



MINUTES
BOARD OF ANIMAL SERVICES COMMISSIONERS
CITY OF LOS ANGELES

Monday June 9, 2008
10:00 A.M.
CITY HALL
200 N. Spring Street
Room 1060
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Commissioners: Tariq Khero, President
 Kathleen Riordan, Vice-President
 Glenn Brown
 Irene Ponce
 Archie Quincey, Jr.

ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL HEARING

Commission Vice-President Riordan called the Administrative Appeal Hearing to order at 10:10 A.M. Present were Commissioners, Riordan, Brown, and Quincey. Commissioner Ponce arrived at 10:12 and Commissioner Khero at 10:50 A.M.

1. Appeal of the General Manager's Decision in Barking Dog Case - **BD 08503 WL**

Appellant: Yuki Aoki and Satoshi Yagi
Complaining Witness: Deborah Vaughn
District Manager, West Los Angeles Shelter, Louis Dedeaux, Captain
Hearing Coordinator, Department of Animal Services, Ross Pool, Management Analyst II

Commissioner Quincey motioned to uphold the General Manager's original decision and recommended to reissue your dog licenses for **Sophie**, **License Number L08-190955**, and **Junior**, **License Number L08-190956**, with terms and conditions. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown and approved on a vote of 3-0.

Determination: General Manager's Decision Upheld, License Reissued with Terms and Conditions.

2. Appeal of the General Manager's Decision in Dangerous Animal Case – **DA 07392 SL**

Appellant: Ruth Brime
Complaining Witness: Karen Segar
District Manager, South Los Angeles Animal Shelter, Nancy Moriarty, Captain
Hearing Coordinator, Department of Animal Services, Ross Pool, Management Analyst II

Commissioner Brown motioned to uphold the General Manager's original decision and revoke **License Number L08-229045** for your dog **Crack**, **License Number L08-229045**. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Quincey and approved on a vote of 3-1 with 1 abstention.

Determination: General Manager's Decision to Revoke the License was Upheld.

COMMISSION MEETING

Commission President Khero called the Commission Meeting to order at 11:00 A.M. Present were Commissioners Khero, Riordan, Brown, and Quincey and Ponce.

1. ORAL REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER – EDWARD BOKS

ANIMAL PROGRAMS

- Live Releases: Adoption/New Hope releases in last 12 months was an all time high: 24,160.
- Foreclosure Increases: 2,500 more animals than the preceding 12 months.
- Animal Control Summit: In partnership with County Public Health.
- Volunteer Division - All of the centers, with the exception of Harbor and West Valley have trainers who work with the dogs at the Centers. We are in the process of finalizing an agreement with Paws n Claws to begin training West Valley's dogs. Harbor is seeking trainers at this time.
- Bottle Baby/ Foster Program- There are currently over 100 foster parents in the program, but with the increased number of neonate kittens coming into the facilities, more are needed. On June 3rd, LA in midst of CAT-ACLYSUM press release went out pleading for people to volunteer to be a foster parent.

TRAINING

- Investigating Workers' Compensation Injuries training being conducted for supervisors and upper management
- Training division is in the process of gathering old photographs and newspaper articles for a memorabilia project in preparation for the Department's centennial anniversary next year.

SPECIAL EVENTS

- Go Wild! Adopt a Shelter Pet at the LA Zoo is scheduled for June 28th.
- Humane Education - Staff has been assisting with getting the Mission Center ready to receive animals from the other Centers and ordering supplies.

ANIMAL CARE CENTERS

- North Central held the Department Vaccination Clinic on May 22nd. Over 200 individual vaccinations were processed. Press Conference scheduled for 10 am on June 12th to discuss pet overpopulation and the Spay and Neuter Ordinance.
- Mission - 98 animals (evidence, unweaned and keep alone dogs) have already been transported to Mission. There are currently 8 Animal Care Technicians, 2 part-time clerks, 2 RVTs, 1 Center Manager, and 1 Animal Care Technician Supervisor assigned to Mission. Staff (Valerie from EV) is being trained on the New Hope procedures and on sending e mail pleas.
- Harbor -All animals have been moved to the Harbor Center. As of June 3rd, the Center has been open to the public. Harbor is adjusting to the new facilities and coping with the problems that arise from moving into a new facility. One of the main issues is the lack of awnings over the kennel runs. Posts for the awnings were installed today. The awnings will be put up early next week and

completed by the week's end. Harbor is also preparing for their Grand Opening, which is scheduled for June 21st.

- South Los Angeles. South Los Angeles is slated to begin the renovation of the floors in the kennels, back hallways, and back rooms within a few weeks. The project will take approximately two weeks. The contractor will work in sections to remove the flooring and seal the existing concrete floors. Dogs will not need to be removed from the kennel runs, but animals in the back rooms will need to be relocated.
- East Valley - Two dogs that attack the 2 year old boy in Pacoima were surrendered and are being held under quarantine at the East Valley Animal Care Center.
- West Los Angeles will be holding the next Department Vaccination Clinic on June 26th from 4-6:30. Bill Crowe (Beverly Hill Pet Care Foundation) placed a color ad in the LA Times listing descriptions and photographs of 28 available animals from West LA.

MEDICAL PROGRAMS

- Have been very busy trying to get Veterinary Medical Unit at Northeast Shelter and at Harbor in gear. X-Ray machine is due to get installed beginning next week at Northeast.
- We met with LA County Health in preparation for "Syndromic Surveillance", which is a way of tagging infectious disease cases. This is similar to what they are doing in human hospitals to help detect epidemics.
- New veterinarian for East Valley has been hired and will start July 14.

