



BOARD OF ANIMAL SERVICES COMMISSIONERS  
CITY OF LOS ANGELES

**REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**  
**Tuesday, December 8, 2015**  
**7:00 PM**

RAMONA HALL COMMUNITY CENTER  
4580 NORTH FIGUEROA STREET  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90065

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DAVID ZAFT  
President

LARRY GROSS  
Vice-President

JENNIFER BRENT  
ROGER WOLFSON  
ALANA YAÑEZ

Sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices, or other auxiliary aids and/or services may be provided upon request. To ensure availability, you are advised to make your request at least 72 hours prior to the meeting you wish to attend. For information please call (213) 482-9597.

Si requiere servicios de traducción, favor de notificar a la oficina con 24 horas de anticipo.

**REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING**

- 1. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD** - (Comments from the public on items of public interest within the Board's subject matter jurisdiction that are not on the Agenda; two minutes per speaker).

**Public Comments:** The Brown Act prohibits the Board and staff from responding to the speakers' comments. Some of the matters raised in public comment may appear on a future agenda.

- 2. COMMISSION BUSINESS**

- A.** Approval of the Minutes for the Meeting of November 10, 2015 (Action item; public comment limited to one minute per speaker).
- B.** Approval of the Minutes for the Meeting of November 24, 2015 (Action item; public comment limited to one minute per speaker).

**3. ORAL REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER** (Public comment limited to one minute per speaker).

**4. COMMISSIONERS' ORAL REPORTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS** (Public comment limited to one minute per speaker).

**5. BOARD REPORTS**

**A.** Board Report Requesting Authority to Use the Animal Welfare Trust Fund to Purchase Five (5) Handheld Blood Analyzers to Allow Medical Staff to Better Care for the Animals (Action item; public comment limited to two minutes)

**6. ADJOURNMENT**

Next Commission Meeting is scheduled for 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, January 12, 2016, at City Hall, 200 North Spring Street, Room 1060, Los Angeles, California 90012. (Enter on Main Street)

**AGENDAS** - The Board of Animal Services Commissioners (Board) meets regularly every second (2<sup>nd</sup>) and fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) Tuesday of each month at 10:00 A.M. Regular Meetings are held at City Hall, 200 North Spring Street, Room 1060, in Los Angeles, CA 90012. Evening Meetings are held in various locations throughout the City, from 7:00 to approximately 9:30 P.M. The agendas for Board meetings contain a brief general description of those items to be considered at the meetings. Board Agendas are available at the Department of Animal Services (Department), Administrative Division, 350 South Grand Avenue, 45th Floor, Suite 4501, Los Angeles, CA 90071. Board Agendas may also be viewed on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Public Bulletin Board in City Hall East, 200 North Main Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012. Internet users may also access copies of present and prior agenda items, copies of the Board Calendar, MP-3 audio files of meetings as well as electronic copies of approved minutes on the Department's World Wide Web Home Page site at <http://www.laanimalservices.com/CommissionAgendas.htm>

Three (3) members of the Board constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. Some items on the Agenda may be approved without any discussion.

The Board Secretary will announce the items to be considered by the Board. The Board will hear the presentation on the topic and gather additional information from Department Staff. Once presentations have finished, the Board President will ask if any Board Member or member of the public wishes to speak on one or more of these items. Each speaker called before the Commission will have one (1) minute to express their comments and concerns on matters placed on the agenda. (For certain agenda items, speakers will have two (2) minutes.)

**PUBLIC INPUT AT BOARD MEETINGS – Public Participation on Agenda Items.** Members of the public will have an opportunity to address the Board on agenda items after the item is called and before the Board takes action on the item, unless the opportunity for public participation on the item was previously provided to all interested members of the public at a public meeting of a Committee of the Board and the item has not substantially changed since the Committee heard the item. When speaking to an agenda item other than during Public Comment (see Public Comment below), the speaker shall limit his or her comments to the specific item under consideration (California Government Code, Section 54954.3).

**Public Comment.** The Board will provide an opportunity for public comment at every regular meeting of the Board. Members of the public may address the Board on any items within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board as part of Public Comment.

**Speaker Cards.** Members of the public wishing to speak are to fill out one speaker card for each agenda item on which they wish to speak and present it to the Board secretary **before** the item is called.

**Time Limit for Speakers.** Speakers addressing the Board will be limited to one (1) minute of speaking time for each agenda item except during general public comment period which is limited to two (2) minutes per speaker. (For certain agenda items, speakers will have two (2) minutes each.). The Chairperson, with the approval of a majority of the Board, may for good cause extend any speaker's time by increments of up to one (1) minute.

**Brown Act.** These rules shall be interpreted in a manner that is consistent with the Ralph M. Brown Act, California Government Code Section § 54950 et seq.

**STANDARDS OF CONDUCT.** Speakers are expected to behave in an orderly manner and to refrain from personal attacks or use of profanity or language that may incite violence.

All persons present at Board meetings are expected to behave in an orderly manner and to refrain from disrupting the meeting, interfering with the rights of others to address the Board and/or interfering with the conduct of business by the Board.

In the event that any speaker does not comply with the foregoing requirements, or if a speaker does not address the specific item under consideration, the speaker may be ruled out of order, their speaking time forfeited and the Chairperson may call upon the next speaker.

The Board, by majority vote, may order the removal from the meeting of any speaker or audience member continuing to behave in a disruptive manner after being warned by the Chairperson regarding their behavior. Section 403 of the California Penal Code states as follows: "Every person who, without authority of law, willfully disturbs or breaks up any assembly or meeting that is not unlawful in its character, other than an assembly or meeting referred to in Section 302 of the Penal Code or Section 18340 of the Elections Code, is guilty of a misdemeanor."

**VOTING AND DISPOSITION OF ITEMS** – Most items require a majority vote of the entire membership of the Board (3 members). When debate on an item is completed, the Board President will instruct the Secretary to "call the roll". Every member present must vote for or against each item; abstentions are not permitted unless there is a Conflict of Interest for which the Board member is obliged to abstain from voting. The Secretary will announce the votes on each item. Any member of the Board may move to "reconsider" any vote on any item on the agenda, except to adjourn, suspend the Rules, or where an intervening event has deprived the Board of jurisdiction, providing that said member originally voted on the prevailing side of the item. The motion to "reconsider" shall only be in order once during the meeting, and once during the next regular meeting. The member requesting reconsideration shall identify for all members present the Agenda number and subject matter previously voted upon. A motion to reconsider is not debatable and shall require an affirmative vote of three members of the Board.

When the Board has failed by sufficient votes to approve or reject an item, and has not lost jurisdiction over the matter, or has not caused it to be continued beyond the next regular meeting, the issue is again placed on the next agenda for the following meeting for the purpose of allowing the Board to again vote on the matter.



BOARD OF ANIMAL SERVICES COMMISSIONERS  
CITY OF LOS ANGELES



**MINUTES**  
**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2015 at 10:00 AM**

LOS ANGELES CITY HALL, ROOM 1060  
200 NORTH SPRING STREET  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012

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Audio MP-3 Recording is available at [www.laanimalservices.com](http://www.laanimalservices.com)

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David Zaft, President  
Larry Gross, Vice-President  
Jennifer Brent  
Roger Wolfson  
Alana Yañez

Meeting called to order at 10:04 a.m. Commissioners present were Zaft, Gross, Brent, Wolfson and Yañez. Also present Los Angeles Animal Services (LAAS) Board Secretary, Rita Moreno; General Manager, Brenda Barnette; and Assistant City Attorney (ACA) Dov Lesel.

