



BOARD OF ANIMAL SERVICES COMMISSIONERS  
CITY OF LOS ANGELES



MINUTES

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2015 at 7:00 PM

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

---

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

---

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

Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m. Commissioners present were Zaft, Gross and Yañez. Commissioner Wolfson arrived at 7:15 and Commissioner Brent 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.

**REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING**

**1. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Karin Flores:** Stated that more resources are needed for wildlife specialists to handle issues such as injured wildlife. **Frederick Jordan:** Requested that ACO polo shirts include "Animal Control Officer" or "Animal Services" on the back, and on the jackets, for safety – people don't know who you are and what you're doing; recognized and thanked Phyllis Daugherty, Dr. Prupas, Jennifer (ASPCA), the Board and GM. **Phyllis Daugherty:** Agreed with need for new shirts / jackets; discussed National Apartment Association and HHUS as to pets in rental housing. **Marla Tauscher:** Asked whether client's dog "Cooper" is still alive; informed of lawsuit being filed regarding the administrative hearing and due process issues; impounding of homeless people's animals. **Andrew Brown:** Requested changing wording of animals designated "possible owner" – people think "POS" is a derogatory term – should be "stray" or "stray ID"; discussed shelter vets' practice of pre-spaying or pre-neutering and impact on availability of animals on weekends. **Gail Raff:** Discussed need to do something about outside cats – don't do well in cages – need for public education on cats; suggested senior animals be free, and that seniors can't afford senior animals.

**2. COMMISSION BUSINESS**

**A. Approval of Minutes for November 10, 2015.**

Public Comments  
None

**B. Approval of Minutes for November 24, 2015.**

Public Comment  
None

**Commissioner Yañez** moved to approve the minutes for November 10, 2015 and November 24, 2015. **Commissioner Gross** seconded. The motion passed 4 - 0.

### 3. ORAL REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

**GM Barnette** discussed the following:

- Personnel Dept. has provided a timeline for hiring ACOs; established list with 38 eligible candidates – need to submit personal statements before undergoing background checks; process will take 45-60 days and conditional job offers will be made mid-February with start dates of early March 2016; people will be able to continue applying so that a continuous list is available to fill positions.
- Staff met with Found Animals (FA) to discuss implementation of microchip program; FA is requesting staff be trained on use of the registry before program implementation – training should be completed within 45 days.
- Home for the Holidays event at North Central Animal Shelter by Lucy Foundation which brought groomers included KTLA Gayle Anderson and hair stylist Jose Eber for beauty makeovers for long-haired dogs that needed grooming.
- ACE citations are prompting people to comply within 30 days by licensing and altering dogs.
- Black Friday weekend participation with Best Friends and Zappos – 54% more adoptions over last year with 447 adoptions over the three days (288 dogs and 159 cats).
- Francisca Baxa will assist in strategic planning process; will put together a committee.
- Expansion of Feline-ality program at Harbor sponsored by ASPCA; staff will start once panleukopenia outbreak is contained and have healthy population.
- Staff working with City Attorney on issue of exotic animals for house parties (**Dov Lesel** added that he is assisting staff with a board report that should be presented in January).
- Issue of Kapparot being discussed with the City Attorney's Office – does not feel there is evidence to act on this year; will work with community next year.
- Staff shortage issues, part-time staff being brought in.
- Radio personality Luz Maria will broadcast live from South L.A. shelter on December 13 to sponsor adoptions.
- Steve-o was at North Central Animal Shelter.
- ABC7 featured LAAS – Newest Places to Explore in L.A. featured North Central with newscaster adopting abandoned animal.
- Darling magazine sent staff members to North Central to take pictures of animals to feature 12 Days Christmas article to be published later this month.
- Congressman Cardenas will host event at East Valley on December 13.
- Playgroups at North Central slowed down, but have resumed; Robert and Cmdr. Dedeaux conducted new training for more volunteers; playgroups now conducted every Tuesday.
- Revamping Clerical section to improve customer service at all shelters, but facing shortage as people are out on leave.
- November 18 expanded ACE program to East Valley – now all districts are implementing.
- Department participated in 2015 functional exercise coordinated by Emergency Management Dept. – all field and kennel supervision, Chief Veterinarian and Director of Operations participated in event simulating chemical incident; report coming early next year.
- Adding new license Canvassers – hard to get applicants, but advertising in community colleges.

