veterinary hospitals in the vicinity of the City of Los Angeles are charging the public an average of \$100 for male cat, \$150 for female cat, \$175 for male dog, and \$250 for female dog for spay and neuter surgeries. The mobile spay and neuter vans are currently charging the City \$60 for cats and \$80 for dogs, per contract agreement.

The Department is requesting that the sterilization fees for the Pre/Post Release Spay and Neuter Adoption Program be increased from \$40 (male) - \$48 (female) to \$60 (male) - \$68 (female) and the Free Spay and Neuter Certificate Program from \$60 to \$70. This change will allow us to remain competitive with the private veterinary fees currently being charged for sterilizations in the City of Los Angeles and to retain the veterinarians who currently participate in these programs. The Department does not want to risk losing veterinarians who provide this valuable service to the public. The premium of \$50 additional paid per large dog over 50 pounds would continue.

For the Free Spay and Neuter Certificate Program, the \$70 rate is recommended as an average of the range currently paid to the mobile spay and neuter vans under contract, which was negotiated less than two years ago (\$60 for cats and \$80 for dogs). As with the previous fee of \$60, the proposed \$70 fee simplifies the program and production of the Free coupons, and after multiple surgeries the overall costs to the veterinarians would balance out.

If approved, the fee increase for the Pre/Post Release Spay and Neuter Program would become effective immediately, while the fee increase for the Free Spay and Neuter Certificate Program would become effective on July 1, 2007, due to the printing of the forms.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The fiscal impact in increasing the sterilization fees for the Pre/Post Release S/N Program from \$40 - \$48 to \$60 - \$68 would be approximately \$180,000 with approximately 9,000 surgeries per year. The \$10 increase for the Free Certificate Program would be approximately \$70,000, with approximately 7,000 surgeries per year. The total increase in the remittance of these programs would be \$250,000.

This increase would be absorbed by the additional \$500,000 the Department will be receiving in the new \$7 Dog License Fee. On October 6, 2006, the Council of the City of Los Angeles passed ordinance number 177969, which amended Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 53.15.3 to increase the cost of a license for an altered dog from \$10.00 to \$15.00 and amending Los Angeles Administrative Code Section 5.201 to deposit the \$5.00 increase into the Animal Spay and Neuter Trust Fund.

The remaining balance of the \$250,000 funding will be available for the development of new spay & neuter programs and increasing the redemption rate of the Department's existing spay and neuter programs.

PROGRAM	AVG # OF SURGERIES/YEAR	CURRENT		PROPOSED		COST INCREASE
		PRICE*	COST	PRICE*	COST	
Pre/Post Release S/N	9,000	\$40 - \$48	\$144,000	\$60 - \$68	\$324,000	<b>\$180,000</b>
Free S/N Certificate	7,000	\$60	\$420,000	\$70	\$490,000	<b>\$70,000</b>
<b>TOTAL COST</b>		<b>\$564,000</b>		<b>\$814,000</b>		
<b>TOTAL COST INCREASE</b>		<b>\$250,000</b>				

\* Average price minus \$28 sterilization deposit made by adopter

**Approved:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Edward A. Boks, General Manager**

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**BOARD ACTION:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Passed

Disapproved \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Passed with noted modifications

Continued \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Tabled

New Date \_\_\_\_\_

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## **Report to the Board of Animal Services Commissioners**

**Edward A. Boks, General Manager**

---

**COMMISSION MEETING DATE:** March 27, 2007

**PREPARED BY:** Anthony Sanchez

**REPORT DATE:** March 19, 2007

**TITLE:** Management Analyst II

**SUBJECT:** Dog and Cat Kennel Fee Waiver for  
Non-Profit Rescue Organizations

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### **BOARD ACTION RECOMMENDED:**

That the Board:

1. Request the City Council to direct the City Attorney to prepare an Ordinance amending the Los Angeles Municipal Code to waive the annual kennel permit fee for defined animal rescue organizations applying for a kennel permit; and,
  2. Direct Staff to enact policies and regulations pursuant to such Ordinance, upon Council enactment of Ordinance.
- 