**Commissioner Zaft** opened the meeting and provided an overview of the meeting agenda. **Commissioner Gross** discussed the appeal hearing process and conducted the hearings.

**Commissioner Brent** recused herself and left the meeting.

**I. ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS**

**1. Dangerous Animal Case: DA 153054 WL**

Respondent: Raquel Bordoni-Colletti

Complaining Witness: Ashley Rose Yeargan

West Los Angeles Animal Care and Control: Lieutenant Jesse Castillo

Testimony was taken from the Respondent, Raquel Bordoni-Colletti and her Attorneys, Dennis Fredrickson, Jill Ryther and Michael Rotsten, who stated that the evidence did not support the General Manager's decision and that the hearing process was not conducted in accordance with LAMC § 53.18.5(q). The Complaining Witness, Ashley Rose Yeargan, was not in attendance. The Commissioners asked questions and noted responses.

**Commissioner Wolfson** made a motion to affirm the General Manager's decision to reissue the license for **Bella** (L16-413335; Animal ID A1278979) with terms and conditions. The motion was seconded by **Commissioner Yañez** and was approved by a vote of 4-0.

**Commissioner Brent** returned to the meeting.

**2. Dangerous Animal Case: DA 151013 NC**

Respondent: Casie Draeger and Billie Carlton

Complaining Witness: Jennifer Richardson

North Central Animal Care and Control: Lieutenant John Cessna

Testimony was taken from the Respondent's Attorney, Michael Rotsten, who stated that the evidence did not support the General Manager's decision and that the hearing process was not conducted in accordance with LAMC § 53.18.5(q). Mr. Rotsten also

requested reimbursement for cost of maintaining the Respondent's dog in a kennel. The Commissioners asked questions and noted responses, and requested legal guidance from ACA Lesel.

**Commissioner Zaft** made a motion to continue the item to the November 24, 2015 meeting and requested the audio for the hearing and that all parties be invited to attend. The motion was seconded by **Commissioner Brent** and was approved by a vote of 5-0.

## II. REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING

### 1. PUBLIC COMMENT

**Susan Taylor:** Stated that ACOs do not carry vouchers, they carry applications to give out and take it back to the department to mail out the vouchers, but only at North Central, per Brenda V.; no longer has budget to mail vouchers out, but can provide completed applications to department to mail out coupons/vouchers (**Commissioner Zaft** asked for clarification about whether applications are need for discount coupons/vouchers, and **GM Barnette** responded that people need to verify address and provide proof of license / rabies certificate); stated that applications are needed for discount coupons/vouchers since Officers can't give them out on the spot (**GM Barnette** added that they have to be tracked). **Phyllis Daugherty:** Stated that she attended the pets and rental housing and landlords complained of dogs - not good tenants – they're dangerous, destructive; shelter animals come with problems.

### 2. COMMISSION BUSINESS

#### A. Approval of Minutes for October 27, 2015.

Public Comment  
None

**Commissioner Zaft** continued the item to the November 24, 2015 meeting.

#### B. Approval of 2016 Board Meeting Schedule

Public Comment  
None

**Commissioner Gross** moved to approve the 2016 Board meeting schedule. **Commissioner Brent** seconded and the motion passed 5 - 0.

### 3. ORAL REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

**GM Barnette** discussed the following:

- New Hearing Officer, Troy Boswell, started on November 2<sup>nd</sup>; 28 years of department service
- November 7 and 8 NKLA event at La Brea Tar Pits: 112 dogs and 44 cats; 82 dogs and 20 cats were adopted and Best Friends took the remaining 30 dogs and 24 cats
- Sherman Oaks NC bought furniture for dog and cat habitat display at East Valley

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Animal Shelter that was previously approved by the Board to be purchased with AWTF saving \$4,000; ribbon cutting will take place on November 19<sup>th</sup>

- Purchased new kitty condos – there will be one or more cat events at City Hall; more information will be provided later
- Field Services is joining the Emergency Management Department for town hall meetings on El Niño to answer questions on wet weather and animals; plan will be provided for each shelter
- Settling into Figueroa Plaza
- Next workshops on housing and pets are November 12, 18 and 20<sup>th</sup>; purpose is to help tenants prepare themselves and pets to talk with landlords and demonstrate they are a responsible tenant
- Follow-up on strategic planning meeting with community – meetings beginning December 1<sup>st</sup> and through February 2<sup>nd</sup> – meetings every other week; will record meetings and feedback provided by community; three sessions per workshop: 1<sup>st</sup> with staff, 2<sup>nd</sup> with volunteers, and 3<sup>rd</sup> with community members; all will be conducted in shelters except North Central; first session will be with administrative staff; looking for recording device that can translate language; working with Neighborhood Empowerment to get community input; dates and times will be published
- Media coverage for pets: Channel 2 every other Friday; Channel 4 every Thursday – Clear the Shelters segment; Channel 7 every Tuesday; Channel 18 once per month; featured pet every other week in Korean newspaper; Good Day L.A. monthly; City Council Adoption Pet Day one Friday each month; Cesar Milan's facebook page Adopt Me Thursdays once per month
- Field Services: October 26 search for elderly dog fallen 300 feet into ravine behind owner's home – SMART Team extracted dog; complaint of three aggressive dogs attacking animals on Walten Ave. – ACO found one dead dog ripped apart, one injured dog had to be euthanized due to injuries, attacking dogs impounded and forwarded for dangerous animal hearing; October 27 report from Recreation and Parks of bear sighting at Elysian Park reservoir, not found by LAAS or CA Fish and Wildlife; October 28 report of kitten trapped in car engine – SMART found kitten and transported to North Central; October 28 call of cat injured by dog at 94<sup>th</sup> Place, cat dragged itself under building, SMART Team got cat and transported to shelter; pigeons tangled in lines 30 feet in air and SMART Team got birds; dog bite incident of postal worker at Elwood St. – 2<sup>nd</sup> reported in one month – referred to dangerous dog hearings;
- Cases referred to City Attorney for prosecution: November 1<sup>st</sup> Templeton St. – trap set and left unattended for pigeons killed several birds for lack of water and exposure; animal cruelty at East 55<sup>th</sup> St. – two suspects failed to provide medical care to dog resulting in life threatening condition – dog was seized and euthanized; chronic leash law violator in Canoga Park since 2008 and fails to clean up after dog in front of public property; 12 dogs roam on public property in North Hills in violation of kennel permit, license requirements and breeders permits; suspect failed to monitor trap set on roof in sun with no water, with over 100 degree weather – conditions resulted in unnecessary suffering of trapped raccoon; Sherman Oaks chronic leash law violator and failed to license dogs
- Dr. Prupas has been invited to Western University to participate in selection of students to attend vet school; also attended Pedro Pet Pals event and presented with the Senator Award
- ACO Byron Criddle began Acting Lt appointment, will oversee license canvassing program at North Central and will work on recruitment to fill seven vacant



- positions; 11 years of service with LAAS
- Attended housing workshop on November 5<sup>th</sup> at East Valley and met with Veronica Perry and volunteers to determine how they're so good and to replicate their work

**Commissioner Brent** asked about status of hiring ACOs. **GM Barnette** responded that Personnel is working to open four more testing opportunities; only 25 people passed initial screening to be interviewed.

Public Comment

**Susan Taylor:** Stated that the humane community would like to participate in the strategic planning process, but people don't come because they don't know about it – need to put it in the newspapers; let people know what it's about and in evenings for community. **Phyllis Daugherty:** Asked about follow-up on Kapparat prosecution; discussed San Diego issue with unaltered shelter dog that attacked – taken by rescue no longer allowed to pull dogs - bit nose off little boy; asked whether new ACOs will receive academy training or only learn from ride-along. **Andrew Brown:** Appreciated meeting in East Valley and thanked GM Barnette; discussed incident in September with kitten stuck under hood of car – Officer said didn't do this type of work and never responded – SMART Team not always responds.

