

**BOARD OF
ANIMAL SERVICES
COMMISSIONERS**

TARIQ A. KHERO
PRESIDENT

KATHLEEN RIORDAN
VICE PRESIDENT

MARIE ATAKE

GLENN S. BROWN

ARCHIE J. QUINCEY JR.

City of Los Angeles
CALIFORNIA



ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA
MAYOR

DEPARTMENT OF
ANIMAL SERVICES
221 North Figueroa Street
5th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90012
(888) 452-7381
FAX (213) 482-9511

EDWARD A. BOKS
GENERAL MANAGER

June 11, 2007

LA Animal Services Kill Rate Report

Submitted by Ed Boks, General Manager of LA Animal Services

Last 12 Months:

18,108 dogs and cats were euthanized in the past 12 months (June 1, 2006 through May 31, 2007). That represents a 7.2% decrease from the previous 12 months in which 19,524 dogs and cats were killed. Earlier this year LA Animal Services broke through the 19,000 barrier for the number of animals killed in a one-year period for first time ever. It is our hope to break through the 18,000 barrier in the very near future. Five years ago over 35,000 dogs and cats were dying in LA Centers. 18,108 is the lowest number of dogs and cats killed in a one year period ever recorded.

The 18,108 number represents 4.5 deaths per 1000 LA City residents per year. This means LA has decidedly broken through the somewhat arbitrary threshold of 5.0, a goal established of by some in the animal welfare movement many years ago to signify a theoretical "no-kill" point.

Other communities have done better than 5.0 as well. So clearly, the 5.0 threshold may need to be re-evaluated in light of the successes in these cities and lingering concern over the actual numbers of kills the rates represent.

Of the total number of dogs and cats killed in the last 12 months, 64% were cats (11,567) and 36% were dogs (6,541). Of the 6,541 dogs, 39% (2,574) were pit bulls or pit bull mixes.

Of the 11,567 cats that were killed in the last 12 months 43% were orphaned neonate kittens. This represents nearly one third (28%) of all dogs and cats killed. 318 neonates were saved through our Baby Bottle Foster Program during this time, mostly in the month of May, and these numbers high light the need for more spay/neuter programs and more foster care givers. LA Animal

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

We create happiness by bringing pets and people together.

Visit our website at www.LAAnimalServices.com

Services has recruited and trained 60 volunteer foster caregivers so far this kitten season.

2007 Year to Date Numbers:

The 2007 Year to Date comparison is a bit more encouraging. From January 1 to May 31, 2007, 21.5% fewer dogs and cats were killed compared to the same five months in 2006 (5,242 to 4,114).

Dogs killed Year to Date (1,908) decreased 17.6% compared to last year at this time (2,316). 787 or 34% were pit bulls or pit bull mixes despite a 24% decrease in the number of pit bull/mixes killed compared to this same period last year (1,038).

Cats killed year to date (2,206), this represents 24.6% fewer cats killed in the same time period in 2006 (2,926). 22% of the cats killed (328) were orphaned neonate kittens. 41.7% fewer neonates were killed (658) Year to Date compared to last year (1,229), thanks to our Bottle Baby Program.

May 07 Numbers:

The May 07 kill rate (2,043) dropped 35% compared to May 06 (1,331). This is the lowest May kill rate since statistics have been recorded. Cats saw a 38% decrease from 1,467 in 06 to 900 in 07. 36% of all cats killed were orphaned neonate kittens. However, our orphaned neonate kitten kill rate for the month of May 07 (328) dropped 59% compared to May 06 (804). This is the lowest number of neonate kittens ever killed in the month of May thanks to our Bottle Baby Program.

Dogs saw a 25% decrease from 576 in May 06 to 431 in May 07. 31% of all dogs (178) killed were pit bull/mixes despite a 24% decrease in the number of pit bull/mixes killed compared to May 06 (251).

Final Thoughts:

Animal Services' push to reduce the kill rates in our shelters involves a matrix of components, including increasing spay/neuter, finding new avenues to promote adoptions, working closely with rescuers, and maximizing the use of our kennel facilities to give animals more opportunities to be rescued or adopted. There are limits – both practical and medical – to retaining animals in the shelters for prolonged periods of time, and while we look forward to making use of the expanded capacity offered by the new Animal Care Centers that will be opening this year, we understand that holding animals for longer periods of time is not a solution.

LA Animal Services will be announcing a bold new program called, ***Pit Bull Academy*** later this month. This program is designed to further help reduce the number of pit bulls dying in our Centers.

We also continue to seek new outlets for adoption. For example, recently we partnered with Miller Toyota of Culver City to promote adoptions at our West Los Angeles shelter via cable TV advertisements, and the dealership hosted a mobile adoption for us on Saturday, June 9. We routinely partner with retailers, community events and members of the humane community to stage mobile adoptions and are looking to increase the frequency and number of these efforts.

Animal Services has been collaborating with a number of City departments to develop synergistic approaches to promoting adoption, spay/neuter and other humane values throughout Los Angeles. In the coming months we expect to be announcing and implementing a plan that reflects this work. The program is called **Humane LA**.

Expanding spay/neuter remains a priority as a means of reducing the flow of homeless animals into our system over time. We are working with the City Attorney to respond promptly to the recent Alarcon/Cardenas/Hahn motion calling for a citywide mandatory spay/neuter ordinance. Additionally, AB 1634, the California Healthy Pets bill authored by Assemblymember Lloyd Levine, recently passed in the State Assembly. We urge state senators to vote YES on AB 1634 as it moves into the legislature's upper house.