



MINUTES
BOARD OF ANIMAL SERVICES COMMISSIONERS
CITY OF LOS ANGELES

Monday April 9, 2007
10:00 A.M.
CITY HALL
200 N. Spring St.
Room 1060
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 10:12 A.M. Present were Commissioners Riordan, Atake, and Quincey. Commissioners Khero and Brown were absent.

1. Appeal of the General Manager's Decision in License Revocation Case – BD 06537NC

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

Commissioner Atake motioned to uphold the General Manager's decision to reissue **License Number L07-199807**, for dog "**Savannah**", **License Number L07-199808**, for dog "**Amyjolene**", and **License Number L07-199809**, for dog "**Dusty**", subject to terms and conditions set forth in the Notice of Order, which was dated July 5, 2006. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Quincey and passed on a vote of 3-0.

Determination: License Reissued with Terms and Conditions

COMMISSION MEETING

Commission Vice President Riordan called the Commission Meeting to order at 10:32 A.M. Commissioner Brown joined the meeting at 10:40 A.M.

2. COMMISSION BUSINESS (Taken out of order. The General Manager arrived at 10:40 A.M.)

A. Approval of the Commission Meeting Minutes of February 26, March 12, and March 27, 2007

Commissioner Atake motioned to approve the minutes of the February 26, 2007 Commission Meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Quincey and passed on a vote of 3-0.

Commissioner Quincey motioned to approve the minutes of the March 12, 2007 Commission Meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Atake and passed on a vote of 3-0.

Commissioner Atake motioned to table the approval of the minutes for March 27, 2007 to the next Commission meeting on April 23, 2007, and that it include the comments made by Commissioner Riordan. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Quincey and passed on a vote of 3-0.

Action Item: Approval of the Minutes for March 27, 2007 to return as an agenda item for the Commission Meeting on 04/23/07.

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

Commissioner Atake volunteered at dog adoption events on March 31 and April 2. Commissioners Riordan and Quincey had nothing to report.

3. GENERAL MANAGER RECOMMENDS FOR BOARD ACTION

A. Mandatory Collection of One-Time \$5.00 Cat Registration Fee for New Adoptions and Owner Redemptions (Continued from March 27, 2007)

During the Mayor's Fiscal Year 07-08 Budget Hearing, there was discussion 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. Existing Department policy does not mandate the collection of such a fee, however, it is permitted under the Municipal Code. Implementation of the registration fee would result in an increase in cat-owner reunifications, and a decrease in euthanasia. Currently, the Department is reuniting 16% of dogs taken in, while only 1% of cats are reunited with their families.

Public Comment

Daniel Guss: Felt that it was important to eliminate the barriers to adoption. Fees should be made higher for owner redemption.

Phyllis Daugherty: Registration fees have been in the ordinance for a very long time. Felt microchipping needed to be a part of cat adoptions and owner redemptions. Suggested that the Department move towards requiring cats to be registered with registration fees in order to make owners more responsible for cats.

Commissioner Quincey responded that the State had ruled that cats are considered predatory animals and that they did not have to be licensed. However, laying claim to ownership of a cat through licensing would make one responsible for the animal. Commissioner Riordan suggested that identification tags are duplicitous and not as effective as microchipping and the additional fee is cost prohibitive toward adoptions and redemptions as well as one more layer of bureaucracy.

Commissioner Atake motioned to reject the Mandatory Collection of One-Time-Time \$5.00 Cat Registration Fee. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Quincey and passed on a vote of 4-0.

1. ORAL REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER – EDWARD BOKS

- The Department will be holding a series of volunteer potlucks at all the centers.
- Customer service training is now being conducted at all the centers.
- Negotiations have been moving forward with Western University in establishing an internship program to provide the shelters with veterinary students.
- The Department announced that the month of March was to be a “No Kill” month. Only 9 treatable animals were euthanized and only after 3 regiments of treatment failed to produce any improvement in the health of these animals. March 2007 had the lowest euthanasia rate since the Department had started collecting such data, with a total of 267 dogs and 273 cats euthanized for remedial suffering, aggressive behavior, contagious diseases that put other animals’ health at risk.

Public Comments

Phyllis Daugherty: Overcrowding leads to animals killing each other, food or no food. The key is controlling your pet population and getting rid of aggressive dogs so that pets do not live in terror. Inquired about the South Los Angeles clinic.

Daniel Guss: The General Manager says that we are at an all-time low with regards to euthanasia and an all-time high for adoptions. However, he fails to report on the conditions at the shelters. It is imperative that he includes that in the General Manager Report. Criticized the credentials of Western University and in the attempt by the General Manager to establish an internship program with the school.

4. REGULAR AGENDA DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Contraindications on Sedation of Animals as Part of the Euthanasia Protocol (Continued from March 27, 2007; Public Comments have been taken).

Commissioner Riordan requested to have the item tabled to the next Commission Meeting due to the absence of Department veterinarians to report on the item. Commissioner Quincey added that he would like representatives from the Southern California Veterinarian Association to report on the issue.

