

BOARD OF ANIMAL SERVICES COMMISSIONERS CITY OF LOS ANGELES

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA Tuesday, September 28, 2021 9:30 A.M.

Dial (669) 900-6833 to Join the Meeting and use Webinar ID No. 978 8938 0871 and then Press #. Press # again when prompted for participant ID.

LARRY GROSS
President

OLIVIA E. GARCÍA Vice-President

JILL COHEN ALISA FINSTEN JOSE SANDOVAL

In conformity with the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20 (March 17, 2020) and due to concerns over COVID-19, the Board of Animal Services Commission meeting will be conducted entirely telephonically and using Zoom software.

Sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices, or other auxiliary aids and/or services may be provided upon request. To make your request please call (213) 482-9558. To ensure availability, you are advised to make your request at least 72 hours prior to the meeting you wish to attend.

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

Members of the public who wish to offer public comment to the Board of Animal Services Commission should call (669) 900-6833 and use Webinar ID No. 978 8938 0871 and then press #. Press # again when prompted for participant ID. Instructions on how to sign up for public comment will be given to listeners at the start of the meeting.

Board of Animal Services Commissioners Meeting Meeting Agenda September 28, 2021 Page 2

I. ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS

1. Dangerous Animal Case: DA 213036 WLA

Appellant: Michael Kamins / Yolande Kamins

West Los Angeles Animal Services Center: Lt. Botta

Complaining Witness: Christopher Mammareli

II. 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)

Note: The Brown Act prohibits the Board and staff from discussing a 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 September 14, 2021 (Action Item; Public comment limited to one minute per speaker)

4. ORAL REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

5. COMMISSIONERS' ORAL REPORTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

6. BOARD REPORTS

- A. Administrative Citation Enforcement (ACE) Update (Information Item; Public comment limited to one minute per speaker)
- B. Request the City Council to Instruct the City Attorney to Draft an Ordinance Requiring Veterinarians and Pet Stores to Post Department Information that Outlines the City of Los Angeles Laws Required of Pet Owners (Action Item; Public comment limited to one minute per speaker)

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C. Clarification of Board's September 14, 2021 Action Related to the Citywide Cat Program (Action Item; Public comment limited to one minute per speaker)

7. ADJOURNMENT

Next Regular Meeting is scheduled for 9:30 a.m., October 12, 2021

AGENDAS - The Board of Animal Services Commissioners (Board) meets regularly every second (2nd) and fourth (4th) Tuesday of each month at 9:30 A.M. For the duration of the COVID-19 emergency, the Board will meet telephonically and using Zoom software in conformity with the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20 (March 17, 2020). 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 https://www.laanimalservices.com/about-us-2/commission/#three

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.)

<u>PUBLIC INPUT AT BOARD MEETINGS</u> – 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. Each speaker will be granted a maximum of two minutes and the presiding officer reserves the ability to extend or limit the time depending on the circumstances of the meeting.

Notice to Paid Representatives. If you are compensated to monitor, attend, or speak at this meeting, City law may require you to register as a lobbyist and report your activity. *See* Los Angeles Municipal Code §§ 48.01 *et seq*. More information is available at ethics.lacity.org/lobbying. For assistance, please contact the Ethics Commission at (213) 978-1960 or ethics.commission@lacity.org.

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Time Limit for Speakers. Speakers addressing the Board will be limited to one (1) minute of speaking time for each agenda item except during the general public comment period, which is limited to two (2) minutes per speaker (For certain agenda items, speakers will have two (2) minutes each).

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.

<u>STANDARDS OF CONDUCT.</u> 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

OLIVIA E. GARCIA VICE PRESIDENT

COMMISSIONERS

JILL COHEN

ALISA FINSTEN

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Lifesaving

DR. JEREMY PRUPAS

NOTIFICATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL HEARING

To Be Held: Tuesday, September 28, 2021, at 9:30 A.M. This hearing will be held telephonically. To appear, please follow the instructions below.

Pursuant to Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 53.18(q)(4) this serves as formal notice to the following parties and witnesses of an appeal hearing before the Board of Animal Services Commissioners in the case listed below:

1. Dangerous Animal Case: DA 213036 WLA

Appellant: Michael Kamins / Yolande Kamins

West Los Angeles Animal Services Center: Lt. Botta

Complaining Witness: Christopher Mammareli

Due to concerns over COVID-19, this appeal hearing will be held telephonically. To appear at the hearing, DIAL (669) 900-6833, ENTER Webinar ID No. 978 8938 0871, and then press #. Press # again when prompted for participant ID.

