

MEETING SUMMARY



BOARD OF ANIMAL SERVICES COMMISSIONERS
CITY OF LOS ANGELES

Tuesday, June 25, 2013
7:00 P.M.



**Harbor Animal Shelter
957 North Gaffey Street
Community Room
San Pedro, California 90731**

LISA McCURDY
President

JIM JENSVOLD
Vice-President

TARIQ A. KHERO
MAGGIE NEILSON
ALANA YAÑEZ

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

REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING

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.

Public Comment:

Jacob Haik: From Council District 15 welcomed the Commission on behalf of Councilmember Joe Buscaino. Mr. Haik professed appreciation for the Department's efforts in the Harbor area.

Phyllis Daugherty: Reported a pit bull attack in the Harbor area, questioned the way the Department categorized various animals (pits and other breeds), reported that Best Friends is taking in animals, obtaining Department "A" numbers and then changing the numbers to their shelter numbers.

2. COMMISSION BUSINESS

Approval of the minutes for the June 11, 2013 meetings.

No public comments. Commissioner Yanez made a motion to approve the minutes, with changes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McCurdy. The motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.

3. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. Report on the Highest and Lowest Balances in the Animal Welfare Trust Fund, and provide information of previous expenses to the Trust.

Assistant General Manager John Chavez reported on the Animal Welfare Trust Fund. Mr. Chavez reported that revenue in the trust fund has increased from \$210,000 in 2011 to \$426,000 in 2013. This increase is due to several bequests and the Department's outreach. Previously the trust fund was used to purchase medical supplies whenever budgeted funds were expended. The Department no longer uses trust funds for operational supplies. Funds are reprogrammed from other line item accounts to cover shortfalls. The fund has increased from \$364,000 in 2010 to over \$1,500,000, currently.

- B. Update on Rabbits in our shelters.

General Manager Brenda Barnette reported on the efforts associated toward rabbits over the last three years. During this period, the number of rabbits adopted from the shelters has not increased, there are more rabbit intakes and holding them for a longer period of time.

Public Comment

Phyllis Daugherty; Bunnies are fragile and difficult to raise. Also, they are not classified as pets in Los Angeles.

- C. Update on Declawing Enforcement.

The Department has sent out an information letter to veterinary offices in Los Angeles to inform them of the new declaw ordinance. In addition, animal control officers have been sent to veterinary offices who have been advertising or brought to the Department's attention for performing declawing procedures.

- D. Discussion and update: Cat Program (CEQA).

The General Manager met with the Bureau of Engineering and Mayor's office to write a program to enable the Department to spay and neuter cats, while at the same time meet the concerns of the wetland group. This includes not placing food stations in feral cat areas and no colonies within certain distances. Commissioner Yanez asked to see a map where the protected areas are located. Jim Bickhart (Mayor's Office) indicated that a map will be in the CEQA report when it is released. The report will go out for public comment in the near

future. After public comment and incorporation of suggestions in the report the Department will return to court for relief from the injunction.

E. Discussion on Pet Store Ordinance Implementation.

The Department has sent letters to all registered pet stores in the City informing them that the new ordinance is in effect. When the Department receives a complaint, a shelter sends out an officer to inform the store owner on the new ordinance. There is still a hole in the ordinance regarding the definition of kennels when it affects a pet store. Officers may not cite the store until the ordinance is revised. There is an effort currently that is "cleaning up" the ordinance and will be before the Planning Committee on July 23, 2013..

Public Comment

Phyllis Daugherty; Pet stores not set up to be animal shelters. Noise, odor and waste are all problems.

4. BOARD REPORTS

A. Spay Pregnant Dogs in their Third Trimester

GM Barnette explained the reason behind the request. This issue is a volatile issue. The procedure is left up to the discretion of the veterinary staff. Commissioner McCurdy commented that it would be a good idea that the puppies be returned to the shelter and be available to the public for a period of 24 hours after they are spayed or neutered. The Department has programs that allow rescues to maintain one puppy and adopt out the rest. The adoption funds are retained by the shelter. GM Barnette said that if the Commission likes the program, the Department will write a procedure and bring it back to the Board for review. Commissioner Khoro asked who would be against the program. Ms. Barnette indicated there would be opposition to additional puppies. Commissioner Khoro asked that the argument against the program be fleshed out more. Commissioner McCurdy said that at this point is all the Board is doing is approving the writing of a proposal. Commissioner Khoro indicated that he would like to hear from the other commissioners.