### **SUMMARY:**

To maintain the spirit of enabling non-profit rescue organizations to find homes for shelter animals, and reducing obstacles to saving at-risk animals, the Department requests that the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) be amended to allow the Department to waive the annual kennel permit fee for rescue organizations meeting the definition in LAMC Section 53.11(p), which defines "rescue organizations" as

"... California non-profit corporations that are exempt from taxation under Internal Revenue Code section 501(c)(3), participate in early age spay/neuter of animals, comply with all State and local laws regarding the humane care and treatment of animals, and in addition, whose mission is wholly or in part the rescue and placement of companion animals including but not limited to dogs, cats, rabbits, gerbils, hamsters, equine animals or reptiles, and/or the trapping, neutering, and returning of feral cats."

**AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER**

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There currently exist in Southern California many animal rescue groups adopting shelter animals and actively seeking homes for them. These organizations provide an indispensable public service by saving animals' lives and helping the public find pets, as well as helping to reduce euthanasia rates and reduce overcrowding in the City's animal care centers, which is directly in line with the Department's service themes of creating happiness by bringing pets and people together, and saving animals' lives. Many of these rescue organizations currently partner with the Department to adopt animals through the New Hope Program, which was implemented to help reduce obstacles that might prevent the rescue of animals most at risk of euthanasia. The program allows for waiver of adoption, spay/neuter, and microchips fees for animals adopted from the New Hope Alert List, as well as offering other benefits to partners such as 24-hour access to animal care centers. Partnering rescue organizations may also have certain fees waived if they adopt animals which are not on the New Hope Alert List (if animals not on the New Hope Alert List are adopted, adoption fees are waived; if an animal listed on the New Hope Alert List is adopted along with an animal not on that list, adoption and microchipping fees are waived for the animal not on the list).

Organizations rescuing animals from our animal care centers may find themselves keeping multiple animals on their property, and as a result, their property may meet the criteria of a kennel under Section 53.00 of the LAMC, which defines a dog kennel as "[a]ny lot, building, structure, enclosure, or premises, where four or more dogs are kept or maintained for any purpose," and a cat kennel as "[a]ny lot, building, structure, enclosure, or premises, where four or more cats are kept or maintained for any purpose," and under the City's Zoning Code, LAMC Section 12.03, which defines a kennel as "[a]ny lot or premises on which four (4) or more dogs, at least four (4) months of age, are kept." Rescuers who wish to keep a number of animals and therefore meet this definition must obtain a kennel permit for their property, and must renew their permit each year in order to keep this number of animals on their property. Annual fees for kennel permits are \$130 for a dog kennel permit, and \$100 for a cat kennel permit [LAMC Section 53.50(f)]. Consequently, rescue organizations, many of which are non-profit organizations relying on donations and grants for their funding, incur the additional burden of annual kennel fees during the course of providing this valuable public service.

Therefore, the Department proposes that LAMC Section 53.50(f) be amended by Ordinance to include the following exemption for rescue organizations:

"The General Manager is hereby authorized to waive the annual permit fee for dog kennels and/or cat kennels when the applicant is a rescue organization as defined in Section 53.11(p) of this article."

Those organizations currently partnered with the Department meet the definition of rescue organizations in LAMC Section 53.11(p), as do many groups and organizations not currently partnered but nevertheless able to provide similar services to the public. Therefore the exemption would apply to any rescue organization, whether or not partnered with the Department, so long as the organization meets the stated definition.

In keeping with the intent of the New Hope Program and the Department's mission, such a waiver for rescue groups will further reduce any obstacles in finding homes for animals and saving at-risk animals. This change is likely to encourage more adoptions by rescue groups, and to encourage additional rescue organizations to partner with the Department in finding homes for animals. Also, the Department will maintain mechanisms for mitigating or eliminating any potential adverse impacts of keeping additional animals on a given property, since the



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exemption does not negate or modify the Department's authority to conduct such investigations as it deems proper upon permit application or permit renewal as specified in 53.50(c). Any potential financial loss resulting from the kennel fee waiver would be minimal, and such loss would be offset by the invaluable benefit of saving the lives of more animals.

