

MEETING SUMMARY



BOARD OF ANIMAL SERVICES COMMISSIONERS CITY OF LOS ANGELES

Tuesday, November 8, 2011
10:00 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 Minutes are available at www.laanimalservices.com

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

COMMISSION MEETING

Meeting began at 10:19 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.)

Dan Guss; Commented on the citation.

2. COMMISSION BUSINESS

A. Approval of the Commission Meeting Minutes for October 25, 2011

Approval of the minutes was put over until the next meeting.

B. Election of Commission Officers for 2011-2012.

Election of Officers was postponed to a future meeting due to the absence of two Commissioners.

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

Commissioner Ramsayer: Visited North Central Shelter.

Commissioner Macellaro: Visited West Los Angeles Shelter and attended a meeting of the Friends of Los Angeles Animal Shelter. Also attended a court hearing on feral cats.

3. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Discussion of Citations issued by the Department.

Public Comment

Dan Guss: Commented on citation.

Robert Ferber from the Office of the City Attorney, Office, discussed the request for additional bail for animal offenses. Indicated that most of the effort today is to “get people out of jail”. The bail schedule was increased from \$25 to \$35. Commissioner Riordan asked if we should pursue the Administrative Citation. Mr. Ferber inciated that the City is owed millions of dollars in fines from other administrative citations and has on way to collect. He also commented that the mayor and council are in support of administrative citations.

Officer Fisher, LAPD, said that offenders were being booked under the code section dealing with illegal sales of animals because the bail is higher. The small bail amount increase did nothing to solve the problem. Judges are setting bail for cruelty cases at \$5,000 rather than \$40,000 due to the pressure of not putting people in jail. Commissioner Riordan commented that permitted pet stores are fined and pay the fine, while unlicensed sellers are fined and do not pay. People who have a stake in the community tend to pay the fines. Officer Fisher, LAPD, said that as far as Santee Alley is concerned the sales continue. However, it is becoming more difficult for uniformed officers to catch the sellers of animals. As we get closer to Christmas, the sales activity will increase. Commissioner Secunda asked if Immigration officers can be brought in to focus on the problem;

John Chavez, Assistant-General-Manager, spoke on the signage issue. He indicated that the Depart received an e-mail from Councilwoman Perry’s Office saying that they had met with property owners who look favorable and will allow the Department to post signs in and around Santee Alley. Jim Bickhart, Office of the Mayor, reported that they are progressing in an orderly manner. They have locations and the number of signs to order for the Westside and the fashion district. Other areas of the city, such as Chinatown and Macarthur Park areas, the information is not yet available. Mr. Bickhart said the signs will be multi-lingual. Funds are not budgeted for the signage. Sharing sign space with other issues tends to dilute the message.

Commissioner Riordan said the sign should be coupled with an education campaign. Any suggestions to combat animal sales should be a complete program. Commissioner Ramsayer asked if an effort to follow the sellers of animals was made. Officer Fisher said that through the use of donated time from a private investigator could not pinpoint the location of the breeding locations. Commissioner Riordan asked if there was cooperation between the various counties. It was indicated that LAPD had no program to reach out to other counties.

Lt. William Tranzow testified that a lot of vendors are selling dwarf rabbits and not underage rabbits. The last inspection was within 24 hours of the complaint.

GM Brenda Barnette reported that the Department was working with the council to outlaw the sale of millbred animals throughout the City

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Bob Ferber, said there is a cultural difference between the Department and various segments of the community. There has to be an educational outreach to change the perception of the community. Commissioner Ramsayer suggested that an adoption event should be held in the community with the children to change the perception of the community.

B. Free Vaccinations Clinic

Public Comment

Dan Guss: Keeping comments on the agenda items.

Ms. Barnette reported that the chief Veterinarian reported that an increase in sick animals have been reported at the South Los Angeles Shelter. He requests that he be allowed to do some free vaccination clinics, especially in the South Los Angeles area. This is a technique to increase the health of animals in the area. DAPP and rabies be administered for \$20.00.

C. Meeting Schedule for the Commission

Ross Pool, Management Analyst II reported that meeting rooms are available on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. To hold meetings off site cost approximately \$400 for recording the meeting. Item put off until a future meeting

D. Superior Court Bail schedule for Animal Ordinances.

Meeting Schedule for the Commission

4. GENERAL MANAGER RECOMMENDS FOR BOARD ACTION

None-

5. ORAL REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

General Manager Barnette presented the following to the Commissioners:

- Busy week for animals. Last week, along with Heigl Foundation, had 5,000 animal adoption throughout Southern California.
- Last year we did 250 adoptions. This year we did 371, a 30% increase. All shelters did at least a 10% increase.
- Cut-a-thon by Paul Mitchell raised funds that was donated to the animal.
- November 4th, press conference at East Valley, to kick off adoptions..
- Promotional video for pit bulls called "Out of the Ring".
- Barking Dog ordinance has raised interest, Received calls from newspapers and NPR.
- Shelter visits were at West Los Angeles and West Valley.
- New pictures of animals on website and webbook.
- Judge did not allow the injunction

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Commissioner Riordan: Tutorial on Commission jurisdiction and Roberts Rules of Order.

7. ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting ended at 12:59 PM.

Next Commission Meeting is scheduled for 10:00 A.M December 13, 2011, Los Angeles City Hall, Room 1060, 200 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, California 90012