#### 4. COMMISSIONERS' ORAL REPORTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

**Commissioner Gross:** Reported on two successful Pets in Housing workshops held at East Valley with over 30 people in attendance, and last night with over 40 people – thanked Lt. Susan Botta, ACO Karrie De Mascio and DFO Mark Salazar for tremendous job providing information – next workshop this Thursday in West L.A., then November 18 at South L.A., and November 20 at West Valley; attended NKLA super pet adoption – overall there were 500 adoptions over the weekend – East Valley staff and volunteers did magnificent job.

**Commissioner Yañez:** Hosted celebrity Stevo from Jackass – received 80 hours of community service for two public stunts protesting Sea World holding of orcas in captivity – paid for adoptions for people at East Valley, and will come back again, and adopted a cat from SNIP; Sea World will be phasing out the orcas by 2017 and will not bring any more in to shows.

**Commissioner Zaft:** Passed.

**Commissioner Brent:** Passed.

**Commissioner Wolfson:** Asked about RFP for kiosks in shelters – it's with the CAO – waiting for feedback (**GM Barnette** suggested taking with Ryan or Barbara in the Mayor's Office).

Public Comment

**Susan Taylor:** Suggested agenda item on policy for New Hope partners and liability insurance and prior lawsuits; discussed articles – Merit Clifton from Animals 24/7 on Pet Smart charities which fired all employees due to dog attack liability, and case with person who got nose bitten off. **Phyllis Daugherty:** Added that case with boy in San Diego is same bite – will impact rescue organization, but shelter as well; asked when

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we will have another spay neuter event and whether Commissioners are doing their part.

## 5. Discussion Items

### A. Discussion Regarding Animal Holds for Adoption Events

**Commissioner Zaft** opened discussion on whether there is a practice or policy to place animals on hold for adoption at events by Best Friends and other organizations, how long they are placed on hold prior to the event, and whether it is a wise policy. **GM Barnette** responded that animals can't be adopted out if they have not been spayed or neutered so animals are held two weeks prior to an event for surgery; staff has been directed to call Cmdr. Dedeaux if an individual or family really wants to adopt an animal pulled for an event; if not put on hold, rescues will take animals and won't have any for events; individuals and families will be able to adopt animal held for an event, but not rescues; thinks that seeing 100s of animals together at an event encourages public to visit shelter to adopt animals. **Commissioner Gross** stated that priority is getting animals into a home, not an event. **Commissioner Brent** agreed and said it puts us in synch with New Hope policy about holding animals over the weekend from the New Hope partners so that the public can adopt them. **Commissioner Yañez** agreed. **Commissioner Zaft** added that when someone really wants to adopt an animal and told "no," it give LAAS bad image; they should be given priority and should not have to go to Cmdr. Dedeaux. **GM Barnette** responded that an SOP will be written and brought back to Commission for review. **Commissioner Brent** asked if animals being held for events are taking kennel space for those not selected for event. **GM Barnette** responded that no animals were euthanized due to event.

#### Public Comment

**Phyllis Daugherty:** Stated that animals can be taken out of shelter without being spayed or neutered - people can just pick it up at the vet; animals that go to rescue should be animals that can't get adopted. **Andrew Brown:** Stated that he took count after animals taken to NKLA event and there were over 50 altered animals, so if we had let the animals be adopted, there would have been others to choose from – more dogs were requested on Sunday and had no problem finding 10 more; disagreed with rewarding people who don't take "no" for an answer, someone else may have wanted to adopt and waited to go to event, but Cmdr. Dedeaux can release to someone who insists.

### B. Discussion Regarding Possible Changes to Policies Concerning and Amounts of Redemption, Relinquishment, Adoption and Spay/Neuter Fees *(taken out of order after Item 6.A.)*

**Commissioner Yañez** recused herself and left the meeting.

**Commissioner Zaft** stated that the Department is putting together a recommendation for revisions to the fees; there have been suggestions for changes to the redemption fees and possibly waiving them, and the reduction in adoption fees for a second animal. **GM Barnette** stated that there is a Best Buddy Adoption policy that allows for the second adoption at half price; looking at a package that will be part of the budget because it will need PAW Committee



approval and maybe Budget and Finance, then City Council; under instructions to have cost recovery on permits, but not on adoptions. **Commissioner Gross** asked about the senior animal reduction; the code has a senior for senior program; would like to see reduction for all senior animals; questioned the higher cost to redeem animals than to adopt. **GM Barnette** responded that there may also be a reduction for rescues; smart phones will allow Officers to check for ownership and not have to impound; will need to determine how many free rides. **Commissioner Brent** stated that other jurisdictions have been doing this for years; opportunity for ACE to do this in the field; redemption is important for low-income folks – GM or DFO Dedeaux or Salazar can make determination; animals at County age out – adoption fees decreased to incentivize their adoption; would like to increase permit fees and spay neuter fees for breeders. **GM Barnette** responded that higher fees would cause them not to license. **Commissioner Brent** asked if we follow up with breeders or unaltered animal licenses. **GM Barnette** responded that we are doing that now through the ACE program.

Public Comment

**Susan Taylor:** Discussed intact animal / breeders – need for enforcement; need to reduce the fee to relinquish animals; don't waive redemption fees, lower them only – animal did something wrong. **Kerry Armstrong:** Intervention program at shelters pay redemption fees from \$150 to \$400 depending on whether animal is intake or licensed; last year, North Central paid \$12,890 (35% of budget); East Valley is only there only one day a week and paid \$400 per month; Lori Weiss says the South L.A. shelter program has assisted more than 5,000 families and spend \$1,000 each month; pay 10 owner surrender fees each month at \$25 each. **Phyllis Daugherty:** Don't waive only lower redemption fee – animal may be menacing; use AWTF; having animals is a privilege not right. **Vince Wong:** Income should not be the only consideration; supports giving GM discretion for waving, but not blanket decrease on redemption.

**Commissioner Zaft** asked if there was assurance the family is low income; **Kerry Armstrong:** responded affirmatively. **Commissioner Zaft** suggested looking at partnering with the Intervention program and reducing their fees. **GM Barnette** responded that if the Intervention program has made the determination, it can be waived; if people don't want to pay the \$25 they say it's a stray and the shelter takes the animal. **Commissioner Brent** stated that people who donate to the AWTF probably would like the money to be used this way. **Commissioner Zaft** added that if AWTF is used, there would not be a need to go to PAW. **GM Barnette** responded that grants can be given to the Intervention Program. **Commissioner Zaft** asked if giving GM authority to waive fees is part of the recommendation being drafted by Department. **GM Barnette** responded affirmatively. **Commissioner Gross** asked whether each shelter has an Intervention Program and how we fill the gap. **GM Barnette** responded it is at South, North and one day at East Valley; will run report to see redemption fees at all six shelters by shelter and look at amount expended by Intervention Program to determine grant amounts. **Commissioner Zaft** added that there will be one at West Valley.

**6. Board Reports** *(taken out of order after Item 5.A.)*

**A. Animal Welfare Trust Fund and Animal Sterilization Fund Balances**

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**Sr. Accounting Clerk (AC) Lilia Liclican** attended the meeting to answer any questions.

