

**GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT
TO THE
BOARD OF ANIMAL SERVICES COMMISSIONERS
FOR THE MONTH OF
JUNE 2008**

At the meetings on June 9 and June 30, 2008, the General Manager or his designee provided the following updates, summary of activities, and information about events in May.

Announcements:

Live Releases: Adoption/New Hope releases in last 12 months were at an all time high of 24,160.

Foreclosure Increases: 2,500 more animals were impounded than in the preceding 12 months.

The **Animal Control Summit** was held on June 10th. There were 20 participants from Southern CA animal control agencies in attendance. The Summit was so successful that we are already planning another one and hope to have quarterly meetings.

Customer Service complaints have been reduced at the Animal Care Centers. – Posters have been placed at all customer point of service areas that encourage people to contact the GM with any complaints or compliments.

On June 12, 2008, the Found Animal Foundation participated in a Press Conference to promote **AB 1634** and our local s/n ordinance. On June 25th, the General Manager testified on the amended AB 1634 in Sacramento. AB 1634 has passed out of the Senate Local Government Committee and is on track for a full vote in the Senate.

The **California for Humane Farms** act has received Commission and Council support and the initiative will be named Proposition 2 on the November State ballot.

Department Operations & Medical Divisions:

Training

Investigating Workers' Compensation Injuries training is 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.

Staffing

A new veterinarian for East Valley has been hired and will start July 14.

Two 4th-year Western University veterinary students start their four-week internship rotation June 30th.

Bottle Baby Foster and Volunteer Programs

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.

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.

Medical

We have been very busy trying to get the Veterinary Medical Unit at the Northeast Valley (Mission) and Harbor Animal Care Centers in gear. An X-Ray machine is due to be installed in July at Northeast Valley.

We met with LA County Health to prepare 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.

Shelter Operations

North Central - held a Department Vaccination Clinic on May 22nd. Over 200 individual vaccinations were processed. A press conference was held at 10 am on June 12th to discuss pet overpopulation and the Spay and Neuter Ordinance.

Mission – Ninety-eight animals (evidence, unweaned and keep alone dogs) have already been transported to the Northeast Valley Animal Care Center. There are currently 8 Animal Care Technicians, 1 part-time clerks, 2 RVTs, 1 Center Manager, and 1 Animal Care Technician Supervisor assigned to Northeast Valley. The Hew Hope Coordinator from East Valley is temporarily helping with New Hope on sending e-mail pleas, until a new person can be trained.

Harbor -All animals have been moved to the new Harbor Animal Care 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. Awnings over the kennels were installed before the June 21st Grand Opening Celebration.

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 contractor will work in sections to remove the flooring and seal the existing concrete floors.

East Valley - Two dogs that attacked a 2-year old boy in Pacoima were surrendered and are being held in quarantine at the East Valley Animal Care Center.

West Los Angeles- held a Department Vaccination Clinic on June 26th from 4-6:30. Bill Crowe (Pet Care Foundation) placed a full-color ad in the LA Times listing descriptions and photographs of 28 available animals from the West LA Animal Care Center.

Record Retention Update:

Harbor, East Valley, SLA, WLA, W Valley: up to date, all records are accounted for and in retention or appropriately disposed.

North Central: focus for housing records for much of the organization is still moving forward in complying with record retention requirements. More than 500 boxes of records have been processed.

Field Operations

Twelve new vans that are easier to use, more attractive and service oriented will replace older "dog trucks".

The Animal Rescue Team is finalizing protocols and obtaining necessary equipment.

The Department is in the initial stages of developing a Task Force to deal with inflow of animals at LAX, the Port and the Mexican Border. Future reports will be given as this develops.

Ringling Bros. Circus is coming to town and the Department's Permit Officers are working with circus officials to make sure that they are in compliance with the Board's policies.

The LA Zoo is providing our Permit Officers with large animal handling training.

Administration

An ad hoc marketing committee made up of several Public Relations firms in LA will be working with the Department on several initiatives. The first is LAAS' Centennial Celebration in 2009. They also are helping develop some marketing materials to educate the community about the new s/n ordinance and the importance of licensing. We also have an opportunity for a weekly pet adoption feature on Telemundo.

The Department is working with Disney Studios regarding the upcoming release of "Beverly Hills Chihuahua." We are trying to include an educational piece, so that there is not a flood of Chihuahua's being bred following the excitement about the movie.

We are meeting with animal advocates and receiving input from industry concerns regarding permitting for circus and exhibitors at the direction of the Commission.

There was a meeting on June 13th with interested parties in respect to animals in films. The Department is working on recommendations for the Commission to consider regarding the handling of animals in the film industry.

Department Events:

The First Annual **"Go Wild at the Zoo" Adoptathon** was held on June 29, 2008. Twenty five adoptions (including 4 rabbits) were transacted. We hope this will become a regular event.

LAAS Volunteers also held an **adoption event in Moorpark** on June 29th. Eighteen adoptions took place.

The **Harbor Animal Care Center Grand Opening** celebration took place on June 21, 2008. Commissioner Quincy was in attendance. The heat wave made it apparent that the Department needs to install misters in the kennel areas.