

MEETING SUMMARY



BOARD OF ANIMAL SERVICES COMMISSIONERS CITY OF LOS ANGELES

Tuesday, August 10, 2010
10:00 AM



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

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

mp3 Minutes are available at www.laanimalservices.com

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

Meeting started at 10:06 am.

COMMISSION MEETING

1. COMMISSION BUSINESS

A. Annual Election of Commission Officers for 2010-2011

Commissioner Ponce made a motion to hold this item and Commissioner Ramsayer seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0

B. Approval of the Commission Meeting Minutes for July 13 and July 27, 2010

Commissioner Ponce made a motion to approve the July 13th minutes and Commissioner Khero seconded the motion. The motion passed 3 -1 abstention.

Commissioner Khero made a motion to approve the July 27th minutes pending the correction made by Commissioner Riordan. Commissioner Riordan seconded the motion and the motion passed 3 – 1 abstention.

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

Commissioners Riordan, Khero, and Ramsayer had nothing to report.

Commissioner Ponce attended Dog days on July 15th at the Downtown Cathedral

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, July 13, and July 27, 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.

AGM Barth reported that the Department is continuing to work with the Banfield Animal Hospital people who donated flea treatment. They will have six months at the West LA and six month at the West Valley animal Care Centers as part of their sponsorship package.

The Department also is working with foundations to fund the transfer of animals to the North Shore Animal League and working with organizations to do some enhanced and expanded humane animal education in local schools.

There was a discussion regarding clarification of in-kind donation value limits and the probability of developing a 501 (c) 3.

B. Spay/Neuter Activity – Status Report on Implementation of Recommendations by the Spay and Neuter Advisory Committee.

AGM Barth presented a report to look at the progress that has been made since the Recommendations by the Spay and Neuter Advisory Committee were presented one year ago. This report is meant to be a launching point to see what has been accomplished and what the Board would like to focus on going forward.

Commissioner Riordan requested a breakdown on the in-house S/N surgeries including sex, animal type, and pregnant spays if possible, and how many S/Ns are euthanized because of post-surgical complications.

Commissioners Riordan and Ramsayer would like a discussion about the voucher program and the vets that have dropped out of the program. AGM Barth stated that there is a report forthcoming in September related to contract issues and a demonstration of the new voucher program.

Commissioner Ramsayer would like to explore ways to increase community outreach by utilizing volunteers.

Public Comment

Phyllis Daugharty – Thanked Laura Beth Heisen and the Spay/Neuter Advisory Committee for their work.

C. Report on Expenditures from the Animal Welfare Trust Fund 859 for the 2009- 2010 Fiscal Year

Commissioner Riordan requested a list of donations to the Animal Welfare Trust Fund and updates on a regular basis. She also requested a breakdown of the Fund 331 account expenditures.

4. ORAL REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

AGM Barth presented the GM report in Interim GM Davis' absence. Of additional note, the Department had the highest impound numbers in the month of July 2010 in the history of the past five years – 6061 animals; neonates were up 200 from last year. However, the adoptions were the second highest of the past five years, surpassed only by December 2009, with 2035 adoptions. We will continue to monitor the trends.

Commissioner Riordan would like to know how many of the animals brought in by the Animal Control Officers have been abandoned at foreclosed homes.

An Annual Report for the Department of Animal Services 2009-2010 that includes a recap of expenditures was provided to the Board.

Commissioner Ramsayer suggested that the Board read and digest the report and return with questions.

Commissioner Riordan requested a report on how many adopted animals are returned and what breeds are being returned.