**Commissioner Brent** asked about the ability to reallocate unspent funds by contracted veterinarians. **ACA Lesel** responded affirmatively; contracts can be amended. **GM Barnette** added that suggested having a conversation with the contracted vendors prior to amending the contract amount. **Commissioner Gross** asked for clarification about the negative amounts for September. **Sr. AC Liclican** responded that the statement of revenues and expenses is presented by appropriation account; two funds are used, the appropriation account is the Animal Sterilization Fund and the Pet Adoption deposit, which is used to pay participating vet clinics and hospitals; it is a balance sheet / liability account under the State of California ruling mandating the collection of \$40 for every pet adoption to place in this deposit account; if audited by the State, we must show them how many animals have been adopted out and the amount of money collected. **Commissioner Gross** asked for clarification – SNP LA in East Valley spent \$26,000 from July to August, then it looks like they paid us \$26,000 the following month and have a negative balance. **Sr. AC Liclican** responded that we are having problems with the accounting system – when we pay the contractual vets (Value Vet, SNP LA, Amanda Foundation), it goes through our accounting process and we pay out through the appropriation accounts only; some of the payments cover animal adoptions from the shelters – we should get the \$40 from the Pet Adoption deposit, but the system doesn't allow us to pay from the appropriation account and the balance sheet liability accounts, so this is an adjustment. **Commissioner Gross** stated that this is an accounting issue and that the Board is not getting a clear picture. **Sr. AC Liclican** responded that the report is written for the CAO who gives the Department the subsidy for the Animal Sterilization Fund; we generate revenue for the Animal Sterilization Fund through the collection of licenses, adoption fees, dog pound fees and impound fees. **GM Barnette** asked whether the appropriation received in the budget is listed in the report. **Sr. AC Liclican** responded affirmatively; initially the Department was receiving 1.2 million, but that amount has been decreased each year; this year we received \$500,000 (\$41,665 each month), but have to refund \$334,000 back to the City for staff salaries, leaving a subsidy of about \$200,000 to pay for animal vets. **GM Barnette** added that with additional Veterinarians and RVTs there is a charge per surgery against salaries, but it is being taken out of the Animal Sterilization Trust Fund. **Commissioner Brent** asked whether the amount has been decreased because the funds are not being spent or because the City was experiencing financial problems. **GM Barnette** responded that it started as a one-time reduction, then a two-time reduction. **Sr. Management Analyst II (MA II) John Forland** added that during the recession, the Department agreed to a one-time charge to the account for the administration of the fund; the practice has continued for four (4) years and the charge to the account has grown; it will be problematic with continued expenditures and cuts to the subsidy, which was initially \$1,110,000 per year; the transfer was made through a Council motion because the City Council wanted to support the spay neuter program. **Commissioner Brent** asked what the Commissioners can do; concerned that we will not be able to pay spay neuter contractors. **GM Barnette** responded that the Commissioners can talk to individual Council Members during the budget process; city decreased subsidy because of private funders, but there will not always be private funds available. **Sr. MA II**

**Forland** noted the high cost of care in relation to the cost of spay neuter program. **Commissioner Zaft** asked whether the decrease in subsidy is the result of the 5 million dollar balance in the Animal Sterilization Fund. **GM Barnette** responded affirmatively. **Commissioner Zaft** noted the Board's efforts to utilize the fund such as approval of a mobile clinic for targeted zip code areas, renewal of Amanda Foundation's contract, approval of a new mobile clinic – all of which are not yet operational, but could be spending the 5 million. **Sr. AC Liclican** responded that the contractual vets have been doing the surgeries, but their accounting is about five months behind in submitting invoices. **Commissioner Gross** asked whether the contract has billing requirements. **Sr. AC Liclican** responded that they have to submit documentation that has to be approved before paying, such as whether feral cats are being sterilized. **Sr. MA II Forland** added that many times volunteers are doing the invoicing and they may not understand the rules and the injunction; currently working with Spay4LA. **Commissioner Zaft** noted they have expended zero for the year. **Sr. MA II Forland** added that the Department used to rely on spay neuter vouchers, but their use has decreased; when reviewed, it was found that they were not being used by areas of highest need; the Department is investing in mobile clinics (expanding from 1 to 4) to take them into those areas; contract process, gear up and outreach time is lengthy. **Commissioner Yañez** emphasized the need to allow the Canvassers to take the voucher door-to-door; asked what is needed by the Controller. **GM Barnette** responded that there needs to be a transparent process; has been working with Mayor's Office and will bring a proposal to the Board. **Sr. MA II Forland** added that the Department has been working with Actors and Others to revitalize the vouchers. **Commissioner Zaft** thanked staff for their work; noted the lengthy city process. **Sr. MA II Forland** added that the Canvassers will work better with the mobile clinics. **Commissioner Gross** suggested setting time limits on the submission of invoices, and increasing funding or allowing funding to be used to conduct the billing process more quickly. **Commissioner Zaft** indicated the need for flexibility since the contractors are small organizations. **Commissioner Brent** asked about the voucher coupons and the difference between contractual and non-contractual, and what is PAD. **Sr. AC Liclican** responded that PAD is Pet Adoption Deposit; contractual are the agencies with the \$500,000 contracts like SNP LA, Value Vet, Amanda Foundation and ASPCA; non-contractual are Letters of Agreement with small participating Vet Clinics and Hospitals; this is a new schedule that shows the amount paid out from the Animal Sterilization Fund; this shows what was paid out from July to September from the two accounts: the appropriation account and the Pet Adoption Deposit. **Commissioner Brent** asked for clarification about the \$244,544 and whether it is the amount paid to the combined vendors above and beyond their contract. **Sr. AC Liclican** responded that the first half is only from the appropriation account (revenue and expense summary), and the second half from the Pet Adoption Deposit. **Commissioners Zaft and Brent** clarified that the amounts are actual expenditures as opposed to encumbered amounts. **Commissioner Gross** asked about Value Vet and whether they have spent out the most because of a backlog. **Commissioners Zaft and Brent** responded that there will always be a lag in expenditures. **ACA Lesel** recommended asking for the number of spay neuters completed each month, independent of the amount billed / paid. **Sr. AC Liclican** stated that the number may not be accurate because although a voucher is provided to a contracted vet, the surgery is not done because the animal is ill; sometimes they have animals from the public to sterilize. **GM Barnette** added that staff has to make sure the contracted vets meet their contractual sterilizations.