Public Comments

Phyllis Daugherty: Questioned whether the Department was advertising that dog licenses were required and available at shelter location. She indicated that a dog owner responsibility to obtain the license should be tied to obtaining the required rabies shots.

2. COMMISSION BUSINESS

A. Approval of the Commission Meeting Minutes of May 27, 2008

Commissioner Riordan recommended changes to the minutes. Commissioner Ponce motioned to approve the minutes for the Commission Meeting of May 27, 2008, along with the recommended changes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Quincey and was approved by a vote of 5-0

B. Oral Report by the Commission on Meetings and Events Attended

Commissioners Khero, Riordan, Brown, Quincey and Ponce all had nothing to report.

3. GENERAL MANAGER RECOMMENDS FOR BOARD ACTION

A. Revised New Hope Policy and Procedure Manual, Partnership Agreement, information Forms, Reporting Requirements and Reinstatement of Spay/Neuter Fees.

General Manager Ed Boks summarized the report. He indicated that the report recommended the reinstatement of the \$28 spay and neuter fee to New Hope Partners while waiving other fees. A member of the ad-hoc New Hope Committee Laura Beth Heisen presented additional information to the Board. Ms.

Heisen felt it was the feeling of the New Hope Committee that they had been bypassed by the Department. They were presented with what they felt was a final document and were unhappy with several sections of the report. The committee feels that the fees are being raised and the paperwork requirements are also being raised. Also, the licensing and privacy issue must be resolved. The rescue groups are averse to providing adoption information to the Department for fear it will be misplaced and personal information of persons who adopt dogs will become public. The New Hope partners want to remain on a level playing field. Non new hope partners do not have the burden of providing adoption information to the Department. New Hope Partners do not object to paying the \$28 fee for adoptions. They are questioning the need to pay the fee for animals that are not on the new hope list. Ms. Heisen also commented on the requirement to leave animals in the shelter over the weekend. She felt this would be counterproductive and cost the Department as the animals would be kept additional days. The unweaned issue is confusing. It would cause the saving of a litter to be an extreme expense and increase the administrative burden on the Department. There are also questions about the Bottle Baby Program as there are reports that some animals are being released without paperwork. There were also question of why a rabbit rescue organization had to pay an adoption fee as the euthanasia rate for rabbits is very high. The New Hope Partners represent over 25% of all adoptions for the previous year. The New Hope Partners committee would like to meet with the Department again to resolve the outstanding issues.

A discussion on when and where to hold the next committee meeting ensued.

Mr. Boks thanked the committee and commented on the need to license all animals as the Mayor and Council have raised the issue. He did not understand why the New Hope Partners were reluctant to provide the information to assist the Department in insuring all dogs were licensed. With respect to the New Hope Partners being penalized, Mr. Boks indicated that the program provided 24/7 access to the animals and also had a “personal shopper” at each shelter to assist in the adoption process. Rescue groups are here to help the Department help animals. The Department is not here to help rescue groups help animals. No animal is release without being input into the system.

Commissioner Ponce indicated that New Hope Partners could download the adoption information directly into the Department’s system and thus bypass the problem of lost personal information. Mr. Boks indicated that the amount of paperwork would be less as the Department would send reports to the New Hope Partners. Commissioner Riordan indicated that pet shops were required to provide license information to the Department. She wanted to know if the department was pursuing that, as well as county rabies records.

Mary Catalano: Agrees with Laura Beth Heisen. The time spent on paperwork could be better spent going after people for licenses. Rescues always fix their animals. Don’t understand why the rescuers should police this problem.

Whitney Smith: Sad about the \$28. Does not make any money on rescues. Needs more vouchers for the middle class.

The Commission instructed the Department to meet with the New Hope Committee and that the Board consider their proposals at the next meeting. In addition, Commissioner Riordan requested that the New Hope proposal be sent to the commission along with the Department’s report.

4. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Informational Report regarding barking dog noise as defined by the Los Angeles Municipal Code and as defined by other Southern California municipalities.

Mr. Pool introduced the item as on that is designed to come up with a standard that defines a barking dog disturbance to a neighbor. Commissioner Riordan outlined the standards set forth in the report. Commissioner Khero indicated that the definition should be more concrete.

Commission directed staff to return with a report outlining the definition of a barking dog case.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Phyllis Daugherty: There are a lot of standards that are set by a lot of cities. What it does not say that Orange County fines dog owners for barking dogs. Stop considering these items as neighbor issues. It should be a citable issue.

Commission directed staff to return with a report outlining the definition of a barking dog case along with alternative definitions at a date to be determined.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Mary Catalano: Familiarize the Commission with expenses associated with rescues. Rescues mostly cats and a few dogs. Described the expenses associated with the rescue process. Does not make any money. Makes sure the home is safe for adoption. Makes her adopters take two kittens not one.

Phyllis Daugherty: Animal groups that keep track of barking dog cases indicate that all cases that go to court, the verdict is upheld. It is not a person issue, it is a dog issue. Often barking dog cases are animal care issue. Questioned a dog being chained to a car and no one commented on this. Allow a separate entrance for cats and dogs. Persons who stage dog fights do take dogs out of the shelter.

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There are no new requests from Commissioners for Future Agenda Items.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Quincey motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ponce and passed on a vote of 5-0. The Commission Meeting was at 12:25 P.M.

The next Commission Meeting will be held Monday June 23, 2008 at 10:00 A.M., at CITY HALL, 200 N. Spring Street, Room 1060, Los Angeles, CA 90012 (Meeting ultimately moved to June 30, 2008 at 3:00 P.M.)