



BOARD OF ANIMAL SERVICES COMMISSIONERS
CITY OF LOS ANGELES

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA
Tuesday, August 13, 2019
9:00 A.M.

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

LARRY GROSS
President

OLIVIA E. GARCÍA
Vice-President

ALISA FINSTEN
JOSE SANDOVAL
ROGER WOLFSON

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) 482-9558.

Si requiere servicios de traducción, favor de hacer pedido con 24 horas de anticipo al (213) 482-9558.

I. ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS

1. Dangerous Animal Case: DA 182566 WLA

Appellant(s): Stephen and Wendy Lubianetsky

West Los Angeles Animal Services Center: Lieutenant Yvonne Rodriguez

Complaining Witness: Andrew and Victoria Custer

II. 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)

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. NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL COMMENTS** - (Discussion with Neighborhood Council representatives on Neighborhood Council Resolutions or Community Impact Statements filed with the City Clerk which relate to any agenda item listed or being considered on this agenda for the Board of Animal Services Commissioners)

3. COMMISSION BUSINESS

- A. Approval of Minutes for the Meeting of July 23, 2019. (Action Item)
- B. Election of Board Officers. (Action item)
Item will be continued to the next meeting

4. ORAL REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

5. COMMISSIONERS' ORAL REPORTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

6. BOARD REPORTS

- A. Authorize the Use of Animal Welfare Trust Fund for Extension of Misting System on the Training Field at Chesterfield Square Animal Services Center (Action Item)
- B. Report Back on the posting of spay/neuter billboards at the Services Centers. (Information Item)
- C. Report Back on the purchasing of bumper stickers with Department priorities on them (e.g. spay and neuter, adopt). (Information Item)

7. ADJOURNMENT

Next Regular Meeting is scheduled for 9:00 A.M., August 27, 2019, at City Hall 200 North Spring Street, Room 1060, Los Angeles, CA 90012. (Enter on Main Street).

AGENDAS - The Board of Animal Services Commissioners (Board) meets regularly every second (2nd) and fourth (4th) Tuesday of each month at 9:00 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, 221 North Figueroa Street, 6th Floor, Suite 600, Los Angeles, CA 90012. Board Agendas may also be viewed on the 2nd 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**

LARRY GROSS
PRESIDENT

OLIVIA E. GARCIA
VICE PRESIDENT

COMMISSIONERS

ALISA FINSTEN

JOSE SANDOVAL

ROGER WOLFSON

City of Los Angeles

CALIFORNIA



ERIC GARCETTI
MAYOR

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ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER
Lifesaving

DR. JEREMY PRUPAS
CHIEF VETERINARIAN

NOTIFICATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL HEARINGS

To Be Held:
Tuesday, August 13, 2019, at 9:00 A.M.
City Hall
200 North Spring Street, 10th Floor, Room 1060
Los Angeles, CA 90012
(Entrance on Main Street)

This serves as formal notice pursuant to Section § 53.18(q) 4 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) to the following parties and witnesses in the appeal(s) listed below:

- 1. Dangerous Animal Case: DA 182566 WLA**
Appellant(s): Stephen and Wendy Lubianetsky
West Los Angeles Animal Services Center: Lieutenant Yvonne Rodriguez
Complaining Witness: Andrew and Victoria Custer

These hearings will not be rescheduled, except for good cause.

As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and, upon request, will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services and activities. 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 additional information, please refer to the Board's "Rules and Procedures for Appeals", or contact the Department of Animal Services at (213) 482-9558, or visit the Department's website: <http://www.laanimalservices.com/>. Written statements are to be submitted to the Commission seven days prior and, if in excess of 50 pages, seven hard copies must be provided. You may submit your statement (50 pages or less) via email to: ani.commission@lacity.org.

Para información en español, llame al (213) 482-9558.

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BOARD OF ANIMAL SERVICES COMMISSIONERS
CITY OF LOS ANGELES



MINUTES
TUESDAY, July 23, 2019 at 7:00 PM

CHESTERFIELD SQUARE ANIMAL SERVICES CENTER
1850 WEST 60TH STREET
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90047

Audio MP-3 Recording is available at www.laanimalservices.com

Larry Gross, President
Olivia E. García, Vice President
Alisa Finsten
Jose Sandoval
Roger Wolfson

Meeting called to order at 7:08 p.m. Commissioners present were Gross, Sandoval and Wolfson. Also present from Los Angeles Animal Services (LAAS) was General Manager (GM) Brenda Barnette, Directors of Field Operations (DFO) Karen Knipscheer-Cox and Annette Ramirez, Board Secretary, LaTonya Dean and Assistant City Attorney (ACA) Dov Lesel.

Commissioner Gross opened the meeting, introduced staff, and provided an overview of the meeting agenda.

I. REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING

1. PUBLIC COMMENT

Franka Schoening spoke about the negative effects of splitting up bonded pairs of bunnies.