**Commissioners Zaft** stated that they will be invited to attend a future meeting.

On the Animal Welfare Trust Fund **Commissioner Zaft** stated that the report is difficult to understand and asked for an overview; asked about the ASPCA grants. **GM Barnette** responded that one was for the free adoptions of cats over four months old and the other to underwrite the pull fees for New Hope Partners of Pits and Chihuahas. **Commissioner Zaft** asked about the \$500 expense for the Department. **Commissioner Brent** responded that we pay it to Angel City Pits, and before we paid it to Wags and Walks because they are the ones taking the animals. **Commissioners Zaft** asked what is GSD under expenses. **Sr. AC Liclican** responded that General Services Department renovations to shelters with Proposition monies appropriated by the City Council. **Commissioner Gross** asked about the STAR program. **GM Barnette** responded that it is a medical fund that can be used for animals that come in to shelters and need medical treatment beyond what is normally done and requires outside help from other Veterinarians. **Commissioners Zaft and Brent** added that people make donations to fund that. **GM Barnette** stated that the Kennel Plaque Sponsorship Program revenue is placed in a general use fund for animal welfare; some donations and estates are designated for a specific use. **Commissioner Zaft** asked about the donations of \$300 and below, whether they are from the public donating through the website; last month it was \$171,000. **Sr. AC Liclican** responded that she added the amount from the Jimmy Mitchell Estate because there was no Council File for the second distribution; it will be moved later. **Commissioner Zaft** asked about the unrestricted donations and whether it is a carry over. **Sr. AC Liclican** responded affirmatively; unrestricted donations are placed in the "available" section. **Commissioner Zaft** asked about restitution for animal cruelty. **Commissioner Brent** responded that it is when there is a conviction and they have to pay the Department. **Commissioner Zaft** asked if we get money from selling refreshments. **Sr. AC Liclican** responded that is from a hair stylist who contributed money so they could feed the volunteers. **Commissioner Zaft** asked about vending sales. **Sr. AC Liclican** responded that we get a 30% commission from vending machine sales in the amount of \$500 each month. **Commissioner Zaft** asked about the restricted donations. **Sr. AC Liclican** responded that they are donations for a specific shelter and specific purpose. **Commissioner Zaft** asked about Chameleon donations. **GM Barnette** responded that they are online donations tracked in Chameleon. **Commissioner Zaft** asked about Best Friends money restricted to promote adoptions and restricted for adoption ad campaigns. **GM Barnette** responded that it is money used to do radio ads. **Commissioner Gross** asked if we are going to do the coupon that people can donate as a gift. **GM Barnette** responded affirmatively. **Commissioner Brent** asked about the Carol Petrie grant. **Sr. AC Liclican** responded that a report needs to be submitted once the term of the grant has concluded. **Commissioner Brent** asked if we are able to invest the money. **Sr. AC Liclican** responded that the Office of Finance invests the City's money as a pool, on a daily rate, and the interest is allocated to the specific fund.

Public Comment

**Susan Taylor:** Stated that vets are bad at billing; if there is proof of surgery, organization can pay a year later; you may be paying for spay neuter vouchers where surgery was done last year. **Phyllis Daugherty:** Suggested using Community Service Workers for landscaping – Mission Hills is the worst.

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**Commissioner Zaft** asked about landscaping. **GM Barnette** responded that Recreation and Parks has the responsibility for landscaping.

**7. ADJOURNMENT** *(taken out of order after Item 5.B.)*

**Commissioner Brent** made a motion to adjourn in honor of Veterans Day and animals that have died in service and **Commissioner Gross** seconded. Motion passed 3 - 0.

Meeting ended at 1:16 p.m.





BOARD OF ANIMAL SERVICES COMMISSIONERS  
CITY OF LOS ANGELES



MINUTES

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2015 at 10:00 AM

LOS ANGELES CITY HALL, ROOM 1060  
200 NORTH SPRING STREET  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012

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Audio MP-3 Recording is available at [www.laanimalservices.com](http://www.laanimalservices.com)

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David Zaft, President  
Larry Gross, Vice-President  
Jennifer Brent  
Roger Wolfson  
Alana Yañez

Meeting called to order at 10:04 a.m. Commissioners present were Zaft, Gross and Brent. Commissioner Yañez arrived at 10:05, and Commissioner Wolfson was absent. Also present Los Angeles Animal Services (LAAS) Board Secretary, Rita Moreno; General Manager, Brenda Barnette; and Assistant City Attorney (ACA) Dov Lesel.

**Commissioner Zaft** opened the meeting and provided an overview of the meeting agenda. **Commissioner Gross** discussed the appeal hearing process and conducted the hearings.

**I. ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS**

1. **Dangerous Animal Case: DA 151013 NC** (*continued from 11/10/15*)  
Respondent: Casie Draeger and Billie Carlton  
Complaining Witness: Jennifer Richardson  
North Central Animal Care and Control: Lieutenant John Cessna

The decision on this item was pending to provide the Board the opportunity to review the audio of the administrative hearing with the Hearing Examiner. The Commissioners discussed the merits of the request and the evidence provided.

**Commissioner Zaft** made a motion to affirm the General Manager's decision to reissue the license for **Osito** (L15-08880) and **Penny** (L15-350351), and modify the terms and conditions to delete items 5, 10 and 11. The motion was seconded by **Commissioner Brent** and was approved by a vote of 4-0.

2. **Dangerous Animal Case: DA 153007 EV**  
Respondent: Sybil Kohn  
Complaining Witness: Sally Wells Cook and Karen Heinick  
East Valley Animal Care and Control: Captain Wendell Bowers

Neither the Respondent nor the Complaining Witnesses were in attendance. The time was 10:20 a.m. and **ACA Lesel** stated that the Board has authority to rule on the appeal based on the grounds indicated in the request for the appeal hearing and the evidence provided in the case file. The Respondent's request stated that the evidence did not support the General Manager's decision and that the hearing process was not conducted in accordance with LAMC § 53.18.5(q). **Commissioner Gross** requested advice from **ACA Lesel** regarding the application of the decision to all three dogs, and adherence to the time line in the issuance of a decision. **ACA Lesel** advised that the Department has the authority to apply the restriction to all three dogs and that the Department does not lose jurisdiction over the matter as a result of the time lines. The



Commissioners discussed the merits of the request and the evidence provided.

**Commissioner Brent** made a motion to affirm the General Manager's decision to reissue the license for **Ringo** (L16-480952), **Tesla** (L16-480953) and **Buddy** (L16-480951) with terms, conditions and restrictions. The motion was seconded by **Commissioner Yañez** and was approved by a vote of 4-0.

## II. REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING

### 1. PUBLIC COMMENT

**Mary Ledding:** Stated that the Department website does not have Board meeting minutes nor any information for permits issued.

### 2. COMMISSION BUSINESS

#### A. Approval of Minutes for October 27, 2015.

Public Comments  
None

**Commissioner Gross** moved to approve the minutes for October 27, 2015 and **Commissioner Yañez** seconded. The motion passed 4 - 0.

#### B. Approval of Minutes for November 10, 2015.

Public Comment  
None

**Commissioner Zaft** continued the item to the December 8, 2015 meeting.

### 3. ORAL REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

**GM Barnette** discussed the following:

- Conducting interviews for Animal Care Technician Supervisors; there are 15 candidates for one position; the list will be certified in next couple of weeks
- Selection process for Animal Control Officers has begun; interviews will take place in early December; won't have new ACOs on board until March
- November 17 meeting with Bill Crowe, Director of Pet Care Foundation regarding calendar of events for 2016 that will be promoted and where adopters will receive a \$25-\$50 discount:
  - My Furry Valentine in mid-February
  - Woofstock at Roxbury Park on March 6
  - Spring 'Em event on April 23 and 24
  - Chikittypitty on May 14 and 15
  - Catapalooza on June 11 and 12
  - Chikittypitty II on June 23 and 24
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Catapalooza on August 27 and 28
  - My Buddy special promotion for senior dogs 5 years and older
  - The Fur Is Flying on October 15 and 16
  - Basic Black November 19 and 20

