

MINUTES



BOARD OF ANIMAL SERVICES COMMISSIONERS
CITY OF LOS ANGELES
Monday, January 26, 2009
10:00 am
Los Angeles City Hall
200 N. Spring Street, Room 1060
Los Angeles, CA 90012



Vacant, President
Kathleen Riordan, Vice-President
Tariq Khero
Irene Ponce
Archie J. Quincey, Jr.

COMMISSION MEETING

Commission meeting was called to order at 10:16 am. Commissioners Riordan, Quincey, and Ponce were present. Commissioner Khero was absent.

1. COMMISSION BUSINESS (Item 2 taken out of order)

A. Approval of the Commission Meeting Minutes for January 12, 2009

Commissioner Ponce requested changes. Item held over.

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

Commissioners Riordan, Quincey, and Ponce had nothing to report.

2. DISCUSSION ITEMS (Item 4 taken out of order)

A. Discussion Regarding Field Statistics

AGM Davis presented a series of graphs and field statistics to the Commission.

Commissioner Riordan asked for clarification about whether Officers can sell licenses in the field. AGM Davis confirmed this and explained that they can issue altered licenses or Notices to Correct if the animal is unlicensed and/or unaltered.

Commissioner Quincey suggested that Officers issue citations in lieu of Notices to Comply and use the courts to collect the City's revenue. AGM Barth stated that the experience over the past year has shown that people are just paying the fine, which is low, and not buying the license and the courts are not asking for proof of compliance. City Attorney Lessel suggested that the conversation was off topic per the Brown Act and the issue be agenzized and City Attorney staff could come and answer questions at a latter date.

Commissioner Riordan asked for clarification about the vacancy rate and funded vs. non-funded positions.

Public Comment

Phyllis Daugharty-Thought the report was confusing. Complained that ACOs used to have many more enforcement duties.

3. GENERAL MANAGER RECOMMENDS FOR BOARD ACTION

**A Proposed Ordinance to Limit Roosters in the City of Los Angeles
Review of draft Rooster Limit Ordinance language. Discussion and possible action.**

Commissioner Riordan asked for clarification about how this matter came before the Commission since the City Council has already voted on the matter. City Attorney Lessel stated that is a matter of courtesy – the City Council is asking if the Board has taken a position on the matter.

Commissioner Quincey expressed concern that the ordinance does not make a distinction between a fighting cock and a rooster.

AGM Barth clarified that the ordinance is comprised of two companion motions that were approved at the same time. One addresses noise and the other addresses the number of roosters and provides a set limit. Staff fully support enacting a limit on the number of roosters, but are concerned the motion regarding noise will create a large administrative burden.

A discussion of the ordinance ensued.

Robert Ferber from the City Attorney's office explained the genesis and history of the rooster ordinance.

Commissioner Riordan stated that management can communicate their concerns to Council. She reminded the Commission that this was already passed by Council and we are merely reviewing it.

Public Comment

Phyllis Daugharty- Pass the motion- the rooster noise issue will be dealt with by the rooster limit.

Commissioner Riordan made a motion to make a transmittal thanking the City Council and requesting that the motion addressing noise complaints be left in abeyance for one year. Commissioner Ponce seconded the motion and the motion padded 3-0.

B. Letter of Agreement for a Pilot Project with The Puppy Store to Adopt Dogs for Resale in Lieu of Selling Puppy Mill Dogs

That the Board approve a Letter of Agreement, substantially as on file in the Board office, setting out expectations and responsibilities with The Puppy Store for collaboration on an experimental, short-term pilot program to determine the feasibility of working with private pet stores to adopt animals for resale, for the purpose of increasing adoptions and reducing the inflow of animals, and subject to review as to form by the City Attorney; and, direct the General Manager to sign the Letter of Agreement subsequent to review by the City Attorney.

Commissioner Riordan asked the City Attorney to comment on the issue. He stated that the concept seemed excellent and that the liability was the same as adopting to the public.

Commissioner Ponce asked if they would have priority over members of the general public and was told no.