If you have any questions or need further assistance with your telephonic appearance, please contact the Department at (213) 482-9558.

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 hearing.

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 to the hearing 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. This hearing will not be rescheduled, except for good cause.

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

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BOARD OF ANIMAL SERVICES COMMISSIONERS CITY OF LOS ANGELES

MINUTES TUESDAY, September 14, 2021 at 9:30 AM



VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING

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

Larry Gross, President Olivia E. García, Vice President Jill Cohen Alisa Finsten Jose Sandoval

Meeting called to order at 9:34 a.m. Commissioners present were Gross, García, Finsten, and Sandoval. Also present from Los Angeles Animal Services (LAAS) was General Manager (GM) Dana Brown, Assistant General Manager (AGM) Curtis Watts, Assistant General Manager (AGM) Annette Ramirez, Board Secretary Francine Acuña, and Deputy City Attorney Steve Houchin.

Commissioner Gross opened the meeting, introduced staff, provided an overview of the meeting agenda, and provided instructions to the public on how to make public comments for this virtual meeting.

I. ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS

1. Dangerous Animal Case: DA 192211 WLA

Appellant: Dina Sheyn

West Los Angeles Animal Services Center: Lt. Botta

Complaining Witness: Bette Geller

The Board discussed the merits of the appeal, the evidence provided to the Hearing Examiner, and the grounds supporting the General Manager's determination. The Board found that the evidence supports the decision of the General Manager's determination.

Commissioner Gross made a motion to uphold the decision of the General Manager.

Commissioner Finsten seconded and the motion was approved by a vote of 4-0.

Ayes: Gross, García, Finsten, and Sandoval.

Noes: None.

Absent: Cohen.

II. REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING

1. PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment was made by:

- Michelle Cornelius recommended the underage kittens be moved from the euthanasia holding room at West Valley and asked for an update on the Star fund.
- Cathy Serksnas spoke about a kitten named Banjo at West LA shelter who was euthanized.
- **Gail Raff** spoke about cats who are being dropped off at a residence near the South LA shelter because the shelter is refusing to accept them.
- Michelle Kelly spoke about improving educational materials to help staff, volunteers, and adopters provide humane living for rabbits in the shelters and post adoptions.
- Cat Edwards spoke about the animals being dropped off at a residence near the old South LA shelter.
- Whitney Smith spoke about the animals that are being dropped off at a residence near the old South LA shelter because the shelter is refusing to accept them. Also spoke about animals that are being sold illegally in the Fashion District.
- **Pam Wilkinson** spoke about dogs that are off leash in Marina Del Rey and suggested that animal control officers monitor the area.
- 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 the Minutes for Meeting of August 24, 2021.

Commissioner Sandoval moved to approve the minutes for the meeting of August 24, 2021.

Commissioner Finsten seconded and the motion was approved by a vote of 4-0.

Ayes: Gross, García, Finsten, and Sandoval.

Noes: None.

Absent: Cohen.

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Public Comment: None

4. ORAL REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

GM Dana Brown discussed the following:

- Adoption statistics are up about 60% since the no-appointment on weekends was started.
- The City of Los Angeles has mandated that all city employees be vaccinated or have applied for an exemption, no later than October 5.
- **Commissioner Gross** added that the City mandate has also been extended to all Commissioners and that they are also required to provide proof of vaccination.
- Through the assistance of the City's Emergency Management Department, we were able to send two animal control officers up to El Dorado County to assist with the Cauldron fire.
- The Department has launched a soft-opening of a new online appointment portal.
 The portal has successfully handled several hundred appointments over the last two weeks. The next step will be expanding the usage through the 3-1-1 system and partnering with ITA.
- The Department had another successful animal transport the week of August 30. There were 85 cats and 13 dogs on this transport. The total for this year is 680 and our next transport is scheduled for September 22.
- Pet Food Pantry was held on September 5 and September 12. On September 5, there were 145 pets served at Chesterfield Square and 227 pets served at East Valley for a total of 372 pets served. On September 12, there were 197 pets served at East Valley. Stats were not available for this date for Chesterfield Square.
- The feasibility of expanding the pet food pantry to other shelters faces staffing challenges, but we will work with our volunteer coordinator to get information on availability of our volunteer resources.

Public Comment was made by:

• Whitney Smith - stated the weekday appointments should be stopped.

5. COMMISSIONERS' ORAL REPORTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Commissioner Gross:

 Report back on requirements for veterinarians and pet stores to post leash laws and education on pet laws.

Commissioner Cohen:

Absent.

Commissioner Finsten:

None.

Commissioner García:

None.