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- Whisker Wonderland December 10 and 11
- Jastine Tabangin, the Public Relations Specialist, has accepted another position with the Housing and Community Investment Department
- Jose Peña, Management Assistant working on contract administration and the budget, has accepted a promotion with LAPD
- There is a list of 20 or 25 candidates for the position of Assistant General Manager
- Upcoming events:
  - November 29 Moorpark Mobile Adoption at East Valley
  - December 13 radio personality Luz Maria broadcasting live from South L.A. sponsoring adoptions
  - December 8 Lucy Pet Foundation filming at a shelter doing beauty make-over to promote adoptions
- ASPCA filmed commercial at Chesterfield Square Animal Shelter earlier in week
- FOX network airing All Dog Rescue Celebration on Thanksgiving
- November 12 Field Services Specialized Mobile Animal Rescue Team had second swift water training in preparation for El Nino – NBC LA ran story
- November 10 called to rescue squirrel stuck for three days in pipe and surrounded by moving water in a wash; team rescued the squirrel Right This Minute filmed rescue
- Conducting open orientations for volunteers – first on 15<sup>th</sup> at South L.A.
- NKLA event at La Brea Tar Pits 156 animals for adoption (112 dogs and 44 cats); 102 were adopted (82 dogs and 20 cats) and remaining 54 taken by Best Friends
- November 7 Karma Rescue had group of 15 high school students attend day of service at West L.A. shelter – cleaned parking lot, flower beds, windows, counter tops in clerical and animal receiving areas and kennel cubbies
- Cases for prosecution:
  - November 10 - suspect failed to properly confine dog to property which escaped and severely injured a person; also failed to provide adequate food and shelter for three dogs; charges: violation of license, rabies, vaccines, vicious animals and neglect
  - November 10 – suspect failed to meet requirements for licensing, breeders permit, kennel, and adequate confinement for potentially dangerous dogs
- November 23 attended round table hosted by Found Animals; all vendors present except Amanda Foundation to talk about strategies and avoid duplication of services; breakout sessions for service providers and funders
- November 19 visited East Valley shelter for ribbon cutting – Sherman Oaks NC bought \$4,000 worth of special furniture for people to visit with cats and dogs; Councilman Ryu in attendance and NC Budget Advocates
- Will be working with Francisca Baxa to assist in strategic planning process; will assemble committee comprised of Commissioners, the Mayor's Office and Staff to discuss the process; previously discussed dates will be moved

#### Public Comment

**Phyllis Daugherty:** Stated that GM Barnette relieved three prior Assistant GMs - no stability in the Department; questioned the use of Gators to rescue squirrel - \$31,000 spent when \$21,000 would have put the metal vents in place of the windows in the vans for air circulation; new Officers won't have vehicles or equipment.

#### 4. COMMISSIONERS' ORAL REPORTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

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**Commissioner Brent:** Thanked Commissioner Zaft for placing items on the agenda; visited South L.A. shelter and impressed with staff, but concerned with locked cat room due to panleukopenia outbreak and difficulty for possible adopters.

**Commissioner Zaft:** Mentioned discussion with GM Barnette and ACA Lesel regarding future agenda item to submit request to Office of Finance for the inclusion of breeding to the list of businesses requiring business permit; Officers should be prepared to discuss how to leverage resources for additional enforcement.

**Commissioner Yañez:** Secured large donation of Wellness Cat Food – 26 pallets will be coming the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December; one pallet or more for each shelter will be delivered to Best Friends for storage; Stevo will be volunteering hours on Wednesday – possibly with North Central in the afternoon to do adoption promotion; OMD Media Agency would like to do volunteer work, asked if department can put together a day-long project for 10+ people – they will provide supplies; Pets for Life reached milestone - has served 100,000 pets as of last Tuesday – all pets from underserved communities – Pets for Life LA is leading in number of spay neuters nationally.

**Commissioner Gross:** Reported on final three Pets in Housing workshops conducted in coordination with HCID and Housing Rights Center held at West L.A., South L.A. and West Valley shelters; all well attended with about 150 attendees; most had never visited the shelters and were provided a tour; thanked DFO Mark Salazar, Lt. Susan Botta, ACO Karrie DeMacio; from Housing Department Susan Gosden and Malika Ibrahim; and from Housing Rights Center Marisol Arzate, Yazmin Guzman and Marlene Sanchez; the only suggestion was to have more workshops in the evening to make accessible; future agenda item – report on department coordination and plans to respond to El Niño at shelters to protect dogs in outside kennels, and how emergency situations will be handled.

**Commissioner Yañez** added that the Pets in Housing workshops were extremely informative and well done – HSUS is interested in replicating exact same presentation nationwide; conducted in unbiased manner and provided landlords with information on laws.

## 5. Discussion Items

### A. Discussion of Exotic Animal Permits for Private Events

**Commissioner Zaft** opened the discussion and mentioned a recent event involving an elephant brought in to a residential area and the question about the types of events that can be permitted to have exotic animals; the film industry and circuses are permitted for the use of exotic animals, but what types of events are appropriate to be permitted; would like to review permitting regulations and determine if there are any loopholes that need to be addressed. **GM Barnette** stated that she feels we should take steps to prevent the use of animals as party objects at homes; indicated that when activities are permitted, staff knows where it is and a large liability insurance is required of the owner of the animals, animal owners are licensed by the department, and determination can be made as to any traffic situations; conversely, animals can be at risk at parties, permits for filming are very controlled, but parties are different. **Commissioner Zaft** asked for information about

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the recent event. **GM Barnette** responded that the company that provided the animal has been registered with the department for a number of years and usually does Hollywood things; thinks the concern is the increase in the number of animals used at peoples' homes for parties. **Commissioner Zaft** asked if there was a permit for filming or to bring the animal to a location for any purpose. **GM Barnette** responded that she believes they have a permit to bring the animal to the location. **Commissioner Gross** asked how many of these types of situations have occurred throughout the years. **GM Barnette** responded that she did not run a report in preparation for the discussion. **Commissioner Brent** mentioned the possibility of raising the permit cost for this type of an event to preclude it from occurring since enacting a new law will take a long time. **GM Barnette** responded that money is no object for these people, but it can be considered. **Commissioner Zaft** requested reviewing the permitting regulations at a future meeting - permits can specify the allowable activities. **GM Barnette** responded that there is interest by some Councilmembers to change the Municipal Code to address this issue. **Commissioner Brent** asked if there is a stipulation that an exotic veterinarian be on-site – can be part of permit. **Commissioner Gross** stated that he would prefer to ban the practice than impose hurdles. **Commissioner Yañez** agreed; HSUS has long history of trying to disallow this type of activity; animals in a high stress atmosphere can snap and people can and have been mutilated and killed. **Commissioner Zaft** asked if there was anyone present from the department to provide more information. **GM Barnette** responded that not at this preliminary step.

**Commissioner Zaft** asked the representative from Councilmember Ryu to speak before public comment, stated that the Board's inclination is to ask the department to propose changes to the regulations to restrict these types of events. **Nicholas Greif**, Director of Policy and Legislation for Councilmember Ryu, represents Hollywood - Dell area where event occurred and expressed concern that a permit had been issued; read letter into the record; stated that it will be difficult to get ACO to respond at 11:00 p.m. on a Saturday night, and would like to give LAPD and ACOs authority to revoke an issued permit if situation deemed unsafe; two types of permits: filming and circuses / entertainment, exhibitions should be reviewed. **Commissioner Zaft** clarified that ACOs work around the clock; happy to work together with LAPD.