Sharon Tydell began to speak about the virtues of working with a rabbit rescue to develop a foster program and talked about the special care needed for rabbits.

Michelle Kelly spoke about the work that Beverly Caskey did for animals and her recent passing.

Phyllis Daugherty wanted to know why a flyer for the Dogs! Exhibit was included in her license renewal envelope, as it was a violation of the law. She also expressed her disappointment in the advertisement for Animal Control Officers.

Andrew S. Brown spoke about problems associated with the new process of affixing kennel cards with baggies and binder clips instead of the hard cases. He also thanked the Department for the playgroup fencing at the East Valley Animal Services Center.

Diana Mendoza invited meeting attendees to join PETA on Saturday for an event to promote spay/neutering at the James E. Slauson Recreation Center.

Danielle Howard, volunteer, recognized ACTs, Jasmine Poblano and Nate Newman, for their work with playgroups and urged the Department to provide additional staffing for the groups.

Silje Remme continued discussing problems with understaffing at the animal services centers. She also provided recommendations on signage to direct staff to specific

animal types (i.e. puppies, small dogs) and more descriptive kennel cards to encourage showing outside the kennel.

Cat Edwards provided some information and ideas on using social media hashtags to promote animal adoptions and spoke about the benefits of it being low cost.

Barbara Trelease spoke about various rabbit education sessions that will be conducted. She also went over the various items included in new adopter goodie bags and recommended that Michelle Kelly be recognized for her work.

Anna Mackenzie recommended that rabbits be consolidated to two shelters, considering the limited number of rabbit volunteers. She also recommended that mobile adoption events be held at the other shelters on specific days.

Lisa Edmondson spoke about the increase of numbers in rabbits at shelters in Orange County and how it was related to hoarding. She asked if the Department checked in on known hoarders since its likely they may relapse.

Wayne from Encino spoke about the Chesterfield Square Animal Services Center location.

Jeff Fleiss stated that Michelle Kelly did great work for rabbits and was saddened to hear that Beverly Caskey had passed away.

Lejla Hadzimuratovic grateful that the mandatory spay/neuter for rabbits ordinance passed and inquired with ACA Lesel when the ordinance would be written. She also spoke about a lack of enforcement at Santee Alley.

2. **NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL COMMENTS** - (Discussion with Neighborhood Council representatives on Neighborhood Council Resolutions or Community Impact Statements filed with the City Clerk which relate to any agenda item listed or being considered on this agenda for the Board of Animal Services Commissioners)

Public Comment:
None.

3. COMMISSION BUSINESS

- A. Approval of Minutes for the Meeting of July 9, 2019.

Public Comment:
None.

Commissioner Sandoval moved to approve the minutes for the July 9, 2019 meeting. **Commissioner Wolfson** seconded and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 3-0.

Ayes: Gross, Sandoval and Wolfson

Noes: None.

Absent: Finsten and García

B. Election of Board Officers.

Item continued to the next Board meeting.

4. ORAL REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

GM Barnette discussed the following:

- Reported that LaTonya Dean, Commission Executive Assistant, would be leaving the Department and that this was her last meeting.
- On July 19th, UCLA Law held a class where Jim Crosby was the instructor. Several staff members attended and found it well-worth their time and educational.
- GM Barnette noted that Commissioners could only act as a group and that Commission members could not act individually because the Commission was one body. She had requested additional training for the Commissioners.
- During the weekend of July 13th and 14th, the Department held a free adoption event and 138 dogs, 180 cats and nine bunnies ended up in homes of their own. GM Barnette recognized the hard work by staff to make the events happen.
- Between January and June, the Department had 20% more kitten intakes than the same time last year. The Department also had a 15 to 16% increase in adult cat intakes than last year. Dog intake numbers, however, were down this year. Staff will be examining the reasons for the changes in this year's numbers.
- August is a free spay month for cats and staff has been working on the promotion for the event.
- Staff has been conducting a large number of outreach events. They are doing everything they can to get good outcomes for the animals.
- The Department is critically low on staff and have at least 100 people less than it did in 2008. There have been a couple of incidents with volunteers showing animals, and staff will be looking at protocols to see how the Department keeps people safe in the shelters.
- There is a SMART video available online that shows the Team rescuing a raccoon that was tangled in a basketball net that recently went viral.
- Provided an update on the Boredom Buster enrichment program the Board approved at a previous meeting. India Griffin put together the program and was given an innovation grant from Maddie's Fund. The Department is very proud of the fact that the Commission passed the item and it has gone on to receive national recognition.

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Public Comment:

Phyllis Daugherty suggested that spay and neuter be listed on the website since there has been a large intake of kittens as well as going out to the community where the intake numbers are the highest.

Wayne from Encino spoke about removing a member from Board.

5. COMMISSIONERS' ORAL REPORTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Commissioner Sandoval: Requested an update on the kennel cards on the cages and stated that if the Department needed to spend some money on them it could. He also requested an update on the spay/neuter signage in the shelters. He wanted the spay/neuter signage to flood the shelters with information.