Commissioner Sandoval:

 Report back on leash enforcements and report back on how many citations or warnings have been issued for dogs off leash.

Public Comment was made by:

- Whitney Smith suggested ideas for the Commissioners to follow-up on.
- Gail Raff asked for an investigation into who is doing spay and neutering with contracted mobile trucks.

6. BOARD REPORTS

A. Update from The Glue (Information Item)

Neille Ilel and Julie Lacouture from The Glue provided an update on the fundraising and marketing progress of The Glue's work with the Department and that the updated departmental website is projected to launch in February 2022.

Public Comment was made by:

- Gail Raff stated The Glue needs to include pictures of shelter animals in their report.
- Michelle Cornelius stated the fundraising money is supposed to be used for the benefit of the animals.
- Whitney Smith suggested that The Glue listen to the Commission meetings to be able to understand the public's needs and concerns.
- Pam Wilkinson wanted to ensure that the Community Cat Program would be included in the new website.
- B. Approval of Community Cat Program (Action Item)

GM Dana Brown requested approval of the design and execution of a Community Cat Program for the City of Los Angeles.

Commissioner Sandoval moved to approve the design and execution of a Community Cat Program for the City of Los Angeles.

Commissioner García seconded and the motion was approved by a vote of 4-0.

Ayes: Gross, García, Finsten, and Sandoval.

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Board of Animal Services Commissioners Minutes for the September 14, 2021 Commission Meeting Page 5

Noes: None.

Absent: Cohen.

Public Comment was made by:

- Whitney Smith stated there is a shortage for veterinary appointments and it takes almost two months to get an appointment.
- Michelle Cornelius is looking forward to the implementation of this program.
- Jeff Mausner stated the Tarzana Neighborhood Council and Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils are in support of the Community Cat Program and thanked everyone who supported this program.
- Cathy Serksnas asked what type of training would be provided with special groups and 3-1-1, and asked how we will handle owned cats that are trapped.
- Pam Wilkinson stated that once the program is implemented, vets will participate.
- Gail Raff asked if the Department was going to be practicing return to field.
- C. Approval of Additional Letters of Agreement with the following Veterinary Care Providers; Pet Medical Center Sunland and Katella Animal Clinic for participation in the STAR Program (Action Item)

AGM Annette Ramirez requested approval for Additional Letters of Agreement with the following Veterinary Care Providers; Pet Medical Center Sunland and Katella Animal Clinic for participation in the STAR Program.

Commissioner Sandoval moved to approve the Additional Letters of Agreement with the following Veterinary Care Providers; Pet Medical Center Sunland and Katella Animal Clinic for participation in the STAR Program.

Commissioner Finsten seconded and the motion was approved by a vote of 4-0.

Ayes: Gross, García, Finsten, and Sandoval.

Noes: None.

Absent: Cohen.

Public Comment:

None

D. Owner Surrender Update (Information Item)

GM Dana Brown provided an update on owner surrenders. In 2019, there were 14,885 owner surrenders citywide. Top three reasons for surrendering were the owner had too many animals, no time to care for the animals, and landlord

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restrictions. In 2020, during the height of the pandemic, there were 7,488 surrendered. An additional reason for surrendering included relocations. So far in 2021, there have been 6,015 owner surrenders citywide. The Department is working on an adoption counseling program for potential adopters so they will know what to expect to reduce the chance of unexpected responsibilities that result in a surrender.

Public Comment was made by:

- Whitney Smith stated people have too many animals because they are not being spayed or neutered.
- **Michelle Cornelius** asked if the City Council can change landlord restrictions so that more landlords would be willing to accept pets.

E. Commission Virtual Meeting Schedule (Action Item)

GM Dana Brown requested approval of a start time of 6:00 p.m. for the regular meeting of the Board of Animal Services Commissioners scheduled for Tuesday, October 26, 2021, and authorize six evening virtual meetings for the 2022 Board of Animal Services Commissioners meeting calendar.

Commissioner Finsten moved to approve a start time of 6:00 p.m. for the regular meeting of the Board of Animal Services Commissioners scheduled for Tuesday, October 26, 2021, and authorize six evening virtual meetings for the 2022 Board of Animal Services Commissioners meeting calendar.

Commissioner Sandoval seconded and the motion was approved by a vote of 4-0.

Ayes: Gross, García, Finsten, and Sandoval.

Noes: None.

Absent: Cohen.

Public Comment was made by:

- Whitney Smith asked when the Commission meetings will return to in-person meetings.
- **Jeff Mausner** asked if the evening meeting can be scheduled on a day other than the fourth Tuesday, especially for the meeting at West Valley.
- Cat Edwards stated the evening meetings will be convenient for the public and prefers to conduct these meetings virtually.

