

MEETING SUMMARY



BOARD OF ANIMAL SERVICES COMMISSIONERS CITY OF LOS ANGELES

Tuesday, September 13, 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.

COMMISSION MEETING

Meeting began at 10:19 am.

1. ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL HEARING

- A. Barking Dog Case Number: BD 11316 EV
Appellant: Colette Barris
Complaining Witness: Larry Toth
Field Operations Supervisor, East Valley Animal Care Center, Lt. Troy Boswell

Commissioner Macellaro made a motion to overturn the General Manager's decision and dismiss the case due to lack of due process. Commissioner Khero seconded the motion. Motion passed 3 – 0.

- B. Barking Dog Case Number: BD 103137 WL
Appellant: Wossenyelesh Tesfa
Complaining Witness: Bernard Fischler
Field Operations Supervisor, West Los Angeles Animal Care Center, Lt. Jesse Castillo

Commissioner Macellaro made a motion to overturn the General Manager's decision and dismiss the case due to lack of due process. Commissioner Ramsayer seconded the motion. Motion passed 3 – 0.

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.)

- A. Phyllis Daugherty: Discussed banners that have been hung at shelters and requested information on the process that was used to design the banners.
- B. Dan Guss: Commented on a citation issued to Commissioner Secunda. Also alleged retaliation against him regarding D-300 forms.

2. COMMISSION BUSINESS

A. Approval of the Commission Meeting Minutes for August 23, 2011

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

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

Commissioner Macellaro visited the West Los Angeles Animal Care Shelter and a meeting of the Friends of Los Angeles Animal Shelters.

3. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. Oral report and discussion on Omnibus Licensing Ordinance and Citations.

Assistant City Attorney Dov Lesel outlined the process and timeline required for the Omnibus Licensing Ordinance to become law. Mr. Lesel indicated a second reading would occur on September 16, 2011. After the reading and amendments to the ordinance, the bill will be completed by the Office of the City Attorney. Commissioner Ramsayer, using a recent citation example, highlighted problems with the issuance of citations and the procedure used to track and respond to the legal procedures. She asked for a report on the process used to issue and track citations.

Public Comment

Amiee Gilbreath: Commented that she was very excited about the Omnibus Ordinance.

Dan Guss: Presented information on citations that were not acted upon nor had any follow through.

- B. Discussion regarding new sources of funding to assist New Hope Partners.

General Manager Brenda Barnette commented on the need to replace funding from the Heigl Foundation, whose donations recently expired. The Found Animal Foundation is sponsoring a 2 for 1 cat adoption. In addition, the Department is researching additional sources of funding and believes that outside funding sources should be a priority. The General Manager suggested that the City Council be asked to waive adoption fees as it is less expensive to adopt animals out to the public than pay for care and maintenance for the animals.

Public Comment

Dan Guss: Spoke on the loss of Heigl Foundation funding.

C. Oral Report on Veterinary Pricing Survey.

Pam Wilkerson reported on a survey of 36 veterinarians regarding their spay and neuter programs. Ms. Wilkerson reported that of the 36 vets on the list, only 31 are participating in the program. Of that number only 10 have no requirements but the remaining 21 do require additional services not paid for by coupons. Nine of the vets are "out of control" regarding additional pricing for hospitalization, blood tests, special collars and other services. Cost of these additional services came to an average of \$188 over and above the \$70 low income Department coupon. Ms. Wilkerson was surprised that none of the vets offered or even spoke of microchips.

Public Comment

Dan Guss: Spoke on sale of dogs in store. Must tackle the cultural issues.

4. GENERAL MANAGER RECOMMENDS FOR BOARD ACTION

- A. Updates and Amendments to the Department's Spay/Neuter Program to increase the effective use of the Spay/Neuter Trust Fund particularly in low income neighborhoods, generally increase the number of Spay/Neuter Surgeries funded, and improve efforts to educate the public on Spay/Neuter availability and the City's Spay/Neuter law.

General Manager reported that this program does not replace the \$70 spay and neuter program. The new program targets low income zip codes throughout the city. The Department could then contract with spay and neuter vans to target residents of those areas. Low income residents of a targeted zip code sometimes do not have transportation to get to a shelter to obtain a coupon. Commissioner Kharo asked how soon this type of program could be implemented. Mr. Lesel indicated that a letter to the City Council to gain support for the program would be the first step. Commissioner Ramsayer and Macellaro voiced support for the recommendation.

Public Comment

Dan Guss: A new focus on spay and neuter will fail without enforcement. He cited a list of Craig's List for sale of dogs.

Phyllis Daugherty: Any program of this type should be a pilot program.

Jose Segal: Must address the availability of low income persons to visit the vets for spay and neuter services. Some zip codes may not have vets for miles.

Commissioner Ramsayer made a motion to approve the General Manager's recommendation report. Commissioner Macellaro seconded the motion. Motion passed 3 – 0.

5. ORAL REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

General Manager Barnette presented the following to the Commissioners:

- Introduced the new Assistant General Manager John Chavez.
- State did not uphold reduction for spay and neuter license plates. Need 7,500 pre sold licenses to go into production.
- Shelters have new banners. Trees at East Valley were cut down and stumps were removed and replaced by Street Services. The South Los Angeles banner was replaced.
- Department has received help from citizens who send in information on breeders and residents who have too many animals. Officers are sent out on these tips.
- Animals coming into the shelter have increased since last year. Live releases have also increased but we are not getting ahead of the curve.

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Commissioner Macellaro r requested:

- A report on the good things employees in the shelter are doing

7. ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting ended at 12:14pm

Next Commission Meeting is scheduled for 10:00 A.M September 27, 2011, Los Angeles City Hall, Room 1060, 200 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, California 90012