Commissioner Gross: Asked that staff look into bumper stickers with Department priorities listed (e.g. spay and neuter, adopt) to place on City vehicles.

Public Comment:

Wayne from Encino spoke about the general manager's time with the Department and Kinko's copying.

6. Board Reports

Out of Order – Taken After Item 3.A.

A. Opposition to Horse Racing in the State of California.

Commissioner Gross reviewed the format for discussion on the item. **Commissioner Wolfson** stated that the idea of being an animal rights activist is having compassion for all animals, not just companion and domesticated animals. He noted it might be symbolic since Los Angeles doesn't have a racetrack, but to people on both sides of this argument, it's not symbolic. He believed the situation with the death of horses should be looked at carefully, not just because of the deaths, but at racing in this day and age when animals can't provide informed consent to participate and when humans are risking the safety and lives of horses. **Commissioner Wolfson** stated he would like to hear both sides of the discussion. **Commissioner Gross** thanked Commissioner Wolfson for bringing the item forward and stated that everyone in the room was concerned with the safety and well-being of horses. He spoke about SB 469 which granted the California Horse Racing Board the ability to suspend horse racing and licenses and described the details of the bill and its requirements. **Commissioner Gross** stated that he was not proposing that the Department support horse racing, but acknowledged there was another aspect to the issue that should be considered before going forward. He spoke about how horse racing directly provided 77,000 jobs to mostly low-paying workers, including 3,000 at Santa Anita. Also, he shared stories about three individuals that work in the horse racing industry and the impact a horse racing ban would have on them and their families. **Commissioner Gross** stated that in addition to ensuring the welfare of animals, another priority is addressing the homeless problem and one issue should not be pitted against the other. We need to figure out how to protect our horses as well as our families and the workers who would be impacted by a ban.

Commissioner Wolfson made the following motion: To condemn the practices of horse racing, that leads to the mistreatment and death of horses. It is the sense of this Commission that as the largest animal rights department on the west coast, that horse racing in its current form is not humane and should not be allowed within the City limits. We hereby request that City Council explore and confirm this policy.

Public Comment:

Heather Wilson, Horseracing Wrongs, stated that California had a horse overpopulation problem. The horse racing industry has commodified horses and subjected horses to a lifetime of abuse, drugging, whipping and cruelty. Horse racing leads to pulmonary hemorrhages, or bleeding from the lungs and denies horses the right to be horses. She reported that 2000 race horses are killed every year in the U.S., of which California kills 250 on average. Those that survive end up at auction and over 130,000 are shipped to Mexican and Canadian slaughterhouses. She stated that SB 469 and the State Horse racing Board did not do enough, but believed the Board had an opportunity to make history by asking L.A. City Council to amend the Municipal Code to not allow horse racing and simulcast racing in Los Angeles, making this the first municipality to do so.

Oscar de la Torre spoke about the effect that the closing of Hollywood Park had on his family, specifically his uncle who became homeless. He had an opportunity to meet with many of the approximately 3,000 backstretch workers at Santa Anita, most of which were fearful that they will lose their job, not be able to provide for their families and will end up homeless in the City of Los Angeles. He does not want to exasperate that problem, but it is a reality. He feels that being homeless is a death sentence and spoke about the risk minorities are at because they happen to be on the poor part of town. At Santa Anita, Del Mar and other horse racing facilities there is housing and medical attention provided for workers. He talked about the love and care that the workers have for the horses and stated there was a misrepresentation of the facts that these workers abuse the horses. The workers find that mischaracterization of their jobs upsetting.

Karen Norton noted that there wasn't a track in the City of Los Angeles and there would never be a track in the City. She did not believe the issue of horse racing should be taking the Board's time or tax dollars.

Alan Balch, California Thoroughbred Trainers, stated that their trainers have unhesitatedly supported the new protocols instituted for improved welfare of horses in California and were well on their way to surpassing their previous safety record. He urged the Board to help them by investigating and learning more before they made a decision.

John Valenzuela supported racing in California and would like to educate the Board. The backstretch community knows that the horses need love and care. He further spoke about the people who supported the horses.

Scarlet B. Timphrey spoke about her experience with horse racing and noted that she and others do not abuse the horses. She urged the Board to educate themselves in horse racing and felt the agenda was damaging to horses and lives.

Heather Hyde expressed that horse racing was nothing but corruption and greed and the animals had no quality of life. She spoke about strict procedures the horses were subjected to on race days.

Cliff Goodrich stated he had been involved in the industry for 54 years and the discussion was about the welfare of the horses and their human caretakers. The racing of horses is a partnership between the horses and their human caretakers that benefits both parties.

Patty Shenker spoke about the health issues that horses suffer due to horse racing. She didn't want anyone to lose their job, but the horse industry could take care of the backstretch workers and train them to do something else.

Jill Mulato spoke about the extreme solitary confinement and small stalls horses were subjected to and the negative effects to the animals.

