

MEETING SUMMARY



BOARD OF ANIMAL SERVICES COMMISSIONERS CITY OF LOS ANGELES

Tuesday, March 22, 2011
11:00 AM



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

Melanie Ramsayer, President
Ruthanne Secunda, Vice-President
Tariq Khero
Terri Macellaro
Kathleen Riordan

mp3 Audio Minutes of the meeting are available at www.laanimalservices.com

Commissioners Ramsayer, Secunda, Macellaro and Riordan were in attendance.
Commissioner Khero arrived at 11:40.

Meeting started at 11:20 AM.

ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL

1. BARKING DOG REVOCATION CASE NUMBER: BR 10391 EV

Appellant: Juan Pena; Complaining Witness: Melodie Knight. Commission voted to continue the Administrative Appeal to next meeting.

REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING

1. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None

2. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Discussion of List of Commission's Future Agenda Items

Commissioner Ramsayer asked to run through the list as an opportunity to decide what are the most important items on the list. Commissioner Macellaro asked that items that increase adoption and decrease intake be placed higher on the list. Commissioner Khero would like revenue issues as this item impacts both issues. Commissioner Ramsayer wanted to know what items might be eligible for a sponsorship program. Commissioner Khero asked that an update on emergency preparedness be scheduled for a future meeting. Commissioner Ramsayer requested an update on shelter training.

3. COMMISSION BUSINESS

A. Approval of Commission Minutes for February 8, 2011

Commissioner Ramsayer recommended approval of the minutes for the meeting of February 8, 2011, with the requested corrections. Commissioner Riordan seconded the motion and the motion passed 5-0.

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

Commissioner Riordan: Met with veterinarians on animal hospices,

Commissioner Ramsayer: Visited the South L.A. shelter, visited the new South Los Angeles shelter.

Commissioner Secunda: Visited the new South Los Angeles shelter and spent time at the Much Love animal adoption event.

Commissioner Macellaro: Attended event hosted by Friends of LA Animal Shelter, participated in a panel discussion on the ethical treatment of animals and visited the new South LA shelter.

4. GENERAL MANAGER RECOMMENDS FOR BOARD ACTION

A. Omnibus Dog Licensing Ordinance

Attorney Dov Lesel presented several changes to the proposed Omnibus Dog Licensing Ordinance. Section 53.15.3 speaks on penalties that would be incurred by not licensing a dog. Penalties of \$250, \$500 and \$1,000 should be reduced to \$100, \$250 and \$500. Section 53.15.8 concerning late fees should be changed to a 75 or 90 day grace period. GM Barnette indicated that discussions have been ongoing with various groups to support any licensing programs. Any amnesty period would be for dog owners who have never licensed their dog. A discussion ensued to clarify the effect of late fees, penalties periods and the economic impact of increased penalties. Penalties would be \$5 for a sterilized dog and \$25 for an unaltered dog; the amnesty licensing period would increase to 60 days. Lindsay Espinosa of Found Animal Foundation commented on the effect of the amnesty period increase. A question was asked about the fairness of an amnesty program when compared to dog owners who already have licensed their animal. Commissioner Ramsayer said that the effort is aimed at people who have not licensed their dogs. GM Barnette commented that a study conducted in Seattle deduced that it cost \$6.00 for an agency to issue a license.

Discussion ensued about increasing the amount a veterinarian would get to sell a license. Distribution of licensing information would continue to be at \$2.00 while the issuance of a license by a veterinarian would be at the \$6.00 to \$8.00 range. The actual rate would be determined by the City Controller,

Public Comment:

Lindsay Espinoza: Found Animals is interested in working with the Department to encourage other groups to sell licenses. Anything to simplify the process would be helpful.

Jim Bickhart: Commented on the amnesty program. No penalties would be imposed on anyone until the program is over. Any reduction could be stated as a percentage rather than a hard dollar amount. In this way it is indexed to any future increase in the fees.

Phyllis Daugherty: County charges a 100% penalty fee and \$40.00 collection fee. The new fee schedule would destroy the incentive of people to pay on time.

Commissioner Ramsayer made a motion to approve the General Manager's recommendation with the following changes: Penalty would change from 100% to 25% and would kick in if the license fees were not paid in 45 days; one time amnesty period of 60 days for new licenses; Penalties of \$250, \$500 and \$1,000 should be reduced to \$100, \$250 and \$500; the issuance of a license by a veterinarian would be at the \$6.00 to \$8.00 range. Commissioner Secunda seconded the motion and the motion passed 5-0.

5. ORAL REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

The General Manager reported on the following items:

- St. Pawtricks Day Green Adoption Event: Scott Sorentino and company;
- Participated in Brave Heart production for women's TV;
- Attended meeting of Friends of LA Animal Shelters;
- D-300 process has been improved and new batch of letters are sent out weekly. Generates spay/neuter letters;
- Two different types of transports; shelter to shelter and ongoing relationship with North Shore Animal Care. Most transports are not spay/neutered but get back certificates of sterility. By end of year 1,500 shelter to shelter animals transported;
- Active Do-Not-Adopt list;

4. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS i

Commissioner Secunda requested a report on signage for street and shelter postings for next meeting.

7. MEETING ADJOURNED

Next Commission meeting is scheduled for 10:00 A.M., April 12, 2011, Los Angeles City Hall, Room 1060, 200 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, California 90012.

Commissioner Riordan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Secunda seconded the motion and the motion passed 5-0.

The meeting ended at 1:45 P.M.