Commissioner Riordan thanked Chris DeRose and Last Chance for Animals for this accomplishment. She suggested developing some sort of City certificate or plaque for pet stores that engage in this life saving program.

Public Comment

Jim Bickhart of the Mayor's office anticipated to support the partnership in February and he will present a certificate to the store. He suggested that LAAS make accepting shelter animals on consignment a requirement for getting a pet store permit.

Commissioner Quincey made a motion to approve the General Manager's recommendation. Commissioner Ponce seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

4. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT (Item #1 taken out of order)

- Met with Clark Duval, owner of The Puppy Store. His retail pet shop is now adopting puppies and small breed dogs from our Centers and selling them in his store. Since December 2008, Mr. Duval has adopted 31 dogs from our Centers.
- Worked with Found Animal Foundation (FAF) and The Pet Care Foundation (PCF) on "My Furry Valentine" Event planning, which will be held February 14 and 15 at all Centers featuring discounted fees. FAF and PCF will host special events at WLA and EV, respectively. A deeper discount will be offered for cats in the interest of spurring higher feline adoptions. FAF also installed a "kitty cam" at WLA to further focus interest on cats prior to the event.
- Worked with the Southern California Veterinary Vaccine Clinic to formalize the process and procedure for conducting low cost vaccine clinics at our Centers once a month. They will begin February 19 at WLA.
- Attended planning meetings for "We Spay LA" to be held 2-28-09 at Northeast. Clinico will operate out of our spay/neuter clinic for the day performing up to 100 surgeries for residents of Council Districts 6 and 7. Representatives from Council members Alarcon and Cardenas attended the meeting.
- Met with principals from the City of Beverly Hills to discuss the operational tactics of the new contract, which begins February 1, 2009. We will continue to meet monthly to insure good service and to promote open lines of communication.
- Conducted a licensing meeting to further discuss the role of our Canvassing Team towards improving their productivity and efficiency and to assist Captain Jorge Figueroa in his new role in Special Operations.
- Conducted a Special Enforcement Sweep (SES) in North Central District. On Thursday, January 22, 2009, one ACO from each District joined forces at NC to concentrate their efforts primarily on picking up loose, stray animals and enforcing licensing. A total of 12 dogs were picked up and 6 citations were issued.

- This activity will continue one day each week revolving through each of the districts. Next week, the SES is slated for South LA.
- The new Spay/Neuter Clinic at West LA, operated by Value Vet, opened for business this week. The Vet Staff was provided with a tour of their operations prior to opening. Clinico is slated to open at Harbor on February 1.
- Fleet Service has notified us that we will be receiving 13 new replacement vans. Staff is working with Fleet Service to request minor improvements to the caging sizes and other small maintenance items.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD - (Comments from the public on items of public interest within the Board's subject matter jurisdiction and on items not on the Agenda.)

Teri Austin – She wanted to clarify that the Amanda Foundation. has not partnered with any entity to administer the mobile van. The Amanda Foundation is statistically the most successful mobile S/N program in the country.

Phyllis Daugharty - There are still slaughter zones in the City. She asked for the number of citations issued by the Department.

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Requests from Commissioners for future Agenda Items.

Commissioner Ponce wanted to know if the Mayor's staff will be organizing Be Kind to Animals Week in April 2009 as it was mentioned by one of the Mayor's staffer who attended last year's event. Ponce wanted to know the commission and the department can help. She asked Jim Bickhart if the Mayor is still interested in giving his support to help make it bigger and add more schools.

Commissioner Quincey asked that Humane Education be offered at the new SLA Animal Care Center. He suggested that it would be a way to generate revenue.

Commissioner Riordan asked to see copies of the two Pet Insurance proposals. She also would like to see the letter requested regarding the rooster ordinance before it is sent to Council. She would like to consider the Department issuing "fix-it" tickets in addition to Notices to Comply as a financial incentive and a Report on the number of citations issued in the Field categorized by type.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Quincey made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Ponce seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0. Meeting ended at 12:21 pm

Next Commission Meeting is scheduled for 6:00 P.M., February 9, 2009, East Valley
1. Shelter 14409 Vanowen Street, Van Nuys, California 91406