Deacon Arnie Lopez spoke about his 20 year experience in the horse racing industry. He also spoke about the loving care the horses require and the workers who provide it.

Kathy Cullen reported on the fatality rate associated with horse racing. She questioned why it was okay for horses to die at the hands of humans.

Michele Mento, Animal Defenders International, requested the Commission act in response to the recent reports of horses that died as a result of horse racing.

Brian Walsh talked about why he liked history and about what type of society we live in. He stated he likes watching history and he was excited that the Board had an opportunity to make history.

Evelyn Burns spoke about her 25 years in horse racing in California and how the workers put the health and safety of horses above everything. She also spoke about the jobs impact of horse racing in California.

Dr. Andrew Lesser reported on the various negative health and safety issues he learned about horse racing over the years. To subject horses to such a fate for such a subculture and the thrill of betting was wrong.

Jackie Munnerlyn believed there was a concern due to the horse deaths that have happened recently. However, she spoke about the track conditions and bad trainers and correlated how that may have had a negative effect.

Wayne Johnson asked if horses were willing to run why they were whipped to go down the track. He spoke about the number of horses that died in World War I and II and how Florida outlawed greyhound racing after 20 years. He urged the Board to outlaw horse racing.

Phyllis Daugherty, Animal Issues Movement, wondered what the Board would be voting on. She thought that this item was in violation of the Brown Act and recommended that they continue the item and return with a staff report.

Sarah Segal stated that horse racing is about money. The race tracks can be turned into horse sanctuaries and the workers in the horse racing industry could work at the sanctuaries.

Kiersten Cluster, Elephant Guardians of Los Angeles, spoke about the stereotypes associated with animals held in captivity. She compared the traits found in captive elephants and horses.

Patricia Folgar believed that racehorses were born into a life of slavery and greed. She felt that led to the addiction of gambling for people and believed the Board had the power to make history.

Kenny A. Sanchez stated he had been in the horse racing industry for 38 years. He said many of the horses have a second home and that there was life after horses retire from horse racing.

David Cazares, Environmental Engineer, City of Los Angeles, felt there was no consent for the racehorses and he was reluctant to call horse racing a sport. Trainers pump the horses full of drugs and keep them running at all cost. He asked the Board to request City Council to change the Municipal Code to ban horse racing in the City of Los Angeles.

Josephine Garcia pleaded with the Board to see the cruelty involved with horse racing and believed there was a lot of evil and cruelty in the sport.

Melanie Shaw stated that every season horses will die at the track and the industry is aware of it and ready for it to happen. She asked why people would support a gambling sport and believed it has to come a time that the City will stop supporting this blood sport industry.

Carmela Di Cola Bozulich been involved with horses for 40 years and encouraged everyone at the meeting to visit on the backside of the track before a decision is made so that they could be educated. Stated that everyone would be perfectly welcome there.

Genesis Butler asked the Board to spread compassion to all animals. She read a quote from her great, great uncle regarding compassion toward animals.

Lynn Freudenberg urged the Board to ban horse racing in Los Angeles. She stated the industry numbers spoke for themselves and that the racetracks were closed to fix the problem, but it didn't work.

Marlene Orrick has been involved in horse racing for 38 years. She was proud to be a supporter of horse racing in California and to help people understand it more fully.

Zafir Molina felt it was unfair that humans exploit animals for games. She stated that the horse racing industry exploits both animals and humans and we should take in consideration that animals have feelings like humans.

Richard Rosales stated he was a horse trainer and that there was a lot of misinformation as it related to the horse racing industry. He loved horses and animals and all the lies about the industry was infuriating. He stated that something needed to be done in the area of training.

Wayne from Encino spoke about the motion for the item and stated it was a violation of the Brown Act.

David Rutan stated that the supporters of the industry only cared about the profit the horses made for them. He also noted that horses could be made to run around an oval, contrary to a statement made by a previous speaker.

Silje Remme stated that she wasn't for or against horse racing and that she loved animals. Potentially banning a whole industry could have many ripple effects and there should be a plan in place for the horses and the people who work with them.