Board of Animal Services Commissioners Minutes for the September 14, 2021 Commission Meeting Page 7

F. Discussion on Department's Response to Kapparot Activities (Information Item)

Commissioner Gross gave a brief description on Kapparot activities.

AGM Annette Ramirez provided some instructions on how the Department will be handling any complaints regarding this ritual. Any officer who receives a complaint will respond appropriately and will notify the District Supervisor of Field Operations immediately who will then notify the General Manager. Officers will not interfere with the slaughter or the religious ceremony and any issues regarding the disposal of the carcasses will be referred to the Department of Sanitation. Every complaint received will be investigated and the appropriate action will be taken. The public can make a complaint by calling the Department's number at (888) 452-7381.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 12:31 p.m.

City of Los Angeles Important Animal Laws



Protect Your Pet. Be Responsible. Avoid Fines.

Spay and Neuter

Cats and dogs are required to be spayed or neutered after the age of four months, with some exemptions allowed. Free and discount spay and neuter vouchers are available online or at your nearest City Shelter for L.A. City residents (LAMC 53.15.2).

Licensing

Dogs are required to be licensed after the age of four months. To obtain a license, dog owners must show proof of spay/neuter and rabies vaccination. The cost for a license is \$20 per year/per dog. You can obtain a license online at anionlinelicense.lacity.org or go to your nearest City Shelter (LAMC 53.28).

Leash Law

If you take or allow your dog off your property or place of residence, you must have him or her on a leash (LAMC 53.06).

Picking up after your dog

Dog owners are required to clean up after their dogs when taking them out in public. Don't forget the poop bags when you leave your house for a walk (LAMC 53.49).

Tethering Law

It is illegal to tie up a dog to any stationary object for more than three hours in a 24 hour period or deny them proper water or shelter for long periods of time (LAMC 53.70).

Number of pets allowed

Up to three dogs and three cats are permitted per household (LAMC 53.00 and 53.50).

Leaving pets in cars

Pets should not be left unattended in vehicles under conditions such as heat, cold, and lack of ventilation or water that endanger the health of the animal or may be expected to cause suffering or death (CA Penal Code 597.7).

No Feeding Wildlife

It is illegal to feed non-domesticated mammalian predators such as coyotes, foxes, possums, raccoons and skunks (LAMC 53.06.5).

Selling Animals

Sales of dogs and cats require special permits from LA Animal Services and outdoor sidewalk sales are generally prohibited. Additionally, selling animals usually also requires obtaining a business license from the City of Los Angeles (LAMC 53.42).

BOARD OF ANIMAL SERVICES COMMISSIONERS

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DR. JEREMY PRUPAS

Report to the Board of Animal Services Commissioners

MEETING DATE: September 28, 2021 PREPARED BY: Dana Brown

REPORT DATE: September 24, 2021 TITLE: General Manager

SUBJECT: CLARIFICATION OF BOARD'S SEPTEMBER 14, 2021 ACTION RELATED TO THE

CITYWIDE CAT PROGRAM

BOARD ACTION RECOMMENDED:

- 1. Clarify that the Board's action on September 14, 2021 related to the Citywide Cat Program (Agenda Item 6B) was not intended to modify or replace the Citywide Cat Program as approved by the Board on November 10, 2020.
- 2. Direct the General Manager to continue to implement the Citywide Cat Program as approved by the Board on November 10, 2020.

SUMMARY:

At its meeting on September 14, 2021 under Agenda Item 6B, the Department provided the Board with a comprehensive report on the implementation of the Citywide Cat Program that was approved by the Board on November 10, 2020 and subsequently approved by the City Council. The Department intended its report to update the Board on the status of the Program's implementation and to allow the Board an opportunity to provide input. The Board took action to "approve" the Department's reported implementation of the Program.

To make it clear that the Board did not intend to modify or replace the Citywide Cat Program that it approved on November 10, 2020, the Department recommends that the Board formally make this clarification. The Department will continue to provide the Board with updates on the implementation of the Citywide Cat Program and opportunity to provide input.

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SUBJECT: CLARIFICATION OF BOARD'S SEPTEMBER 14, 2021 ACTION RELATED TO THE CITYWIDE CAT PROGRAM

FISCAL IMPACT:			
There is no fiscal impact of this program to the General Fund.			
Approved:			
Wie from			
Dana H. Brown, General Manager			
BOARD ACTION:			
	Passed	Disapproved	
	Passed with noted modifications	Continued	
	Tabled	New Date	