

## MEETING SUMMARY



### BOARD OF ANIMAL SERVICES COMMISSIONERS CITY OF LOS ANGELES

Tuesday, July 27, 2010  
10:00 AM



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

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Melanie Ramsayer, President  
Irene Ponce, Vice-President  
Tariq Khero  
Kathleen Riordan  
Ruthanne Secunda

**mp3 Minutes are available at [www.laanimalservices.com](http://www.laanimalservices.com)**

Commissioners Ponce, Riordan, and Secunda were in attendance. Commissioners Ramsayer and Khero were absent.

Meeting started at 10:20 am.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL**

#### **1. ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL HEARING**

A. Barking Dog Revocation Case Number: BD 093128 WV

Appellant: Cesar Gomez and Margarita Esturban

Complaining Witness: Paulina Frias

Field Operations Supervisor, West Valley Animal Care Center, Lt. Susan Botta

Hearing Coordinator, Department of Animal Services, Ross Pool, Mgmt. Analyst II

Commissioner Riordan made a motion to reissue the license and continue the Terms and Conditions with the additional conditions that the dog attend an additional bark cessation training session and that an Animal Control Officer visit the residence to ensure that the Terms and Conditions are being followed. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Secunda and passed 3-0.

### **COMMISSION MEETING**

The regular meeting commenced at 10:52 am.

#### **1. COMMISSION BUSINESS**

A. Annual Election of Commission Officers for 2010-2011

Commissioner Ponce proposed that this item be tabled until the next meeting.  
Commissioner Riordan made a motion to table the item and Commissioner Secunda seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

B. Approval of the Commission Meeting Minutes for July 13, 2010

Item held over

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

Commissioner Riordan assisted with a number of rescues and helped people find pet friendly housing. She also visited the Colorado State University Veterinary Teaching Hospital and was impressed.

Commissioner Ponce attended the Patterns for Paws fundraiser hosted by the Amanda Foundation at the Pacific Design Center on July 14, 2010.

Commissioner Secunda ran the Much Love Animal Rescue weekend adoption event in Venice.

**2. GENERAL MANAGER RECOMMENDS FOR BOARD ACTION**

A. None

**3. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**A. Fund Raising (Continued from the February 9th, February 23rd, March 23rd, April 27th, and May 11, May 25 and June 22, and July 13, 2010, Commission Meetings)**

Discussion and input from the public on effective and efficient ideas for raising money to supplement funding for Department core responsibilities of greatest financial need, and direction to staff relative to ideas presented.

Interim GM Davis reported that Hartz Mountain is donating to each of the six Animal Care Centers 1000 packs of Natural Meat treats and 16,000 individual dog biscuits. Bayer will not be donating flea medication at this time as they need more time to discuss the proposal with their marketing and pr departments; however they left the door open for a donation in the near future.

Commissioner Secunda requested that the Department provide a grant and donation tracking sheet including the names of people/companies that have been approached for donations, the amount requested, and the response/status.

Commissioner Riordan would like to further discuss starting a 501 (c) 3 as well as how often the Department is distributing "good news" press releases to inspire donations.

**B. Report and discussion of Activity Statistics for Animal Control Officers, by shelters for Fiscal Year 2009-10.**

Two charts were distributed to the Commission giving a bird's eye perspective of what Officer activities go on at the Centers.

The RACO (Reserve Animal Control Officer) Program will begin in November. Training will last six months. A portion of the \$135,000 bequest is being used to fund the training and equipment for the program.

Commissioners agreed to review the material and come back with any further questions at a later date.

Commissioner Riordan requested a report on the number of cases that the City wins and the number of cases that are filed.

#### Public Comment

Phyllis Daugharty – She asked if the Department was making any progress on Administrative Citations.

#### **4. ORAL REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER**

- On July 11, 2010, LAPD officers responded to a domestic disturbance call and encountered an animal cruelty case. The man had choked and stabbed his mother's cat. The officers arrested the suspect for animal cruelty and called our officers. Unfortunately, the cat died at the scene. Our officers transported the cat's body for a necropsy exam. Our Veterinarian examined the cat's body and found that one eye was also missing in addition to the multiple stab wounds. The DA filed one count of animal cruelty and one weapons enhancement for the use of a knife in the crime. Our staff was commended for carefully and properly collecting and preserving evidence and for preparing a diligent medical report, which is paramount to filing a case.
- Due to complaints in the Harbor area, Officers conducted a Special Enforcement Day. Initially, letters were sent out to more than 140 auto salvage yards advising them of the complaints alleging loose dogs and reminding them of the pertinent ordinances. On July 15, one ACO from each District along with 3 Port Police Officers converged on Wilmington and inspected auto salvage yards. At the end of the day, 9 dogs were impounded and 2 citations were written. A second Special Enforcement Day is being planned.
- Following our enforcement activities at Hansen Dam, staff held a microchip clinic. We sold 77 microchips, 75 equine licenses and 4 dog licenses.
- Last week, we held our July Discount Adoption Event. We adopted a total of 556 pets. While this number fell a little short of last year's number, it was still great seeing a terrific number of pets go home.
- As a reminder, Clinico will have a grand opening celebration on Saturday, August 21, at East Valley. As mentioned, they are already open for business and traffic into their facility looks good! Their celebration will also host a vaccination clinic that will give away 400 free microchips.
- Our pets and our staff are thrilled to share with you that Hartz Mountain is donating 1,000 packages of natural meat treats and 16,000 individual dog biscuits to each of our six Centers.
- We are pressing forward following the passage of AB2689. Yesterday, we reported to The Public Safety Committee that we are working in conjunction with the City Attorney on ordinance amendments that will pave the way for expanded online licensing. In May 2009, we launched online licensing. However, due to the state law requiring vet signed rabies certificate prior to a license being issued, online licensing was available only to those who were in mid stream of a 3 year rabies certificate. As you may recall, AB2689

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removed the obstacle of receiving vet signed rabies certificates prior to issuing a license. Now we're working on amending our local ordinance to recognize those changes. Our internal IT staff has been working on the further refinements to our online licensing system, which includes finalizing the information and fields that the Department will require to verify rabies compliance, beta testing, adding server capacity to meet our hoped-for demand and developing a nightly automated upload of information from the on-line system to the Chameleon database. We expect that they will complete in September – which is our hope for passage of the ordinance amendments.

- For the Fiscal Year just ended, we were fortunate to reap the benefit of rewards from a total of 1,497 volunteers who contributed 72,640 hours of service. (Please keep in mind that those numbers do not include our Court Referral or Community Service hours.)
- We have cemented a transport relationship with North Shore Animal League in New York. They have committed to taking 60 dogs each month from our Centers. The transportation costs will be donated by North Shore and the Heigl Foundation for the first transport slated in late August. We have also applied for a grant to the Petco Foundation for 60 carriers and water dishes. As you may know, we now have transport relationships with 6 humane agencies in the states of Washington, Arizona, Maine and California. North Shore brings us to 7. We are working on a few more. Since January, we've transported 873 pets.

**5. 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.)

Phyllis Daugharty – The CDC announced there is an alarming increase in the numbers of dog attacks this year.

## **6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Commissioner Riordan requested a discussion about the participant shelter program and the costs associated.

Commissioner Secunda requested the aforementioned grant/donation tracking sheet and a list of the places that the Department has the transport partnerships with and what types of animals each is willing to take.

Commissioner Ponce requested that the Department hold a town hall meeting with staff and volunteers to discuss their issues and concerns with Dr. Phil involved from a psychological standpoint as a moderator/intermediary to help the staff and volunteers understand how each feel about the animals.

## **7. ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting ended at 11:36 am.

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