

MEETING SUMMARY



BOARD OF ANIMAL SERVICES COMMISSIONERS CITY OF LOS ANGELES

Monday August 24, 2009
7:00 P.M.



**NORTH CENTRAL ANIMAL CARE CENTER
3201 LACY STREET
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90031**

Tariq Khoro, President
Kathleen Riordan, Vice-President
Irene Ponce
Ruthanne Secunda

mp3 Minutes available at www.laanimalservices.com

The meeting was called to order at 7:17 pm. Commissioners Secunda, Khoro, and Riordan were present.

COMMISSION MEETING

1. ORAL REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

- The Discount Adoption Days resulted in 445 adoptions, which is an increase of 119 adoptions over the same period last year. Our New Hope adoptions were also up 20 over the same period.
- The Department conducted an emergency preparedness exercise at Hanson Dam on August 19, 2009. Over the past several months, we have been training additional staff on emergency preparedness to bring in a wider range of employees.
- In July, the Department began a partnership with Santa Cruz SPCA and transferred 23 dogs to them from East Valley. Volunteers selected and transported the dogs. Within a week, almost all of the dogs had been adopted and on August 21, 2009, they accepted another 12 dogs from North Central.
- Last week at North Central, 5 professional dog trainers selected 60 dogs from the kennels and spent time teaching them basic obedience commands. The Department credits their work with directly influencing 19 adoptions that week.
- The Department received word from the City Attorney's office that they have approved the draft of the rooster ordinance and it is now moving to the City Clerks office and should be heard by Council following their recess.
- As requested, following is a brief summary regarding transferring animals between Animal Care Centers. Since January 2009, the Department has transferred 4037 animals, compared to 3540 during the same period last year. East Valley and South LA are two top centers for transferring out animals, while West LA and West Valley are two top centers for receiving animals. We focus on animals that have been in the Centers two or more weeks and need the most help getting adopted.

Public Comment

Phyllis Daugharty – Concerned that there is no sustainability for shelters if they are cut off during an emergency. The Santa Monica shelter has a new Center Manager – LAAS needs to establish a relationship with them and transfer some of our animals to them.

Commissioner Riordan asked for a proposed budget to equip emergency staff with safety gear.

2. COMMISSION BUSINESS

A. Approval of the Commission Meeting Minutes for May 11, May 26, and July 13, 2009.

Commissioner Khero made a motion to approve the minutes and Commissioner Secunda seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

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

Commissioners Khero and Riordan had nothing to report.

Commissioner Secunda attended adoption events for Much Love and the Bow Wow adoption event on 8/22/09.

3. GENERAL MANAGER RECOMMENDS FOR BOARD ACTION

A. City Efforts to Control Illegal Sales of Animals

That the Board instruct the Department of Animal Services, in conjunction with the Los Angeles Police Department, the City Attorney, City elected officials, other appropriate public agencies and members of the public, to continue and expand enforcement, publicity, and education efforts relative to illegal animal sales consistent with the principles and activities described in the report and consistent with budgetary constraints, and to report back in 180 days as to progress as of that date. Appearances by LAPD and other Illegal Animal Sales Task Force participants.

Jim Bickhart, Office of the Mayor, helped to form a task force in the fall of 2007 with the help of GM Boks, Captain Bowers, Lt. Boswell, LAAS, LAPD, City Attorney, District Attorney, Department of Public Health, the Fashion District Business Improvement, and representatives of Councilmembers Perry and Reyes in response to complaints received. Mr. Bickhart introduced the speakers. The blogdowntown.com wrote an article this week about this subject.

Cpt. Bower – Introduced Officer Weekly who gave a presentation on enforcement activity and illegal animal sales in the Santee Alley district. He stated that they have to get ID to issue a citation and most people do not carry ID to get around the fines. There are also a lot of children selling animals in Santee Alley. All animals are confiscated from juveniles and anything that requires a permit or turtles are taken from adults. The Fine is only \$25 for street vending (53.42).

Officer Tracy Fisher – LAPD Central District. The Bureau of Street Services helps LAPD with enforcement in Santee Alley. She stated that the district is controlled by a one family animal cartel. The bail for sidewalk selling is \$100. Officers need training in recognizing animal neglect, etc. Need to find out the source of the animals.

Dr. Beeler, DVM – LA County Veterinarian of Public Health. She gave a presentation on illegally imported animals.

Dr. Reporter, MD, MPH – She gave a presentation on salmonella and turtles.

Public Comment

Phyllis Daugharty – She suggested approaching anyone with tenants to educate them and include restrictions in rental agreements. Cite business property owners to help correct and confiscate vehicles bringing in animals.

Sue Taylor – Thanked the Commission for facilitating an informative presentation. She suggested giving informative flyers to the Explorer Scouts to hand out and installing street cameras to catch the cartel in action.

Allison – With Bunny World. Questioned how the confiscated animals will be handles and whether there will be any funds for rescuers. Also suggested a bottle baby program for rabbits.

Katrina Nabialoryk– She wanted to know how to get Jan Perry's attention regarding the problem and asked the Commission if they would participate in interviews for a documentary.

Lejla Hadz Muratovic – She stated that we need to stop the sale of rabbits and stop the cartel.

Commissioner Khoro made a motion that the Board instruct the Department of Animal Services, in conjunction with the Los Angeles Police Department, the City Attorney, City elected officials, other appropriate public agencies and members of the public, to continue and expand enforcement, publicity, and education efforts relative to illegal animal sales consistent with the principles and activities described in the report and consistent with budgetary constraints, and to report back in 180 days as to progress as of that date. Commissioner Secunda seconded the motion and the motion passed 3-0.

4. DISCUSSION ITEMS

None

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.)

Lisa Edmondson – She is concerned about the fee increase for rabbits and the drop to \$16 for already S/N rabbits.

Dave Moscovitz – Concerned about \$16 adoption fee for already S/N rabbits.

Pam Wilkes – Wants to see a return to a flat adoption fee for rabbits and to exclude them from special adoption events. She thanked the West LA Animal Care Center for 100% rabbit adoption rate.

Michelle Kelly – Wants to return to the flat adoption rate for rabbits. In the meantime, she would like an increased care fee attached to the adoption fee to bring up the cost. She wants to exclude rabbits from special adoption events.

Elizabeth Rizzo – She stated that rabbits require special care. LAAS needs to enforce flat adoption fee and no discounts.

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

A. Requests from Commissioners for future Agenda Items.

Commissioner Riordan requested a report on the revenue that has been lost to the City as a result of illegal animal sales and a breakdown on animal cruelty.

Commissioner Khoro requested that the issue of rabbit adoption fees be agendaized.

7. ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:37 pm.

Next Commission Meeting is scheduled at City Hall for 10:00 A.M., September 14, 2009. It will be an all appeal meeting.