

MEETING SUMMARY



BOARD OF ANIMAL SERVICES COMMISSIONERS CITY OF LOS ANGELES

Tuesday, November 9, 2010
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 Secunda and Ramsayer were in attendance. Commissioners Riordan, Macellaro, and Khero were absent.

Meeting commenced at 10:43 am. No quorum, therefore no official actions can be taken.

COMMISSION MEETING

1. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD (Item 2 taken out of order)

Kathy Turner- She sent an email to her kennel club to inquire about adopting the South LA Animal Care Center for donations. The AKC heard about it and they are interested in doing something similar. As there are a number of kennel clubs in Southern CA, this is an opportunity to engage people in helping the shelters.

2. DISCUSSION ITEMS (Item 3 taken out of order)

A. Presentation of Information and Discussion with Staff of Strategic Goals for the Department

General Manager Barnette read the Department's Mission and Vision statements for the Department and presented a PowerPoint presentation regarding the background of LA Animal Services, the responsibilities of the Department according to the Municipal Code and City Charter, organizational chart, an overview of statistics, the Maddie's Fund and Shelter Pet Project, to provide a framework for the discussion.

Commissioner Riordan arrived at 11:05 am. There is a quorum.

A brainstorming session ensued under the categories Save Lives, Stop Cruelty, and Spay/Neuter:

SAVE LIVES

- Volunteer Program
 - strengthen and expand
 - use volunteers to promote licensing and microchipping in neighborhoods

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- make volunteers “Ambassadors”
 - capitalize on skills and contacts of the volunteers
- Licensing
 - Develop innovative licensing program
 - Ombudsman Licensing Reform
 - on-line licensing
 - allow vets and pet stores to sell licenses
 - provisional license for underage dogs
- Reduce intake/ Increase adoptions
 - Adoption Counseling
 - Relinquishment Counseling
 - Work with animal trainers and have training days at the Care Centers
 - Increase mobile adoption sites
 - provide tax incentives to rescue animals
 - provide training handouts in adoption packets
 - continue and grow partnerships for animal transports
 - Socialize cats in the Care Centers – more play areas
 - Play educational DVDs in the Care Center lobbies
 - Open evening hours at Care Centers
- Community Outreach
 - Partnerships with community groups and businesses to “sponsor” a Care Center
 - Hold animal related events at the Care Centers – make them a destination
 - Community tours of Care Centers
 - Work with churches on outreach
- PR/Marketing
 - Improve website navigation
 - PSAs
 - make adopters “goodwill ambassadors”
 - make videos of “happy” adoption stories
- Donations
 - focus on donations of goods and services
 - get proceeds from pet food & celebrity sponsorship campaigns (ie. Rachael Ray, Pedigree)
 - Create 501 (c)3
- Organizational Accountability
 - Suggestion Box
 - Improve Customer Service and relations
 - Review existing laws and codes – are they still relevant?

STOP CRUELTY

- Crack down on illegal and backyard breeding
- Santee Alley
- Education
 - puppy mills
 - K-12 curriculum

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- Clarify codes
- Work more closely with LAPD
- Admin citation program
- Review breeding loopholes
- Address dog fighting

SPAY AND NEUTER

- S/N every animal that comes into the Care Centers
- S/N before mobile adoption
- Give more funds to community S/N

Commissioner Riordan left the meeting at 1:28 pm and returned at 1:31 pm.

3. GENERAL MANAGER RECOMMENDS FOR BOARD ACTION (Item 1 taken out of order)

A. Modifications on Recommendations to Increase Limits on Cats from Three to Five (Indoors).

That the Board request that the Mayor, and subsequently the City Council, direct the City Attorney, when preparing the ordinance amending the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) Section 53.00 Definitions, to provide that Cat Kennel is defined as six or more cats and Dog Kennel is six or more dogs, to:

1. Further specify that only three cats are permitted on a premises unless if more than three cats up to a maximum of five are all owned cats and are all kept indoors at all times;
2. To exclude feral cats; and,
3. To defer an exemption for animals in foster care under this proposal.

Public Comment

Phyllis Daugherty – She stated that there are glaring errors in the ordinance. She feels that home owners should provide proof of S/N is they have 5 or more cats. There should be cat licensing.

Commissioner Ramsayer made a motion to approve the General Manager's recommendation as stated. Commissioner Secunda seconded the motion and the motion passed 3-0.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Ramsayer made a motion to adjourn and Commissioner Secunda seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

The Commission meeting ended at 1:42 pm

There is no Commission Meeting on November 23, 2010.

The next Commission Meeting is scheduled for 10:00 A.M., December 14, 2010, Los Angeles City Hall, Room 1060, 200 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, California 90012.