

MEETING SUMMARY



BOARD OF ANIMAL SERVICES COMMISSIONERS CITY OF LOS ANGELES

Tuesday, August 23, 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 Riordan were in attendance. Commissioners Khero and Secunda were absent.

COMMISSION MEETING

Meeting began at 10:15 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.)

None

2. COMMISSION BUSINESS

A. Approval of the Commission Meeting Minutes for August 9, 2011

Commissioner Macellaro made a motion to approve the minutes with changes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Riordan and approved 3-0

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

Commissioner Macellaro visited the West Valley Animal Care Shelter and the mobile adoption at Unleashed by Petco on August 13, 2011.

Commissioner Ramsayer visited the South LA Animal Care Shelter with Commissioner Secunda and pulled 2 dogs and 7 kittens on August 9, 2011.

Commissioner Riordan attended the City Council Meeting where her appointment to the Board of Animal Services Commission was re-approved for another term.

3. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Five year History of Spay and Neuter funding and use of coupons

General Manager Barnette made a presentation regarding the historical count and costs for the Department's S/N Programs to the Commission and a discussion about the voucher program ensued.

Commissioner Secunda arrived at 10:20 am.

B. Tracking of registered microchips

Commissioner Riordan made a presentation to the Commission and a discussion about the Department's microchip program ensued.

4. GENERAL MANAGER RECOMMENDS FOR BOARD ACTION

None

5. ORAL REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

General Manager Barnette presented the following to the Commissioners:

- Presentation of Shelter Staffing information as of 8-19-11;
- Clarification regarding \$500 civil penalty on the owner if a dog owner fails to obtain a license on the expiration of a 45 day compliance period following expiration of the license that was brought up at the Public Safety Committee. The decision to assess the \$500 civil penalty rests with the courts as well as decisions regarding the form amount and selection of the recipient of restitution payments. The Department continues to impose the civil penalty and has issued an average of 282 citations per year since record keeping began in 2004. In the years prior to 2008, the Department enforced the \$500 penalty exclusively by going through the City Attorney's Office to adjudicate the violations in the courts. Citations issued: FY2004/05 – 149, FY2005/06 – 257, FY2006/07 – 292, FY2007/08 – 338, FY 2008/09 – 402, FY2009/10 – 305, and FY2010/11 – 232. The recommendation to change the fees came from the City Administrative Office (CAO) to fit in with the new administrative citation. The new fees proposed are: \$250 for the 1st offense, \$500 for the 2nd offense, and \$1000 for the 3rd offence. The ordinance change will go before City Council after the recess. There will be a new way to collect the fees through a City contracted collection agency.
- The Jason Debus Heigl Foundation is no longer subsidizing the S/N fee for New Hope adoptions. Two other groups have expressed interest in subsidizing this program.
- No More Homeless Pets LA, funded by Best Friends, will offer our New Hope partners \$100 for every animal that is adopted and placed (with proof of adoption verification) over and above their threshold from the previous year.
- The City Council approved Best Friends to run the Northeast Animal Care Shelter for a term of 3 years with 2 optional 1 year renewals. The Department has already vacated the shelter and a final agreement is being completed. The Department will continue to service the area with Animal Control Officers and may have Officers stationed at the shelter. Best Friends will select all of their animals from LA Animal Services and will allow the Department to use the shelter during emergencies and for staging transports.

Best Friends will open the S/N clinic and provide 6000 S/N surgeries in the first year.

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Commissioner Riordan requested:

- An easy to identify field that can be added to Chameleon records to assist in tracking unregistered and previously registered microchips;
- Fee study on the cost to re-register microchips from the various microchip providers.

Commissioner Ramsayer requested:

- A report on the hold period for stray animals and the practice at each shelter;
- The General Manager's Monthly Report on euthanasia;
- A report regarding when a person is charged for an animal-related crime and they have plead guilty and/or they have been convicted, what the policy is for disseminating that information to the public;
- Follow-up presentation by Commander Smith and City Attorney from the meeting in May 2011 about the illegal sales of animals and prosecutions.

7. ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting ended at 12:14pm

Next Commission Meeting is scheduled for 10:00 A.M September13, 2011, Los Angeles City Hall, Room 1060, 200 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, California 90012