

MEETING SUMMARY



BOARD OF ANIMAL SERVICES COMMISSIONERS CITY OF LOS ANGELES

Tuesday, July 26, 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, Macellaro, and Khero were in attendance. Commissioners Riordan, and Secunda were absent.

Appeal Hearing commenced at 10:25 am.

ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL HEARING

A. Dangerous Animal Revocation Case Number: DA 103139 EV

Appellant: Marvin Hildenbrandt and Isabella Metz

Complaining Witness: Mary Lehr

Field Operations Supervisor, East Valley Animal Care Center, Lt. Troy Boswell

Hearing Coordinator, Department of Animal Services, Ross Pool, Management Analyst II

Commissioner Riordan arrived at 10:49am.

Commissioner Ramsayer made a motion to modify the General Manager's decision and deny the license for the male dog and to allow the owners to keep the female dog with Terms and Conditions. The male dog is to be returned to Westside German Shepherd Rescue. Commissioner Macellaro seconded the motion. Motion passed 3 – 1 abstention.

B. Dangerous Animal Case Number: DA 10397 EV

Appellant: Melanie Leist and Henry ford

Complaining Witness: Judy Canterbury

Field Operations Supervisor, North Central Animal Care Center, Lt. William Tranzow

Hearing Coordinator, Department of Animal Services, Ross Pool, Management Analyst II

Commissioner Khero left the meeting at 10:53am and returned at 10:56am.

Item continued to September 13, 2011 meeting. No action taken.

COMMISSION MEETING

Commission meeting started at 11:36am.

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.)

None.

2. COMMISSION BUSINESS

A. Approval of the Commission Meeting Minutes for May 10, and June 28, 2011

Commissioner Ramsayer made a motion to approve the May 10, 2011 minutes with changes. Commissioner Riordan seconded the motion and the motion passed 4-0.

Commissioner Macellaro made a motion to approve the June 28, 2011 minutes and Commissioner Ramsayer seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

B. Oral Report by the Commissioners on Meetings and Events attended Board of Animal Services Commission Meeting

None of the Commissioners had anything to report.

3. DISCUSSION ITEMS

None.

4. GENERAL MANAGER RECOMMENDS FOR BOARD ACTION

None.

5. ORAL REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

General Manager Barnette presented the following report to the Commissioners:

STAFFING remains our primary concern:

- **RVTs**– Due to attrition, we are short 5 full time RVTs. Additionally, we have 2 RVTs that are on long term leave; one is not expected back the balance of this calendar year. We were approved for two RVTs who can each work part-time. However, our full-time RVT's have been impacted by the furloughs. We have gone back to Managed Hiring and asked for approval to hire additional part-time RVTs.
- **ACTs** – Due to attrition, we are short 3 ACT positions. We have applied to Managed Hiring for permission to hire 3 ACTs and are awaiting their decision. NOTE: We have approximately 11 ACTs off duty on Worker's Comp injuries, FMLA or Admin Leave, plus another 7 on light duty due to injuries.

- **ACOs** – We are short 1 ACO I position and 2 ACO II positions. We have applied to Managed Hiring for permission to hire and are awaiting their decision. NOTE: We have an additional 3 ACOs off duty on Worker's Comp injuries.
- We have 5 currently out on Administrative Leave.
- We have been given permission to fill the AGM vacancy that resulted from the resignation of Kathy Davis. There is a new list that has been certified for Chief Management Analyst which is one pay grade below the AGM. We are going to interview candidates from that list first to see if we can fill that position with someone who is experienced with budgeting and City Council.
- We are getting amazing support from the Mayor, City Personnel, Managed Hiring and the CAO's office.

Controller Wendy Greuel announced that her office will audit Animal Services. You may remember that I asked her to audit the Department not long after I started work and she did not have time then so we are grateful for her help now. Their investigation will be divided into two main areas:

1. Systems, accountability and efficiency throughout the department.
2. Alleged time card fraud.

In addition to the new audit, we are getting ongoing and significant help from City Personnel, Public Works, the Mayor, CAO and LAPD. We are putting together a plan that will allow us to refill positions as they are vacated which is critical.

Tranquilizer Guns: We are looking into a broader use of tranquilizer guns in the field.

Case of dogs being poisoned in Encino: Department suggests that people be observant in their neighborhood.

No More Homeless Pets LA will be launched in the next few weeks. I have been meeting monthly or more with a group of LA rescues headed by one of Best Friends founders Francis Battista. Among other features, Best Friends will be offering financial incentives to rescues for the animals that they pull and place over their baseline for previous years.

Elephant Vet: For the very first time we voluntarily included an independent veterinarian in our mandatory circus animal inspection.

Dr. Martin was provided with full access to information provided by PETA and Ringling Bros. as well as video recordings made by PETA and by a member of our staff.

We are committed to making sure L.A. Animal Services develops a rigorous inspection protocol that can be implemented for any future performing animal permittee in the future. We are reviewing USDA guidelines and the

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recommendations of PETA and others regarding how best to do so. A number of our Animal Control and permit officers recently took PETA's training on conducting performing animal inspections, and we will be assembling a list of veterinarians who can be available to participate in such inspections.

An additional goal of Animal Services is to clearly understand what the scope of our authority is in these inspections and to exercise it both firmly and fairly on behalf of the health and well-being of the animals involved. It is my understanding that the USDA's authority pre-empts ours in the matter of the condition of the animals unless we directly observe animals being mistreated or can gather credible evidence that it has taken place within our jurisdiction.

My staff and I are working to be as prepared as possible to conduct these inspections to the best of our ability and take whatever actions available to us to protect the performing animals that visit the city.

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Commissioner Riordan requested:

- A report on the findings of both the independent elephant vet and Ringling Bros. vet
- A report on staffing issues
- A report on the mobile adoptions, including the number of animals adopted at the mobiles.
- A statement from the City Attorney's office on the City's position on anti-coagulant poisons for home use.

Commissioner Ramsayer requested an update on increasing the bail amount for illegal animal sales from May 10, 2011 meeting.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Ramsayer made a motion to adjourn in honor of Commissioner Secunda's dog Sadie. Commissioner Khoro seconded the motion and the motion passed 4-0.

Meeting ended at 11:58am.

Next meeting is scheduled for August 9, 2011.