**Please join us at our website: [www.LAAnimalservices.com](http://www.LAAnimalservices.com)**

- Field services mobile animal rescue team featured in news segment on KNBC channel 4 and KTTV channel 11 for efforts in which department is engaged in response to El Niño.

Public Comment

**Phyllis Daugherty:** Stated that report on the ACE program only discusses spay and neuter, does not include all violations of municipal code; it's a revenue source to pay for ACOs, but no revenue garnered yet; no report on citations issued for different types of crimes against animals.

**Commissioner Zaft** responded that a report is forthcoming now that the program has been implemented citywide; report should include the types of violations and infractions for which citations are being issued.

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

**Commissioner Wolfson:** Shared that he has been working with President Zaft, GM Barnette and ACA Lesel on allowing corporations to provide gifts to the department (Wag would like to donate five free dog-walks for newly adopted and additional dog-walking to anyone who has ever adopted from LAAS shelters; stated that donated items to shelters disappear, suggested locking things.

**Commissioner Zaft:** Passed.

**Commissioner Yañez:** Shared that she had Steve-o come to North Central shelter, about 25 people were waiting and word got out, but didn't result in any adoptions; 27 pallets of food were donated by Wellness to Pets for Life – 6 pallets to LAAS, but no one has been able to get the food, 2 pallets left if LAAS can get them.

**Commissioner Gross:** Stated that education is needed about illegal trapping - people are hiring companies to illegally trap skunks and raccoons; people need to know that you cannot relocate wildlife; companies doing the trapping must be licensed, permitted and have insurance; had discussed the issue of shirts with Jan and about having a better perception of department – suggested using new LAAS logo on shirts and hats, and "Animal Control."

Public Comments

**Gail Raff:** Stated that people are trapping squirrels; food is left in traps for squirrels and cats and left unattended. **Commissioner Gross** added that ACE citations are being issued to address illegal trapping. **Mitzi Spallas:** Stated that evidence dogs at North Central have been there since March and they don't get walked – staff too busy to walk them and volunteers not allowed to walk them. **Commissioner Wolfson** added that the policy has been changed and volunteers are able to walk evidence dogs. **Karen Flores:** Announced that the Audubon at Debs Park will hold a 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Bird L.A. Day on Saturday, May 7 where all bird organizations will hold different activities.

#### 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

**Dr. Prupas** discussed the request and provided an overview of the report; stated that the one handheld blood analyzer was given to Harbor Animal Shelter by San Pedro Pet

**Please join us at our website: [www.LAAnimalservices.com](http://www.LAAnimalservices.com)**

Pals; the machine uses cartridges to get tiny amounts of blood to get an overview of what is going on inside animal that has been hit by a car, senior animals, or before undergoing surgery; at that time they cost \$4,000 and are now \$6,000; machines can be obtained through Victor Medical, the new medical supplier under contract.

**Commissioner Gross** provided computer printout of machine and stated that the department should not be without it. **Commissioner Yañez** agreed.

Public Comment

**Andrew Brown:** Expressed support for the request; suggested that they be used on animals before being spayed or neutered to confirm health; discussed dog that crashed after sterilization by partner vet, as a result of kidney failure that could have been detected with the machine – dog was euthanized – unknown if due to kidney failure or surgery.

**Commissioner Yañez** moved to approve the staff request for use of Animal Welfare Trust Fund for the purchase of five (5) handheld blood analyzers. **Commissioner Gross** seconded and the motion passed 4-0.

## 6. ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting ended at 7:48 p.m.