

MEETING SUMMARY



BOARD OF ANIMAL SERVICES COMMISSIONERS
CITY OF LOS ANGELES

Tuesday, July 10, 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 Jensvold, McCurdy, Riordan, Yanez, Khero 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.

Phyllis Daugherty: Using information obtained via the California Public Records Act, Ms. Daugherty commented on Animal Services' communication with PetPoint prior to the release of an RFP.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL HEARING: Barking Dog Case Number BD 11382

The dog owners (William and Denise Johnson) were not present. Commissioner McCurdy said that without any additional information, the information in the file supported the conclusion reached, that the restrictions were reasonable, extensive and well documented. There was a history of dogs disturbing the area, therefore, there was no reason to change the findings. Commissioner Yanez stated that the barking log was clear and a DVD was taken of the dogs. Ross Pool said that he spoke with the complainant (Todd Becraft); Mr. Becraft said that since the terms and conditions were imposed, the dogs were quieter. Ms. Yanez said that if the dogs are quieter, the findings should be upheld. Commissioner Jensvold concurred. (Commissioner Riordan

arrived.) A motion to approve the General Manager's decision was made by Commissioner McCurdy, with a second by Commissioner Jensvold. The motion was approved by a vote of 4-0. (*Commissioners Khero arrived later in the meeting.*)

Commissioner Riordan requested a reconsideration of the appeal. Commissioner Jensvold stated that he was open to the idea, but as long as the discussion was limited. Commissioner Jensvold made a motion to re-open the appeal with a second by Commissioner Yanez. Commissioner Riordan made a motion that the unlicensed dog be sterilized (if unaltered) – unless there was a medical condition, and that this be added to the terms and conditions. Commissioner McCurdy seconded the motion and the motion passed 5-0.

4. COMMISSION BUSINESS

A. Election of Commission President and Vice President for 2012-13

Commissioner Jensvold nominated Lisa McCurdy for President; Commissioner Yanez seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a vote of 5–0. Commissioner Jensvold nominated Kathy Riordan for the position Vice President, with Commissioner Yanez seconding the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

B. Approval of the Minutes from May 22, 2012 and June 12, 2012

Commissioner McCurdy made a motion to approve the minutes for the meeting of May 22, 2012 with changes, with a second by Commissioner Yanez. The motion was approved by a vote of 5-0

The meeting minutes for June 12, 2012 were held over until the next meeting.

5. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Information to the Board regarding the Hiring of a Veterinarian to Review and Monitor Circus Elephants.

Commissioner Riordan had a question regarding discussing this item since it was added to the agenda on Monday. She was informed by Ross Pool that the item was posted in a public place on Friday. While the report was released on Monday, sending it to the Commission was a courtesy since the posting in a public place was appropriate and supported by the Brown Act.

Brenda Barnette said that last year, after consultation with PETA and the Mayor, Animal Services hired a vet to observe Ringling Bros. elephants. The Department's vets declined because they did not believe they were qualified to examine exotic performing animals. Moreover, the Mayor wanted an arms' length relationship between the veterinarian and the City. Ms. Barnette and Jim Bickhart, Mayor's Office, reached out to other vets but they were not available. Dr. Phil Ensley was and he had 29 years of experience with the San Diego Zoo. Ms. Barnette and Jim Bickhart attended the

elephant walk the morning of July 10 with individual review of elephants later that day. Any concerns would be discussed with the Mayor. Because Ms. Barnette has the prerogative to spend under \$5000 of Animal Welfare Trust Funds without Board approval, this item was for information only.

Commissioner Jensvold believed that \$75/hour was reasonable. Commissioner Riordan asked if the vet could look over other animals. Ms. Barnette said that the vet was hired to look over elephants only. Commissioner Riordan would like to consider reviewing all large animals next year, not just elephants. She added that the vet's protocol is in alignment with Board policy. Commissioner Khoro asked what would happen if the vet found a problem. Ms. Barnette stated that those concerns would be shared with the General Manager and she would share this with the Mayor. The Mayor and Animal Services would then determine what the City's position would be. Commissioner Riordan asked if Animal Services had the power to pull the elephants. Ms. Barnette said we could given that the permit is only an application at this point. Commissioner Riordan asked about the additional cost to look at other animals. Ms. Barnette said it would be the same hourly cost plus additional hotel costs. Although Dr. Ensley was scheduled to leave Thursday, Ms. Barnette said she would ask him about inspecting more animals.

Public Comment

Phyllis Daugherty: Stated she was surprised Animal Services needed to go outside to get a vet when the Department has vets and RVTs.

6. GENERAL MANAGER RECOMMENDS FOR BOARD ACTION

A Bequest from the Estate of Marie Elizabeth Tyner

The donation of \$41,841.36 would go into the Animal Welfare Trust Fund. A motion to approve the Board Report was made by Commissioner Khoro and seconded by Commissioner Yanez. The motion was approved by a vote of 5-0. (Because this donation exceeds \$25,000, it must be approved by the City Council.)

7. ORAL REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

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

A working group, made up of some of the Department's critics, discussed illegal sales and illegal breeding of dogs, and other challenges. Some members of the group focused on judicial matters, such as citations that go to the courts. Mark Salazar is working with the City Attorney on this. If the Department can match up its citations with the courts' numbers, there can be better follow through and prosecution.

For illegal breeding, owners are given a citation and 45 days to correct this matter, including sterilizing and licensing the animals. If there are puppies, the owners need to

get a breeders permit. However, during this 45-day period, owners can sell puppies and we lose track of these animals. This is a community concern, so educating residents on this process and solutions will be helpful in addressing these problems. The working group is also looking at different ways to market departmental programs and to get information to the community. This also presents an opportunity to work with Commissioner Yanez's organization, Pets For Life.

The 5th of July is the date we get a significant spike in intake due to (loud) 4th of July celebrations. While impounds on cats were slightly up, dog intake was down by 54 animals this year compared to last.

Comparing January through May 2012 with last year, we have more adoptions, fewer impounds, and fewer killings. There were 1080 fewer animals put to death.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Next Commission Meeting is scheduled for 10:00 A.M July 24, 2012, Los Angeles City Hall, Room 1060, 200 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, California 90012.

Commissioner Yanez requested a discussion to change the meeting time from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. City Attorney Dov Lesel said this should be agendaized for a future meeting.

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