

MEETING SUMMARY



BOARD OF ANIMAL SERVICES COMMISSIONERS CITY OF LOS ANGELES

Tuesday, October 12, 2010
10:00 AM



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

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

mp3 Minutes are available at www.laanimalservices.com

Commissioners Ramsayer, Khero, Macellaro, Riordan, were in attendance. Commissioner Secunda was absent.

Meeting started at 10:23 am.

1. COMMISSION BUSINESS

A. Annual Election of Commission Officers for 2010-2011

Commissioner Ramsayer requested to table this item until the meeting on October 26, 2010.

B. Approval of the Commission Meeting Minutes for September 28, 2010

Commissioner Ramsayer recommended approval of the minutes with the requested corrections. Commissioner Khero seconded the motion and the motion passed 4-0.

C. Oral Report by the Commissioners on Meetings and Events attended

Commissioner Ramsayer visited South Los Angeles Shelter.

2. GENERAL MANAGER RECOMMENDS FOR BOARD ACTION

- A. Increasing Limits on Dogs from Three to Five Per Property and Increasing the Limit on Cats from Three to Five (Indoors) Per Property and Reducing the Number of Guard Dogs to Two Per Property.

Public Comment

Lindsay Espinoza: Commented on the research on pets limits presented in the Found Animal Foundation document

Phyllis Daugherty: Internal officer poll was not included in the research. Also, community meetings were not representative of the city as only animal rescue groups were present. Apartment dwellers were not represented and barking dogs in apartments could be a problem and cost the owner tenants. Increase in children being bitten and increase in packs of dogs. Questioned the findings of the research presented to the Commission.

Kathy Turner: Concerned dog Owners of California sued the City and is awaiting court outcome of appeal. Commented on the fact that they are not opposed to spay and neuter. Good reasons to increase dogs.

General Manager Barnette researched the information presented and commented on the sources of the information presented. The first town hall meeting was covered by numerous media outlets along with homeowners, apartment owners, staff and rescue groups. The second town hall meeting was widely publicized. There is overwhelming support of the increase in pets by the general public. One officer did an unauthorized poll of staff but the information has not been forwarded despite a request to do so. Asked the Board to request the City Attorney to prepare changes to the ordinance to define a cat kennel as six or more cats and a dog kennel as six or more dogs as described in the report, and limit the number of guard dogs that can be licensed to one location to two. Also request the Planning Department to identify other areas of the City's codes to ensure consistent change in cat and dog kennel definition. The five cats must be indoors.

Commissioner Riordan questioned the definition of a guard-dog. AGM Barth defined a guard dog by quoting from the Municipal Code. Would not be able to use the code changes to increase the number of guard dogs at one location.

SCVMA endorses the increased in the pet limit as proposed. Commissioner Riordan asked that the Board be informed of the item when it is before the Public Safety Committee.

Commissioner Ramsayer motion to adopt the General Manager's motion as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Macellaro and passed by a vote of 4-0.

- B. Donation of Flea and Tick Treatments from Banfield, the Pet Hospital and CEVA Animal Health.

Public Comment

Jeff de la Rosa: Taken many dogs out of the shelter with ticks. Motions of the Board require Board Actions signed by three members. Not on the website.

Commissioner Khoro motion to adopt the General Manager's motion as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ramsayer and passed by a vote of 4-0.

3. DISCUSSION ITEMS

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A. Coyote Issues (Continued from the Meeting of September 28, 2010).

General Manager Barnette presented a report by the Department's Wildlife Officer. Try to do public education and outreach, Department tries to resolve issues by non-lethal means and no longer trap coyotes unless injured. Must educate the community not to feed the coyotes. Most problems are human induced when the public becomes too familiar with the animals. Must step up our public education to areas where the coyotes are a problem.

Commissioner Riordan commented on the coyote issue. Commissioner Riordan indicated she lives in a coyote area. Bites have been linked to people feeding coyotes. Education is the public safety issue. Council Districts or Neighborhood Councils might be able to contribute funds to education of the public on coexisting with coyotes. Videos should be sent to schools to educate children

Commissioner Ramsayer commented that she lives in an urban area that also has had a coyote sightings. The animals are opportunistic and prey on refuse and low hanging fruit. Asked for a copy of the video. Suggested that the Department report back to Councilman Zine and indicate we are addressing the issue. It was requested that the wildlife officer Greg Randall be present at the next meeting.

Public Comment

Jeff de la Rosa: Lost a cat to a coyote. Proposed that paintball guns be made available at the shelter for rental.

4. ORAL REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

Public Comment

Jeff de la Rosa: The Board is allowed to comment on speakers. The Brown Act does not preclude this practice.

General Manager Barnette presented the following summary of Department activities to the Board:

- A park may be allocated near the new South Los Angeles Shelter for use by dogs for exercise
- Met with Southern California Veterinary Association on ways both entities can work together
- The Department filled the two (2) Field Operations Supervisor positions that have been vacant for several years. Captain Jan Selder and Mark Salazar were chosen for the positions

5. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Paul Darrigo: Spoke on the RACO program. Has visited the Neighborhood Councils and indicated they are supportive of the program. They are willing to donate funding to the program. Each RACO officer would be required to contribute 16 hours of work per month. Currently there are 30 candidates who are interested in the program. Asked that the item be taken before the Public Safety Committee.

Jeff de la Rosa: Reported that the dog "Stu" is dying. The dog has a tumor. Over a year ago the Board passed a motion that allowed appeals to be overturned. The Department has kept the dog alive. If you are not going to euthanize "Stu", give the dog back. The City Council directed the City Attorney to draft the motion. The Department has included a change to the appeal process that has been tacked onto the original motion. This new change has to be removed and the City Attorney directed to draft the change in the ordinances.

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Public Comment

Jeff de la Rosa: Commented that night meetings are productive and is willing to raise funds necessary for off site meetings. Should have one meeting per month in the community. The Town Hall Meeting was packed.

Commissioner Riordan: Place the RACO program on the agenda, and update on funding

Commissioner Ramsayer: Place a marketing campaign program on the agenda. Requested that a Dog Beach discussion be placed on the agenda.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Next Commission Meeting is scheduled for 10:00 A.M., October 26, 2010, Los Angeles City Hall, Room 1060, 200 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, California 90012.

Commissioner Ramsayer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Riordan seconded the motion and the motion passed 4-0.

The meeting ended at 11:29 am.