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**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Of the 110 New Hope members registered with the Department, forty-nine are within the City of Los Angeles and fall under the City's jurisdiction. Assuming each of these forty-nine is to pay an average kennel permit fee of \$115, the average annual kennel permit revenue from New Hope members is \$5,635. This loss is minimal when compared to the benefit of encouraging partnered rescue organizations as well as additional rescue organizations to increase their adoption of animals from the Department's animal care centers.

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**Approved:**

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**Edward A. Boks, General Manager**

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**BOARD ACTION:**

_____ Passed	Disapproved _____
_____ Passed with noted modifications	Continued _____
_____ Tabled	New Date _____



CITY OF LOS ANGELES  
**L A ANIMAL SERVICES**



Date: March 27, 2007  
To: Board of Animal Services Commissioners  
From: Edward A. Boks, General Manager  
Subject: EUTHANSIA TERMINOLOGY DEFINITIONS

At the meeting of February 26, 2007, members of the Board requested information about the use and definition of the term “euthanasia,” to understand the appropriate use of the term, or of other terms, in connection with the work of Los Angeles Animal Services.

After review of definitions and common usage as gathered by staff and summarized below, I conclude that use of the term **Euthanasia** in all cases is appropriate, as it refers specifically to the humane process, and not to the reasons for its application. Animal Services is dedicated to achieving an end to the use of euthanasia for controlling pet overpopulation, but until that goal is reached, and in all cases when an animal is suffering or is clearly dangerous, we will employ the humane process of euthanasia.

### **Definitions-dictionary**

**Euthanasia** (from Greek: *ευθανασία* -ευ, eu, "good", *θάνατος*, thanatos, death) is the practice of killing in a painless or minimally painful way for merciful reasons, usually to end suffering. Also called “mercy killing.” An animal is euthanized when it is killed in a manner deemed to be humane, and in the case of a pet, in accordance with the emotional needs of the owner. In pet animals, this process is commonly referred to by the euphemisms “put to sleep,” “put away,” or “put down”. Terms often used interchangeably for the term “euthanasia” in reference to animals include: “humanely kill,” “destroy,” “cause to be destroyed,” or “dispatched.”

Some of the same terms and euphemisms used to mean “euthanize” also are used to mean “kill”:

**Synonyms:** The words *kill*, *murder*, *execution* and *assassination* all signify acts which deprive of life.

The concept of *kill*ing is the most general of the four, with no implication of the manner, justification, or purpose of killing, or nature of what is killed, whether human being, animal, plant, or other object considered to possess the quality of life.

To *murder* is to kill either immorally, unjustly and without proper reason, or with premeditated intent.

To *execute* is to kill a person marked for death by the state, in a manner sanctioned by that state, whether by law or decree.

To *assassinate* is to kill a person marked for death, with the intent of furthering ideological or political goals.

**Coup de grace:** The expression *coup de grâce* (French: "blow of mercy") means a death blow intended to end the suffering of a wounded creature. The practice of the coup de grâce can be traced back to the beginning of recorded history. It has generally been somewhat less controversial than euthanasia, since it specifically applies only to the killing of the mortally wounded. More commonly, "coup de grace" is used figuratively to describe the last of a series of events which brings about the end of some entity.

### The Semantics of Animal Euthanasia

The term euthanasia is included in the Definition of Terms (9 CFR Part 1) of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal Welfare Regulations:

**"Euthanasia** means the humane destruction of an animal accomplished by a method which produces rapid unconsciousness and subsequent death without evidence of pain or distress, or a method that utilizes anesthesia produced by an agent that causes painless loss of consciousness and subsequent death."

The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Panel defines euthanasia in terms of the original Greek, stating

"...**euthanasia** is the act of inducing humane death in an animal. Euthanasia techniques should result in rapid unconsciousness followed by cardiac or respiratory arrest and ultimate loss of brain function. In addition, the technique should minimize any stress and anxiety experienced by the animal prior to unconsciousness."

However, there has been a growing debate over the proper usage of the word "euthanasia" in connection with the reasons that animals are being put to death. In fact,

the movement toward ending euthanasia performed because of pet overpopulation problems has been labelled with the evocative slogan “No-Kill,” implying that the term “kill” fits certain decisions about when an animal is euthanized.