Public Comment

Phyllis Daugherty; Shelters should not be a place to increase the animal population.

Commissioner McCurdy made a motion to direct the Department to put together a program and return it to the Commission for review. Commissioner Khoro seconded the motion and it was approved by a vote of 3-0.

5. ORAL REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

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

FOLLOW-UP FROM LAST MEETING:

At the last meeting, we promised to provide you with additional information. Here's what we have:

1. There was some discussion on what the **Animal Welfare Trust Fund** can and cannot pay for. We highlighted the key paragraph, taken directly from the LA Municipal Code. This is in your binder.
2. At the last meeting, we briefed you about latest re: the **Administrative Citation Enforcement (ACE)** program. In fact, the ACE was approved in Council last Friday (June 21, 2013), though a lot remains to be done before it is implemented. During my briefing at the last meeting, I mentioned a letter that the Office of Finance sent to the Budget and Finance Committee re: the ACE program. Finance recommended that a working group be formed, which would include LAAS, to address implementation issues, including costs. We promised you a copy of this letter; it's in your binders.
3. Finally, there was a request to determine the name of the donor willing to pay for "red" alert list adoptions in July. We are pleased to announce that **TAMAR VALENTA** delivered a check for \$5,000, which will pay for 125 adoptions. We have informed our New Hope partners of this generous donation.

MAYOR-ELECT GARCETTI:

The mayors' inauguration is on Sunday, June 30, 6pm – 7pm, Spring Street Steps

WILD AND EXOTIC ANIMAL RFQ

As you know, we released an RFQ to develop a qualified list of veterinarians who can assist the Department when we need services related to wild/exotic animals and/or performing animals. The following doctors will be placed on our on-call list for three years:

- Dr. Phil Ensley
- Dr. Mel Richardson
- Dr. Dave Miller
- Dr. Rhonda Aliah
- Dr. Ryan Folse

We requested a bid from these doctors for services related to the upcoming Ringling Bros. circus, which comes into town in early July. This bid was due last Thursday; we have two bids and are reviewing them now.

Please join us at our website: www.LAAnimalServices.com

LAST WEEK, WE HAD A HECTIC – BUT EVENTFUL – WEEK IN CITY COUNCIL:

- Changes to the mandatory s/n ordinance was approved in Council on June 18, 2013. Some of these changes included tightening up exemptions to the ordinance (no more “competition dog” exemptions, mandatory microchipping of stray dogs, and mandatory s/n of dogs after two impounds, among other changes). These changes are expected to be in force in early August.
- As mentioned earlier, the ACE ordinance was approved last Friday. While ACE will technically be effective in early August, a working group needs to convene to actually implement the program.
- On Friday, June 21, the City Council recognized the importance of microchipping animals and honored Animal Services and Found Animals for their efforts.
- Council will be in recess from 7/5 – 7/19. This may make it a little more difficult for you to reach some of us who take advantage of this recess to schedule vacations.
- Finally, the proposed City Attorney ordinance relative to kennels/pet store definitions was to be heard earlier today; however, it will be rescheduled for late July.

MADDIE’S FUND WEBINAR ON THURSDAY, JUNE 27, 6PM

- It’s a two-part webinar called “*Making the Case for a Paradigm Shift in Community Cat Management, Parts One & Two.*”
- In these webinars, Dr. Kate Hurley, UC Davis, asks whether common cat sheltering and animal control policies are helping, humane, and effective. Dr. Hurley believes it’s time for shelters to consider a radical solution to the suffering, stress, illness and death that are the fate of so many cats in our nation’s animal shelters: not taking in un-owned cats at all.
- The webinars are on Thursday, June 27, and Thursday, July 11, at 9 PM Eastern Time.

CARROL PETRIE – ASPCA GRANT UPDATE

- To date the Carroll Petrie Grant has saved 1,302 dogs and we have received four checks totaling \$65,100. We are still waiting for May's final total (the last month of the grant).
- The Grant gave the Department \$50 for each dog saved through:
 - Rescue adoptions - our New Hope adoptions
 - Foster Ambassador - dogs adopted while in foster care

- Off-site adoptions - our “Loves and Leashes” store
- Transfers to other agencies - Best Friends and in-house transports, like Seattle Humane

Public Comment

Phyllis Daugherty; Every time a puppy is born, an adult dog dies or is not adopted.

6. Board Availability for the Meeting of July 9, 2013.

7, ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Khero made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner McCurdy seconded the motion and it was approved on a vote of 3-0.