ACA Lesel noted that two speakers made cogent points that the action the Board could take must track the language on the agenda. The fact there was no report was not as important. He further stated that the motion could not be changed to only reflect racing in the City of Los Angeles or anything else. He clarified that the action that the Board could take would be to oppose horse racing in the State of California. **Commissioner Wolfson** thanked meeting attendees for sharing the experience with him and asked for a round of applause for participants for being civil and compassionate. He appreciated the invitation to come backstage at a horse track and stated he would like to come as an individual as he wasn't sure if he could come in his official capacity as a Commissioner. He stated he truly understood and honored the people who did not agree with his point of view on the subject and believed that the people on all sides loved horses. **Commissioner Wolfson** stated that to say that the closing of a racetrack was going to automatically lead to homelessness was a little bit of a stretch and he found it to be a little bit manipulative, especially since the Board did not have the power to close racetracks. He pointed out the terrible influence of gambling addiction on families leads to homelessness and destroys lives, homes and children, not just horses. He felt this was an issue of humanity and compassion and took a little bit of umbrage with the idea that the horses tell jockeys they want to run. **Commissioner Wolfson** believed that the 30 deaths and the whipping involved with the sport was evidence of abuse and that if people wanted to bet on racing, it should be on humans because they can provide unequivocal consent and humans don't require a whip to run. He spoke about some of the flyers that were provided by meeting attendees and stated he was personally sorry for the people who were stressed whose livelihood comes from this sport. **Commissioner Wolfson** noted that this was not happening fast and that there would be a healthy debate around the issue. He hoped that both sides could resolve the issue together, civilly and compassionately. **Commissioner Gross** thanked everyone for coming out to the meeting. He stated that it was clearly a heated issue that had one concern pitted against the other. He spoke about how everyone was shocked at the number of horse deaths that were reported at the race tracks and stated that they (the deaths) could not be tolerated. The deaths, he reported, was a motivation for the California Legislature to take action, but it may not be enough. **Commissioner Gross** stated that he sat on the Commission because he was a firm animal lover and would do

whatever he could to protect them, however, he was also a tenant organizer and saw eviction notices every day and what people had to deal with when they lose their jobs. He pointed out that 64% of people in Los Angeles were living in unaffordable homes, 1 in 4 households were living below the poverty rate and there was a homeless issue. He stated that there was a commitment in the City for protecting animals, but we also have a commitment to preventing homelessness. **Commissioner Gross** felt that they needed to figure out the best way to go forward and he could not support an outright ban unless it was ensured that 77,000 jobs were provided for those people who would be effected by a ban. He stated that if we got rid of horse training, we need to retrain those trainers for other jobs, or they may end up on the streets. He spoke about how the Board did not have the power to ban horse racing in Los Angeles and how horse racing was not in Los Angeles and would never be there. **Commissioner Wolfson** spoke about how the elephant tourism parks in Asia were turned into sanctuaries because of committed activists. He felt this kind of thing could be done for horses. **Commissioner Gross** stated that he didn't believe the horse industry would be motivated to do that for the horses and he compared it to if the grocery workers were to go on strike and what the grocery stores would do for impacted workers. **Commissioner Wolfson** stated the motion was not meaningless to him and that this was a statement of values and it is how change happens. Commissioners Wolfson and Gross further discussed the item in detail.

Commissioner Wolfson moved to oppose horse racing in the State of California. **Commissioner Sandoval** asked if the motion could be amended. **ACA Lesel** stated that it could be done if it kept with the motion to oppose horse racing in the State of California. **Commissioner Wolfson** moved to oppose horse racing in the State of California and request that the City Council explore and confirm this policy. **Commissioner Sandoval** seconded the motion. After a roll call vote, the motion failed by a vote of 2-1.

Ayes: Sandoval and Wolfson

Noes: Gross

Absent: Finsten and García

Commissioner Wolfson requested that the item be reconsidered at a future Board meeting when there was a fuller quorum. **ACA Lesel** noted that the matter could be placed on an agenda at another time. **GM Barnette** suggested contacting a Councilmember to make a motion in order to have the discussion on the Council floor or in a Committee rather than at the Commission. **Commissioner Wolfson** stated that he would like to finish what was started at the Commission. **ACA Lesel** noted that it was up to the President of the Commission and General Manager to set the agenda. **Commissioner Gross** stated that since it was uncertain if there would be a full quorum at the next Board meeting, the Board should probably wait and determine the best time to place the item on the agenda and adequate notice would be provided.

Commissioner Wolfson left the meeting at 9:07 p.m. Prior to his departure he asked that the Board adjourn in the memory of Beverly Caskey.

B. Update on the Department of Animal Services License Renewal Process and ACE Citations.

Board Secretary Dean reported that the current renewal rate was 56%. There were 141,772 notices mailed and 79,536 licensed renewed. Although there was a mechanism in the Chameleon animal information system to provide notification of non-renewal compliance, there was a lack of field staff available to follow-up on the renewals. **GM Barnette** inquired if the Targeted Local Hiring Animal License Canvassers that would be starting with the Department would help with the follow-up issue. **DFO Ramirez** responded that they would follow-up with renewals as well as going door to door for new licenses as well. **DFO Ramirez** stated that the ACE program, which was initiated in 2015, did not just enforce the license program. Since 2015, officers have issued approximately 33,700 citations, and of those only 22% have been submitted to the City Attorney's Office due to compliance or the citations being cancelled for another reason. She further described the types of violations to which citations were issued, the amounts collected for the citations and the expenditures from the program funding. **Commissioner Gross** asked if the City Attorney had any update on the numbers and on what action the office had taken on the referrals. **DFO Ramirez** described the process the City Attorney takes when they receive the referrals and the steps taken by Data Ticket, the processing company. **GM Barnette** provided clarifications on the rabies and spay and neuter citations. **Commissioner Gross** noted that his renewal notice was dated July 3rd, but he only recently received it. **GM Barnette** responded that the Department worked through the City's General Services Department to mail out the notices which causes a delay in delivery. **Commissioner Gross** suggested that the renewal notices provide a breakdown for the payment of one year licenses and three year licenses so that it is clear what the amounts paid would cover. He also suggested that the option to pay online be highlighted more on the notice. **Commissioner Gross** asked if staff knew how many people no longer had their animals, of those that did not renew. **Board Secretary Dean** responded did she did not have that information, but that staff could follow up.

