

MEETING SUMMARY



BOARD OF ANIMAL SERVICES COMMISSIONERS
CITY OF LOS ANGELES

Tuesday, June 12, 2012
10:00 AM



**Los Angeles City Hall
200 North Spring Street
Room 1060
Los Angeles, California 90012**

JIM JENSVOLD
TARIQ A. KHERO
LISA McCURDY
KATHLEEN RIORDAN
ALANA YANEZ

mp3 Minutes are available at www.laanimalservices.com

Commissioners Jenvold, McCurdy, Riordan, Khero and Yanez were in attendance.

REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING

Meeting Called To Order at 10:05 AM

1. 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.)

Public Comments: The Brown Act prohibits the Board and staff from responding to the speakers' comments. Some of the matters raised in public comment may appear on a future agenda.

Rochelle Lynn: Angel in Fur, Dog Rescue spoke on

Mary Barrientos: A former Commissioner spoke before the Commission.

Phyllis Daugherty: Spoke before the Commission.

Dan Guss: Spoke before the Commission

2. COMMISSION BUSINESS

Public Comment:

Dan Guss: Spoke on Commission review of minutes prior to approving the documents.

A. Approval of the Minutes from May 8 and May 22, 2012 Meeting

Commissioner Riordan made a motion to approve the minutes for the meeting of May 8, 2012 pending changes, with a second by Commissioner McCurdy. The motion was approved by a vote of 5-0

The meeting minutes for May 22, 2012 were held over until the next meeting.

3. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Brown Act Refresher for New Commission Members

Assistant City Attorney Dov Lesel provided the Board with rules governing the public Commission meetings under the Ralph M. Brown, Open Meeting Law Act. Mr. Lesel informed the Board that all meetings must be in public, discussion and votes must be during a public meeting and the public must be allowed to directly address the Commission during the meeting. It was also explained that serial meetings, where Commissioner A contacts B and B contacts C, etc., were not allowed.

Public Comment

Dan Guss: Commented on Commission meeting of January 24, 2012 where a commissioner read a statement regarding the failure to license dogs when the item was not on the agenda.

4. GENERAL MANAGER RECOMMENDS FOR BOARD ACTION

A Revised Report re: Proposed Amendments to Code sections pertaining to Spay/Neuter and Breeding Permits.

General Manager Brenda Barnette introduced the recommended Board action. Ms. Barnette commented that these changes were an attempt to tighten the ordinance on breeding permits. She mentioned that animals such as agility dogs would be affected by the ordinance changes. Assistant City Attorney Dov Lesel said that exemptions for show dogs were included in the changes. In addition, an annual certification process for animals was in there. Puppies must be six months old to be registered. Therefore, there is a gap between an animal that receives their rabies vaccination at four months and a license for a show dog at six months. Commissioner Riordan commented on the state laws that mirror the spay and neuter ordinances of the City. Commissioner Jensvold remarked that AB 1939 had just passed a state Assembly committee and was on its way to the full assembly for consideration. Commissioner Yanez spoke on the current licensing ordinance for altered dogs. Commissioner McCurdy asked if there were other changes that may be forthcoming. She also commented that if a dog or cat gets loose and is impounded by the Department, it must be altered prior to being returned to the owner.

Commissioner Khero asked of other jurisdictions that had the same type of ordinances as the City and was told that Riverside, California has such ordinances. A discussion ensued regarding lifetime exemptions.

Recommended changes to the report suggested by the Commission are the deletion of a lifetime exemption for dogs for health reasons and recommendation that all dogs and cats impounded by the Department be spayed or neutered. A health exemption would be an exception to be determined by a Department veterinarian. The final ordinance changes include any modifications by the City Council. In addition the ordinance changes should specify guard dogs and not working dogs as appropriate.

Public Comment

Dan Guss: Commented that this should be the most restrictive legislation possible and it would make it difficult to be a breeder.

Phyllis Daugherty: There is a clear difference between a guard dog and a junkyard dog for a working dog license. Also a puppy license does not include backyard breeders.

A motion to approve the Board Report with minor changes was made by Commissioner Riordan and seconded by Commissioner Khero. The motion was approved by a vote of 5-0.

5. ORAL REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

The General Manager, Brenda Barnette commented on the following items:

- The City's end of the fiscal year is approaching. The Department is working to expend all funds allocated by purchasing necessary supplies.
- The layoff of employees is still a possibility. Any loss of clerical staff will make it difficult to keep all of the shelters open on the current schedule.
- The backlog of Administrative Hearings for barking dogs and dangerous animals had been reduced significantly. This was accomplished by moving the Administrative Hearing section to headquarters and increasing the number of hearing officers from one to two.
- The SmART team was introduced and their activities discussed. Recently the team completed a swift water rescue training course. They are one of the only animal shelters in the nation to have this designation. As a result they received a national award, the 2012 Higgins and Langley Memorial Award and are one of the few animal care and control recipients of this award.

Public Comment

Phyllis Daugherty: Commented on the recent return of the shelter captains from administrative leave.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Next Commission Meeting is scheduled for 10:00 A.M June 26, 2012, Los Angeles City Hall, Room 1060, 200 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, California 90012.

Commissioner Yanez made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Riordan seconded the motion and it was approved on a vote of 5-0.