#### Public Comment

**Skip Haynes:** Stated that increased property values have brought in people who don't care about the community; community against bringing wild animals to parties; Randy Miller, owner of New York Seltzer used to have wild animal park – trainer killed by bear; 500 ft room in home with wild life that escaped – black panther running around neighborhood; city issues permits in error constantly; practice should be banned. **George Skarpelos:** Showed photos of elephant and lion in neighborhood, party with fireworks; homes are not used as residence, rather as party venue; permit for elephant is good for a year; animals are used as props. **Judy Dowden:** Stated she witnessed event - elephant used as party prop, hillside community has windy streets, animals parked on city streets not private property, lots of cars, 80 - 85% people in neighborhood are opposed. **Phyllis Daugherty:** Stated this is not new, prior event with painted elephant on display; only two ACOs for 469 square miles and 4 million people – they can't remain at party to make sure everything is under control; Mr. Boks had two ACOs permanently assigned to these events; Officers need to have the type of weapons to stop anything from

happening; Officers are issued target ammunition that is designed for paper and can ricochet and hit someone, rather than hollow points that can end an animal's suffering. **Mary Ledding:** Lives across from party house; used to work at MGM where animals were used for filming, but very controlled; money is not an issue so increasing permit will not solve problem; questioned allowing using exotic animals as party props; people are drunk and put everyone at risk; elephant was walked up a public street. **LAPD Officer Ralph Sanchez:** Discussed nuisance properties: 2649 LaCuesta had permit for a lion and said they would sedate it if it got out of control; Bluejay Way party for D.J. Steve Aoki had permits for giraffe that had to be taken up through streets in awkward position; Weidlake event had a lion and now also an elephant; streets have weight limit and neighborhood has natural wildlife like coyotes, mountain lions, cougars and bobcats – they can smell the animals and it brings them into the neighborhood – lots of missing dogs and cats after each of these events; LAPD requests that the issuance of permits be looked at carefully – not being used for filming, used for personal gain; many people are intoxicated. **LAPD Officer Tracye Fields:** Stated that it makes emergency response difficult – cars stacked up on the street, it takes at least six cars to clear the street, would require air ship assistance – effect of sound of air ship on lion / elephant; dangerous for party goers, neighborhood and emergency responders; elephant event did not allow any pictures or filming – a lot of security to make sure – so it was not a film permit. **Deputy City Attorney Jacquelyn Lawson:** Neighborhood Prosecutor for the Hollywood area, previously worked animal protection unit; stated there are 70 identified problem / party nuisance locations; profit-making one night only events; June 6 was the lion event at 6447 Weidlake – Officers responded in ½ hour and issued ACE citation, and lion was gone; two weeks ago at same location, elephant walking up the street with fireworks; also prosecuting people using animals as props at Hollywood and Highland – 10 ft snake plus one dead and one dying in a bag; Santa Monica has statute that disallows display of animals; need protocols to ensure handlers issued permits are handling animals are doing so in humane manner; Guila Monster, rattlesnakes.

**Commissioner Gross** asked about the provisions of the permit. **GM Barnette** responded that she did not know and was trying to find out the length of period permitted. **Commissioner Yañez** asked whether the Board has the authority to revoke the permit if it was issued for a year. **Commissioner Zaft** added that perhaps the department can suspend it while it is being reviewed. **ACA Lesel** responded that he needs to look at it and the LAMC; permits are issued to businesses that use animals – need to look at two different types of permits: one for companies that rent out animals and one for a specific day, period of time and specific purpose that is required by the venue so that can be reviewed for compliance. **Commissioner Zaft** added that if event specific, include provision that does not allow consumption of alcohol or controlled substances; should be a requirement for neighborhood notification such as that required for filming; suggested disallowing permits for identified nuisance properties.

**Commissioner Zaft** requested the department take interim steps to suspend permits to identified nuisance properties; recommended department work in coordination with LAPD and City Attorney to craft language – film industry may have some expertise in area. **Commissioner Gross** requested that department act swiftly. **Commissioner Brent** asked whether permits are issued by vendor and not location. **ACA Lesel** responded that both are permitted, but may not be differentiated in the



code; permit for a location should be issued for specific event and include limitations, and not for a year. **Commissioner Zaft** asked about the circus. **ACA Lesel** responded that although it is used for a set period of time, the permit is issued for a year. **Commissioner Zaft** stated that event specific permits should inform the city that a certain exotic animal will be at a certain location on a particular day and time.

## 6. Board Reports

### A. Update from Contract Spay/Neuter Clinics at Shelters

**Commissioner Zaft** discussed the purpose for inviting the spay neuter contractors. **GM Barnette** informed that ASPCA was not informed with enough time and could not attend, but SNP LA and Value Vet were present.

SNP LA provided handouts discussing the history of the organization and the services they provide, and the Director of Operations presented the information: three locations – Van Nuys and Harbor locations are adjacent to shelters, third location in Pico Rivera; run spay neuter surgeries four days a week – Wednesday thru Saturday at all three locations; low-cost wellness clinics on Sundays at Harbor, Sundays and Mondays at Van Nuys, and Sundays, Mondays and Tuesdays at Pico Rivera; walk-in vaccine clinic every day from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. provides low-cost vaccines, microchips, flea/tick treatment, nail trimming; de-worming; mobile vaccine clinic services 6-8 city and county locations each month using hot-spot maps provided by Humane Society and Dr. Scott of L.A. County; will serve over 40,000 animals in 2015 focusing mainly on public animals – 20,000 will be through spay neuter surgeries and include accessory services with just under 50% for low-income public with under \$40,000 income, next are shelter pets, 18% receive free surgeries provided by grants (low-income or targeted breeds most euthanized), 13% will receive regular prices services; highest demand - large dog surgeries booked four weeks in advance; split between species is about 50/50; vaccines given to over 20,000 clients; wellness services to over 2,500 pets – ear infections, skin issues, mass removals, dental issues (\$175), end of life counseling and euthanasia; contract language for East Valley: maximum of 5 dogs, 5 female cats and unlimited male cats adopted from the center, 4 days per week; Harbor: Cmdr. Dedeaux requested extra surgery slots on Sundays and to remove species and gender restrictions; August 2015: East Valley required 17 surgery days, 5 dogs and 5 cats = 85 dogs and 85 cats or 170 shelter animals for the month; actual: received 138 dogs (53 more than required) and 57 cats (all the cats that were brought by shelter) = 195 animals or 25 more than required; Harbor required 17 surgery days, plus 4 Sundays for 19 surgery days, 10 shelter pets = 190 shelter animals; actual: 128 dogs and 63 cats = 191 total pets, or 1 more than required; YTD thru October for East Valley: performed 1,761 surgeries, goal 1,740 based on days; most months hits target, but not enough cats provided by shelter; 77 – 78% dogs; exceeding contractual obligations at East Valley; Harbor: not enough cats brought over to meet contractual requirement; issue of free rent: YTD thru October East Valley surgeries cost \$193,710, but reimbursed \$112,755 including 10% discount, with difference of about \$81,000; Van Nuys is about 2,800 sq ft @ \$28 per sq ft per year; Harbor surgeries cost \$173,000, AFE voucher does not nearly cover the cost of surgery – no free rent; regarding \$500,000 allocation, if highest AFE voucher: female over 150 lb dog at \$118 and \$68 for female cat provided for surgery at required rate and days in contract, total would be \$250,000 for the contract period

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at each location, with trend in coupons – another \$100,000; under current voucher system, will not reach \$500,000 unless increase value of AFE and more \$70 and \$125 vouchers are provided to public; contract has been over-budgeted; Harbor is on a 1-year renewal and Van Nuys is coming up; new RFP is coming up for services beginning mid-2016 – last time took 6 months to put in place and didn't get paid; requested coordination with GSD to have facility issues fixed: broken door handles, non-working outlets and lights, surgical lights not working, broken hinges on kennels; vouchers are inaccurate – pre-sterile vouchers invalidated – animals adopted out while in surgery; would like to see mobile vaccine clinic contract – in the works for 22 months – rabies vaccines are required and this would provide low-cost rabies vaccine; will service all 6 shelters; would like all ACOs and staff to know of low-cost wellness services – works with Intervention Program; conducts outreach to inform on vouchers.