Public Comment:

Phyllis Daugherty asked how many years it took to get the citations issues and collected.

DFO Ramirez responded that the numbers were from 2015 to present.

Wayne from Encino stated that the ACE Program needed to go away and that it was something that a previous City Attorney, Carmen Trutanich, implemented and it was out of control.

C. Discussion on the California Public Records Act Request Processing.

Board Secretary Dean reported that the Department receives a number of public information requests each day and the number had been steadily growing each year. She also described the method in which the requests were received, the challenges involved with responding to the requests and the strategies being used to address the challenges. **Commissioner Gross** asked what was the average time it took to respond to the request and **Board Secretary Dean** responded that it varied due to a number of factors. **GM Barnette** described a recent request

which presented challenges for the Department. **Commissioner Gross** asked how we handled inquiries from the public requesting follow-up from previously submitted requests. **Board Secretary Dean** stated that the records coordinator acknowledges receipt of the follow up request and reaches out to other offices as necessary to obtain additional information relative to the request status. **Commissioner Gross** asked about the state law relative to records request and if there was a time frame associated with it. **ACA Lesel** responded that the Department does the best it can and sends out records as they become available, while informing requesters that their request is being worked on. Also, the Department will ask the requester to provide more information on the specifics of what they are seeking so that the Department may respond to them more quickly. **Commissioner Sandoval** asked how often we reply to e-mails from requesters seeking information on when their documents would be available. **Board Secretary Dean** responded that the records coordinator typically responds right away. **Commissioner Sandoval** also asked what the current backlog was for records requests. **Board Secretary Dean** responded that the Department had received approximately 405 requests in 2019 and of those requests approximately 57 were open and pending. She further described factors as to why those requests may be open and pending. **GM Barnette** noted that documents relative to open investigations are not released.

Public Comment:

Phyllis Daugherty thanked Mary Fiscal for the work she does to provide records. She also noted that one of the reason why requesters may not be receiving the records they requested is staff responsible for submitting them do not thoroughly review the request.

Wayne from Encino talked about the number of requests being processed by the Department by one person. He asked that the Department provide a full time person to process the requests.

D. Discussion on Rabbit Fostering.

DFO Ramirez reported that the Department currently housed 215 rabbits and of those rabbits, four rabbits were housed since 2017 and 58 since 2018. She reported that approximately 10 years ago the rabbit population was around 2% but was currently at 8.6% and she described some of the options staff exercised to increase positive outcomes for the rabbit population. The current fostering policy permitted the fostering of all animals, but was not being practiced for the fostering of rabbits. **GM Barnette** pointed out that the adoption prices for rabbits were a part of the budget process and that there were many opportunities for public discussion before the prices could be changed. **DFO Ramirez** stated the regular and reduced rate prices for rabbit adoptions.

Public Comment:

Michelle Kelly believed any free rabbit leaving the shelter was not okay and stated the City did not have the personnel to oversee a rabbit or guinea pig foster program because they are exotic animals that require an infrastructure of people who can care for them.

Natalie Grant stated that LAAS lacked the proper resources to facilitate responsible rabbit adoptions and a fostering program, and without those resources it jeopardized the lives of the rabbits.

Anna Mackenzie spoke about how crucial it was that rabbits do not go into homes where there are other animals that can harm them, and with the Department's limited resources didn't see how it would be able to do that type of check-up.

Lisa Edmondson suggested that some of the rabbits could be coming from other areas such as Orange County and with the Department's limited resources it would not be able to follow-up on these sources.

Kiara Glasco spoke about the screening process used at LA Rabbit Foundation and suggested that if the Department wanted to do a fostering program, the service be referred to their organization.

Patricia Susann Dillon thanked the Department for all the work done for animals and for expanding the volunteer program. She had some issues with fostering rabbits because they were different pets (from cats and dogs), but felt it could be overseen by an outside group.

Nicki Berelson felt that fostering sounded great, but it was really a way to get past the adoption fee. Rabbits that go to unfit foster homes end up as food and fostering rabbits through public shelters was not the answer.

Barbara Trelease spoke about her experience with fostering different types of rabbits.

Debbi Folsom did not believe managing a rabbit fostering program was something LAAS had the time, staffing or funding to do and felt it should be left to the rescues so that rabbits didn't end up as food.

Meredith Burnley spoke about her experience with working with LA Rabbit Foundation when fostering a rabbit. She was afraid that if LAAS managed a rabbit foster program the rabbits could end up eaten.