A report published by Tufts University on the debate about animal euthanasia terminology (*Euthanasia—Clarifying Basic Issues*) makes plain that some people have chosen to color the meaning of the term because of the reason for the act:

“You don’t have to read too far into the literature on ‘euthanasia’ to discern that, for *some* people, an important distinction emerges between ‘euthanasia’ and ‘killing.’ For example, Craig Brestrup (author of *Disposable Animals*) uses the term ‘euthanasia’ quite strictly, meaning by it *only* ‘taking the life of one for whom no reasonable alternative exists in as painless and compassionate a fashion as possible and for the good and in the interests of the one whose life it is.’ Brestrup uses the altogether harsher term ‘killing’ when shelters take the life of millions of healthy and adoptable companion animals that the shelters deem unadoptable due to a curable illness or a correctable behavioral problem, or simply because they (the shelters) need to make room for new entrants.”

An informal survey of animal legislation in major California metropolitan cities shows that most municipal animal shelters use the terms “euthanize” or “destroy” when referring to putting down animals, regardless whether the reason for death is irremediable suffering of the animal, chronic illness, dangerous behaviour, or to make more room in the shelter. Because euthanasia is the accurate term for the method or procedure used to humanely end an animal’s life, without a defined relationship to the motive for the act, it is appropriate for the Department to continue use of the term. Taking up use of alternative terms, such as “killing,” mis-informs by suggesting the methods of the act might be less than humane, which is not the case.

Use of the term **euthanasia** must be distinguished from the debate over decisions to end animals’ lives. Again, the commitment of the Department is to aggressively reach for the goal of ceasing any use of euthanasia for considerations of time and space or other situations that can be mitigated.



CITY OF LOS ANGELES  
**L A ANIMAL SERVICES**



Date: March 27, 2007  
To: Board of Animal Services Commissioners  
From: Edward A. Boks, General Manager  
Subject: USE OF SEDATIVES IN THE EUTHANSIA PROCESS

Suggestions have arisen that Phenobarbital or Acepromazine could be administered orally to all animals prior to the administration of Sodium Pentobarbital. Among the relative contraindications to taking such an approach are:

- Difficulty in guaranteeing the required dosage is ingested under the best of circumstances, especially in a shelter environment, which can create the risk of under- or overdosing; in some cases, an over-dosed animal can be mistaken for dead.
- Oral administration of Phenobarbital or Acepromazine can create the risk of an animal vomiting and then aspirating food used to administer the drug.
- Onset of action in the case of Acepromazine can be prolonged, especially when given orally. In cats it may need to be combined with another drug such as Valium because cats tend to be more resistant to its effects. In many instances cats become even more fractious after its use.
- Sedatives having the effect of lowering blood pressure make it harder to find a vein for injection of Sodium Pentobarbital, which may cause more anxiety to the animal.

There is also a potentially significant cost for administering an extra drug or combination of drugs, factoring in the cost of the drugs as well as the additional staff time. However, this is not a restraint because we could request additional budget to purchase additional drugs and provide the additional staff required to essentially double the work load in the process—if there was any viable evidence it would reduce the anxiety felt by an animal about to receive a dose of Sodium Pentobarbital. I have been advised by many animal welfare professionals and veterinarians from a broad spectrum of experience that administering a sedative to an un-fractious animal, only to come back a second time to administer another drug, Sodium Pentobarbital, only increases an animal's anxiety. This is why students in veterinary schools (even programs where Shelter Medicine is taught) are taught not to routinely administer sedatives, but to do so only when an animal is feral or fractious.

LA Animal Services is committed to mitigating all unnecessary stress and discomfort prior to euthanasia. At this time, our policy is that if an animal is exhibiting fractious or

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aggressive behavior, or should a Licensed Veterinarian or Certified Veterinary Technician decide a sedative is needed for any reason, the Department has Telazol, Acepromazine, Ketamine, and Valium readily available for administration by authorized staff.

Animal Services is dedicated to providing dignified and humane care to all animals, especially when euthanasia is performed. All of our processes are open to review and re-evaluation as new information comes to light. This policy certainly will be reviewed again upon appointment of a Chief Veterinarian. Together we are committed to ending euthanasia as a method for controlling pet overpopulation, but until we achieve this noble goal we must continue to do everything we can to perform euthanasia only as a compassionately administered last resort.