**Commissioner Zaft** requested status report on mobile vaccine clinic contract. **Commissioner Gross** asked about interaction with staff. **SNP LA** responded that they work with staff, but there are some strained relations. **Commissioner Gross** asked about outreach efforts. **SNP LA** responded they use social media, outreach teams on the street, outreach when mobile vaccine clinic is on the street directing people next door for voucher. **Commissioner Gross** asked about any problems with billing. **SNP LA** responded that there used to be problems, but not anymore. **Commissioner Zaft** stated that amount may need to be adjusted, but glad to see contractual numbers requirement is being met. **SNP LA** would like Board to consider adjusting value of AFE. **Commissioner Yañez** asked what is AFE. **SNP LA** responded Authority for Expenditure - it is the voucher given to them for shelter animals (\$60, \$68 and \$110 and \$118) that is different from voucher amount. **Commissioner Yañez** asked whether the Board should look at changing the amounts and how long has it been since last change. **GM Barnette** responded that department is looking at all prices; haven't changed in 15 years. **Commissioner Yañez** requested report back on changing amounts. **GM Barnette** added that contracts will include a quarterly review to renegotiate value of contract if funds are not being used. **Commissioner Zaft** added that contractors should be notified to get input on value.

**Value Vet** indicated not prepared with all statistics - just notified of meeting last night at 5:00 p.m. **GM Barnette** responded that they can come back when ASPCA provides report. **Commissioner Zaft** stated they will be scheduled at a later meeting with ASPCA in January or February.

#### Public Comment

**Phyllis Daugherty:** Stated that euthanasia services are important services – people let animals die because they can't afford services. **Aimee Gilbreath:** Expressed support for SNP LA – 3 million dollar budget, provided \$100,000 grant from Found Animals; concerned with misinformation about contractual requirements. (**Commissioner Gross** responded that they must provide oversight for public funds for spay neuter services. **Commissioner Zaft** responded that the concern is with the 4 million dollars that have not been allocated; projects have been approved and are waiting to be implemented such as the targeted zip code mobile clinic. **Commissioner Yañez** added the 15 Canvassers should be empowered to take the vouchers door-to-door.) **Dee Thomas:** Stated that low-income people don't have the information or know that there are resources to help care for their animals; people running things in South L.A. are violent.

**Commissioner Zaft** asked that the other agencies be contacted to attend a future Board meeting to provide a report.

**B. Staff Request to Reject All Bids Received in Response to the Request for Proposals (RFP) for an Electronic Animal Identification System**

**Commissioner Zaft** provided a brief background of the RFP and the selection of Found Animals that subsequently offered to donate the microchips, which has been approved by the Board and City Council; stated that the vote is to close out the RFP.

**Commissioner Gross** made a motion to reject all bids received in response to the Request for Proposals (RFP) for an electronic animal identification system. **Commissioner Zaft** seconded and the motion passed 2 – 0 – 2 (two abstentions).

**C. WoofStat Report for October 2015**

**GM Barnette** noted progress with cats that is largely due to free adoptions for cats over 4 months through ASPCA grant, and assistance provided by NKLA partners with neonatal kittens; YTD live release rate for cats is up 14%; dogs are at 84% and cats at 57%; licensing is up 20% YTD compared to last year; ACE program is driving up compliance with licensing and spay neuter; shelter vets have exceeded their numbers; intake of strays is highest at East Valley, but seems higher at South L.A. because of density; euthanasia is down thanks to playgroups and New Hope Partners pulling animals with medical issues and those on the red list.

**Commissioner Brent** asked about discrepancy in high licensing at beginning of fiscal year, but almost flat for the month. **GM Barnette** responded that we need to study several years to determine what caused the jump. **Commissioner Zaft** noted that every shelter has improved the live save release rate, euthanasia number are decreasing, cat fosters are up 35% for YTD, redemption of \$30 vouchers is up 100%, drop in impounds for dogs, adoptions are flat, New Hope placement is down 17% over last year, altered dog license up 25%, over 1300 citations issues YTD, noted detail of surgeries by vendors. **GM Barnette** responded that Arlene is working hard with orientations and shelter working to get animals into foster care; ACE report will be added.

Public Comment

**Dee Thomas:** Stated that there is a need for more affordable housing and help for tenants to keep animals; more punishment for people abusing animals; need for education of people adopting animals.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

**Commissioner Gross** made a motion to adjourn and **Commissioner Yañez** seconded. Motion passed 4 - 0.

Meeting ended at 12:30 p.m.

**BOARD OF  
ANIMAL SERVICES  
COMMISSIONERS**

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**DEPARTMENT OF  
ANIMAL SERVICES**

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BRENDA F. BARNETTE  
GENERAL MANAGER

DANA H. BROWN  
ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER

DR. JEREMY PRUPAS  
CHIEF VETERINARIAN

**Report to the Board of Animal Services Commissioners**

**MEETING DATE:** December 8, 2015

**PREPARED BY:** Jeremy Prupas, VMD

**REPORT DATE:** December 2, 2015

**TITLE:** Chief Veterinarian

**SUBJECT:** USE OF THE ANIMAL WELFARE TRUST FUND TO PURCHASE A  
HANDHELD BLOOD ANALYZER

**BOARD ACTIONS RECOMMENDED:**

1. APPROVE the use of approximately \$33,000 from the Animal Welfare Trust Fund to purchase a Handheld Blood Analyzer for each of the five shelters that do not currently possess one (all except Harbor).

**SUMMARY:**

The shelter medical staff, with the exception of those at the Harbor shelter, currently do not possess the ability to perform anything except the most basic kind of blood tests. Sick and injured animals would benefit from staff being able to perform more extensive blood tests, which would allow for a more tailored treatment regimen.

The VetScan i-STAT 1 is a handheld blood analyzer that delivers accurate blood gas, electrolyte, chemistry and hematology results in minutes from 2-3 drops of whole blood in a completely portable, handheld package. This makes it the ideal solution for critical care situations, hospital operating room monitoring, exotic animals and research needs at the point of care. Most importantly, the VetScan i-STAT 1 provides the additional information needed to monitor chronic disease patients, evaluate pre-anesthetic patients, and provide diagnostic specialty testing information for the ill patient in the exam or treatment room.

The VetScan i-STAT 1 has a number of benefits including, but not limited to:

- Acid-base, blood gas, electrolyte, chemistry, and hematology testing with one platform. Saves counter space and money while improving in-house testing capability

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Report to the Board of Animal Services Commissioners  
SUBJECT: PURCHASE OF HANDHELD BLOOD ANALYZER

- Small sample size - 95 µL or less. Provides the ability to test small or ill animals such as an anemic puppy or the fractious cat.
- Speed: most results in 2 minutes. Obtain results, diagnose, and begin treatment immediately at the point-of-care.
- Accurate and reliable. Offers peace of mind to make quick and confident patient assessment.
- Comprehensive internal quality control. Ensures reliable results; removes the need and cost of external controls.
- Low maintenance. Save costs and time
- Portable, lightweight – only weighs 1.4 lbs. Diagnose and treat at the point of care, patient side, whether out in the field or in the exam room.
- Easy to use. Minimal hands-on time and training; decreases user error and frustration.
- Integrated barcode reader. Scans barcodes for patient ID, operator ID and cartridge lot information.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Each device is valued at approximately \$6600 which would result in a total fiscal impact to the Animal Welfare Trust Fund of approximately \$33,000. Please note that in order to procure this equipment, the Department would have to engage in the bidding process as required by the City of Los Angeles. As a result, the exact cost of the equipment is not currently available.

Approved:

Brenda F. Barnette

**Brenda Barnette, General Manager**

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**BOARD ACTION:**

_____ Passed	Disapproved _____
_____ Passed with noted modifications	Continued _____
_____ Tabled	New Date _____