Carolyn Ayson spoke about her experience with working for LA Rabbit Foundation and their screening process. She also felt that the concept of allowing people to foster rabbits without a screening process was irresponsible and was condemning the rabbits to be food.

Lejla Hadzimuratovic spoke against rabbit fostering and spoke about the issues of people returning rabbits that were adopted. She thought that the focus should be on spay/neutering rabbits.

Jane Stonnigton did not believe there should be a foster program for bunnies because they have very particular needs and require special care.

Debbie Diederich spoke about the lack of education in the public about the type of care rabbits need.

Wayne from Encino spoke about the lack of information that people have about rabbits. He also talked about how the focus should be on dogs and cats.

Andrew S. Brown was shocked to hear that fostering was available to every animal. He spoke about an issue he encountered when trying to foster a rooster.

Sharon Tydell talked about how little people know about fostering rabbits and the dangers of fostering rabbits with dogs.

GM Barnette appreciated the rabbit advocates coming out to speak on the item. She went on to report that though years of statistics and data was available on dogs and cats, there was no data on bunnies. As the Department's bunny population increases to 8.6% we all need to put our minds together to come up with responsible solutions to the issue. She spoke about some of the challenges to some of the proposed solutions to the problem and talked about spay and neutering for rabbits. **Commissioner Sandoval** pointed out there was a recent meeting between the Department and rabbit rescues and believed that was the type of dialogue that should continue. **Commissioner Gross** concurred with continuing to work closely with the rescues and asked if it was true that all animals could be fostered.

E. Discussion on Owner Surrender Questionnaire Procedures.

DFO Knipscheer-Cox provided copies of the animal intake forms which were given to people that turn in animals at the animal centers. She described the benefits of the information being provided on the form including assisting with finding homes for animals more quickly and the public safety aspect. **Commissioner Gross** asked if staff thought the Department might be able to get more input on the main reason they are giving up the pet if the form provided a number of scenarios. **GM Barnette** said that staff would take that back as a suggestion.

Public Comment:

Andrew S. Brown stated his biggest concern about the forms was that the information on the forms make it into the system. He then gave an example of a negative effect of not having the information available for a dog he was working with at the shelter. **DFO Knipscheer-Cox** responded that staff was working on a system to scan the information provided on the forms into the animal information system.

Phyllis Daugherty stated that most people do not tell the truth on the forms. She also referenced a recent request for records where she received notes that were in the computer that only listed information about the dog's participation in the Dogs Playing for Life Program.

Wayne from Encino spoke about the equipment and software that was being used to scan the intake forms.

Danielle Howard loved the questionnaire, but had one concern regarding specificity on the aggression. It should be descriptive of the type of aggression so that it doesn't interfere with the adoption of dogs.

Silje Remme had concerns about how the questionnaire would work on days when there were long lines at the intake counter and about the information being incorrect. **DFO Knipscheer-Cox** responded that staff had been directed to provide the questionnaires to people who were waiting in line. She also explained that the questionnaire was not a requirement.

Diana Mendoza spoke about how and why PETA supported the use of the questionnaire.

F. Update on Reported Urine Smells at Los Angeles Animal Services Centers.

DFO Knipscheer-Cox read an e-mail that was sent to staff regarding the procedures for cleaning the kennels. She noted that staff was not directed to refrain from using a hose or conserving water, but they were trying to advocate for spot cleaning because animals like their own scents. **Commissioner Sandoval** asked if there was a miscommunication with staff. **DFO Knipscheer-Cox** said her understanding was that it was a report that staff had been directed to stop hosing down the kennels which was not true.

Public Comment:

Wayne from Encino believed the dogs were unhappy and that was why the dogs were urinating in the area.

Andrew S. Brown felt there was a communication breakdown on how the policy was getting to the ACTs that were actually doing the job.

Phyllis Daugherty asked how often the regular cleaning was being done in the kennels.

Commissioner Gross explained that staff would look into the communication issue and asked staff if there was a regular cleaning schedule. **DFO Knipscheer-Cox** responded that there were graveyard, swing and day shifts scheduled to clean the kennels.

G. Discussion on Dog Limits in the City of Los Angeles; Reference Council File No. 17-1237-S1.

Commissioner Gross explained that a motion by Council Member Koretz was put forth to amend a zoning code to increase the number of cats and dogs per household. This Commission was instructed to gather public input.

Public Comment:

Wayne from Encino believed the number of the dogs should be determined by the size of the property.

Phyllis Daugherty talked about issues involved with increasing the number of animals allowed by owners. She felt that anymore than three dogs created a pack and it was not as safe.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:33 p.m. in memory of Beverly Caskey and Sally Dicker.