Commissioner Atake motioned to table the discussion item to the agenda for the next Commission Meeting on 04/23/07. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Quincey and passed on a vote of 4-0.

Action Item: Contraindications on Sedation of Animals as Part of the Euthanasia Protocol to be tabled to the 04/23/07 Commission Meeting.

B. Oral Report by the Personnel Director and General Manager on the Status of Veterinarian Recruitment

In the absence of Personnel Director Russ Core, Assistant General Manager Linda Barth reported on the several recruitment steps taken by the Personnel Section, both within the Department and with the Personnel Department. Representatives have been going out to various job fairs and recruitment events, and a recruitment brochure developed by the Personnel Department had recently been mailed out to a significant statewide database to solicit registered veterinary technicians and veterinarians. In terms of Internet advertising, the Department has focused their efforts on State websites such as the California Veterinary Medical Association. The Department has also been creative in working with Pierce College and Western University on developing internship and cooperation ideas to increase student interest in shelter medicine.

Of the nine veterinarians mentioned previously as possible candidates in the hiring process, one was hired, two mentioned interest in part-time work with the Department over the summer, a few received full-time employment elsewhere and are no longer interested, and those out of state have decided not to move to California. The Department continues to follow-up on referrals.

Public Comments

Phyllis Daugherty: One of the reasons that veterinarians don't want to work in our shelters is because we have an animal cruelty situation with overcrowding. The shelters used to have the right euthanize vicious animals to protect the gentle pets, but now the public demands that the dangerous and aggressive animals be kept alive at all costs. Veterinarians do not want to work under those conditions, nor do they want to be called "killers" by the people for whom they work, which include the Commission and the Humane Community.

Daniel Guss: Received an email from former LAAS veterinarian Dr. Laura Cochran. She mentioned that veterinarians are not coming to work for the Department due to issues with marketing, salaries, and other things. The General Manager is not telling the Board the same things he is telling the media. Asked that the Board be provided copies of his article in the Daily News, Mr. Bok's response in the Daily News from the day after, and the recent article written the past Saturday on Western University. Wanted to know if the General Manager contacted to the County about veterinary issues.

C. New Website Walk-Through

Ms. Barth gave an overview presentation on the new Department Website. She walked the Commission through the latest features of the website. In updating the look of the website, the Department focused on developing a cleaner and clearer appearance to establish a visual identity. Finding information on lost dogs, adoptions, spay/neuter services, wildlife animals, and other priorities were made much easier by categorizing.

Commissioner Brown suggested that a section containing the General Manager's monthly reports be added. Commissioner Riordan requested that a listing on motions passed also be added to the website.

Public Comments

Daniel Guss: Pointed out various functional errors with the Website.

Jane Garcia: Also pointed out several errors with the Website.

Phyllis Daugherty: Commented on the posting of lost dog reports to be placed on the Website.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Phyllis Daugherty: Commented that the problem is that people consider cats to be much more of a “throw away” pet than dogs. To create the atmosphere in the City that cats are valuable animals, ownership, licensing, and registration of some sort must be established. Announced that the North Central Animal Hospital would be opening in May. Two of Dr. Mackey’s DVDs are now available to the public and can be ordered from www.quickspay.com. Mentioned that many of the Department’s ACOs are not emphasizing the importance of spay/neuter.

Jane Garcia: Asked if there was a feature on the Department website that allowed the public to directly email the Commissioners. Commented on the Department’s reluctance to post pictures of injured animals on the Website for the public to view. Requested that the General Manager stop writing misleading reports in his Fact vs. Rumor section of his blog.

Daniel Guss: Before the document is changed, please ask the General Manager for the current version of Truth vs. Rumor, Document #4, where Mr. Boks talks about his dating life. The General Manager is more concerned about talking about his social life than submitting a GM Report to the Commissioners. The GM Reports should also be available on the website. He is also commenting on sexual harassment lawsuits while there is still ongoing litigation being conducted.

Bill Dyer: 10 years ago, had proposed to the Department a mandatory spay/neuter ordinance for the City of Los Angeles and was told it was impossible. Proposed to the Commission that the Department end the killing of all animals with his document, the Companion Animal Protection Act

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Requests from Commissioners For Future Agenda Items

- Commissioner Atake requested to have the next Commission Meeting changed to the evening of Tuesday, April 24.
- Commissioners Riordan and Atake expressed desires to change future Commission Meeting times to take place on Tuesdays, starting at 11:00 A.M.
- Commissioner Brown wanted a program update on the Animal Cruelty Task Force.
- Commissioner Brown requested a discussion item on community outreach in helping to identify and report suspected fighting dog participants and locations.

Public Comments

Daniel Guss: Wanted all mainstream articles on the Department to be made available to view on the website. Also asked that every City Council motion relevant to the Department be viewable on the website as well. Wanted a discussion item on the credentials of Western University in regards to establishing the internship program.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Brown motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Quincey and

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passed on a vote of 4-0. The Commission Meeting was adjourned at 12:32 P.M.