Following is the GM Report prepared for the Board by Interim GM Davis:

- We were successful in gaining donations for flea and tick medications. Banfield is donating 7,000 doses (Vectra), which has a retail value of approximately \$84,000. Bayer is talking to us about a possible donation. I'd like to thank Linda Barth for drafting the attention getting promotional marketing, Dr. Prupas who pleaded our cause with the companies, and Dov Lesel for assisting us by mapping out the parameters for a sellable approach.
- Monetary donations reached a record level for FY09-10. In FY08-09, we received \$125,171. In the FY just ended, we received \$511,170. This does not count the in-kind donations.
- Our Relief Vets came on board last week at our North Central Center. They are busy performing pre-adoption sterilization surgeries two days a week. Shortly, it will be three days a week. We look forward to bringing you updates on their progress as they ramp up on this program. Their work will add to our in-house surgeries. In the first six months of this year, our vets have performed 1,046 pre-adoption sterilization surgeries.
- Deputy City Attorney Kassandra Perez was able to obtain a guilty plea on a cockfighting case, which had been expected to go to trial. The defendant was sentenced to 36 months probation, 24 animal cruelty classes, \$300 restitution to LAAS, prohibits him from owning or possessing any roosters, any implements commonly known as gaffs, slashers, crates, pens, antiseptic related to cockfighting, and cockfighting pits on any property he owns or is under his control.
- Staff worked with LAPD at Hansen Dam Recreation Area for a Sting Operation on Sunday, June 27, 2010. Several horse riders were showing up drinking, riding

intoxicated and running their horses around the park causing accidents and general mayhem. We issued 2 cites, collected 13 licenses, removed 2 vendors for not having a permit and impounded 2 horses for cruelty/neglect.

- Found Animals Foundation generously provided banners for each of our Animal Care Centers, along with the installation costs to assist in making our buildings more prominent as well as to promote adoptions. The banners have been installed and look amazing! They are also generously donating way finding signs that should be available and installed in the near future. (A picture of two of the banners is in your binders.)
- This is the time of year when our kennels and cages are extremely full. Fortunately, last week, we sent 62 dogs to Seattle Humane Society and another 55 to Pallyup, Washington.
- Our Summer Buddies second cat promotion is in full swing, sponsored by Found Animals Foundation. Since it began on June 20, 87 pairs of cats have been adopted.
- Good News! AB 2689, the bill that facilitates online dog licensing, has been signed by the Governor. This new law had an urgency clause and is now in effect.
- Great News! Clinico is now open for business at our East Valley Center. They began doing our pets on Sunday and will be taking the public's pets beginning today. This clinic is severely needed to combat the high number of intakes from the surrounding neighborhood. We expect to see a huge volume of pets coming through their doors. There will be a grand opening celebration on August 21, 2010.

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 - There is a huge industry that is breeding animals for fighting. Breeding for fighting needs to be added to State and Local laws. Truck of pit bulls was intercepted by SEACCA yesterday headed for Tijuana for fighting. The City should explore Santa Monica's new ordinance requiring cats to be kept indoors. She is disappointed that No Kill leaders are putting out negative information about mandatory spay/neuter.

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Commissioner Riordan requested a report in the SEACCA raid on the warehouse one year ago – how many of the animals came from LAAS Care Centers and other groups.

Commissioner Ponce informed the Board that Dan Giordionelli would be performing a Shamanic blessing at the South LA Animal Care Center on 9/11-12. In addition, Barcelona LA is working with Paul Mitchell to put together a dog wash and hand out free samples of Paul Mitchell Pet in conjunction with a possible mobile adoption. She also requested that the Department stage more mobile adoptions in the downtown loft districts.

Commissioner Ramsayer would like to:

- follow up on and prioritize the grant tracking sheet;
- receive an update on the voucher program and which vets we still owe money;
- request an update on the instituted kennel standards, including how it was received, has there been any follow up, have there been any problems, has it been effective?
- request an update on Santee Alley;
- request a discussion item about how we can address backyard breeding, including what has been done in the past and what we can do going forward and what we can do in

terms of enforcement including tracking the breeders that advertise in the LA Times, etc; and

- request monthly updates on euthanasia statistics, including how long we keep the animals.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Ramsayer made a motion to adjourn in the memory of Mr. Kingston George and Commissioner Riordan seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

The meeting ended at 11:39am.

Next Commission Meeting is scheduled for 10:00 A.M., August 27, 2010, Los Angeles City Hall, Room 1060, 200 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, California 90012.