**BOARD OF
ANIMAL SERVICES
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Report to the Board of Animal Services Commissioners

MEETING DATE: August 13, 2019

PREPARED BY: Christy Louzan

REPORT DATE: July 27, 2019

TITLE: District Supervisor

**SUBJECT: EXTENSION OF MISTING SYSTEM ON THE TRAINING FIELD AT
CHESTERFIELD SQUARE ANIMAL SERVICES CENTER**

BOARD ACTION RECOMMENDED:

- **APPROVE** the use of the Animal Welfare Trust Fund in the amount of \$23,128 to extend the existing misting system at the Chesterfield Square Animal Services Center to the training field and training field kennels.

BACKGROUND:

Misting systems at our Services Centers were designed and provided as a cooling mechanism over the housing kennels for all dogs in our care as a part of the original building design in order to help provide a cooler atmosphere during the hot summer months. While the training field is equipped with temporary housing kennels, those kennels were designed solely for day use only with no overnight or long term housing so the misting system was not designed to continue throughout that area. With the building designs being over ten years old before actual construction, there was no forethought into how that area would be used on a daily basis in conjunction with the various weather conditions.

SUMMARY:

The Department is seeking to extend that system throughout the training kennels, training field awning cover and ultimately surrounding the training field in an effort to help provide added cooling to dogs housed in the training kennels that are waiting to participate in playgroup activities or return to their kennel, while also providing a cooler atmosphere on the training field for dogs, Animal Care Technician staff and any patrons actively participating in and/or watching the playgroup activities.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact to the General Fund.

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Visit our website at www.LAAnimalServices.com

Report to the Board of Animal Services Commissioners
SUBJECT: EXTENSION OF MISTING SYSTEM ON THE TRAINING FIELD AT CHESTERFIELD
SQUARE

Approved:

Brenda F. Barnette
Brenda F. Barnette, General Manager

Attachments

BOARD ACTION:

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



**DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES
CONSTRUCTION FORCES DIVISION
BUDGETARY ESTIMATE**

DATE: 7/23/2019 W.O. #: F324010E REV1

TO: CHRISTY LOUZAN C&M: Nicolás Díaz

FROM: Kelly Cooper , BC&M Gen Supt. II PREPARED BY: Zoe Mucogllava

BLDG. NAME: South Los Angeles Animal ADDRESS: 1850 W. 60th St., 90047 BLDG. NO.: 7/9

DURATION: 2 WEEKS PLAN # & DATE: N/A DATE REC'D: N/A

PROJECT TITLE: ANI CHESTERFIELD SQ SLA/MISTING SYSTEM COUNCIL DIST.: 8

SCOPE OF WORK: ESTIMATE TO INSTALL A NEW MISTING SYSTEM AT THE TRAINING FIELD OR EXTEND THE CURRENT SYSTEM TO THE TRAINING FIELD FOR USE DURING THE HOT SUMMER MONTHS.

NOT IN SCOPE OF WORK: Unforeseen conditions, Off-hour work, Overtime.

CFT	DESCRIPTION OF WORK	LABOR HOURS	LABOR	MATERIAL or SUB-CONTR	COMMENTS
371	GENERAL REQUIREMENTS	51	\$3,544	\$0	
390	VENDOR	0	\$0	\$14,170	
NOTE: SEE ADDITIONAL PAGES FOR WORK BREAKDOWN, ETC.					
TOTALS:			\$3,544	\$14,170	

Budgetary estimates are for budget purposes and based on preliminary plans and information. Budgetary estimates do not include unforeseen conditions and changes in the original scope of work. **Budgetary estimates are good for 90 days from date of estimate.**

IMPORTANT NOTE: The recommended funding amount includes a 20% contingency for unforeseen conditions, missed and/or underestimated line items.

MATERIAL TOTAL: \$14,170

OP SUPPORT 11% \$1,559

LABOR TOTAL: \$3,544

ADD ALTERNATIVES: \$0

ESTIMATE TOTAL: \$19,273

RECOMMENDED 20% CONTINGENCY: \$3,855

RECOMMENDED FUNDING AMOUNT: \$23,128

WORK BREAKDOWN STRUCTURE					F324010E REV1 ANI CHESTERFIELD SQ SLA/MISTING SYSTEM				
item (sorted by craft)	CSI div.	crew size	craft/ class	labor		matl. / allow.	sub total	critical path / days	comments
				man- hrs	cost				
0	SCOPE OF WORK			51	3,544	14,170	17,714	5	
1	371 - GENERAL REQUIREMENTS			51	3,544	0	3,544	5	
2	01	1	371	16	990	0	990	1.6	
3	01	1	371.9	35	2,554	0	2,554	3.5	
4	390 - VENDOR			0	0	14,170	14,170	0	
5	01	1	390		0	14,170	14,170	0.0	
							0		
Totals, check, summary:				51	3,544	14,170		5.7	Days @ 90%
Labor & matl.:				17,714					
OP SUPPORT 11%				1,559					
Subtotal:				19,273					
Add alternatives total:				0					
ESTIMATE TOTAL:				19,273					
20% contingency:				3,855					
RECOMMENDED FUNDING AMOUNT:				23,128					