Commissioners:  Paul Jolly, President  
Ken Metz  
Kathleen Riordan, Vice-President  
Alex Rubalcava

Members of the public are invited to address the Board of Animal Services Commissioners on any item on the agenda prior to action by the Board on that specific item. Members of the public may also address the Board on any matter within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board. The Board will entertain such comments during the Public Comment Period. Public comment will be limited to (1) minute per individual for each item addressed and (3) three minutes on any item during the public comment portion of the meeting, unless the limitation is waived by the President of the Board.

Members of the public who wish to address the Board must complete a Speaker card and submit it to the Board Secretary prior to final consideration of the matter.

It is requested that individuals who require the services of a translator contact the Board Secretary no later than the day preceding the meeting. Whenever possible, a translator will be provided. 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 meeting you wish to attend.

Si require servicios de traducción, favor de notificar la oficina con 24 horas por anticipado.

REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING, 10:00 A.M.

Commission President, Paul Jolly called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM. Members present were P. Jolly, K. Riordan, and A. Rubalcava. Commissioner Metz was absent.

1. REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

A. Service Pin Award Recipient: In recognition of 25 years of service to the residents of the City of Los Angeles, Linda Gordon, Sr. Management Analyst II, was presented her Service Pin.

B. Credit Card Processing Update: Assistant General Manager, Regina Adams reported that a U.S. Bank has been selected to process payments. The Department is now working with the
CAO, Treasurer’s Office and ITA to handle the remaining internal and technical aspects of the project.

C. Pilot Canvassing/Licensing Program Update: Adams reported that the canvassers were granted Mayoral approval to begin field activity. Next week they will begin canvassing targeted areas and taking-in collections for dog licenses.

D. FY 2004-05 Budget Update: Adams reported the Mayor’s Office is requiring that each Department “Zero-Base” its FY 2004-05 Annual Budget. The Department will provide the Board with more details showing where it is headed at the January 26, 2004 Commission Meeting.

2. COMMISSION BUSINESS

A. Approval of Minutes for the meeting of December 8, 2003: Commissioner Riordan moved to approve the minutes for the meeting of December 8, 2003. Commissioner Rubalcava seconded the motion. The minutes for the meeting held December 8, 2003 were approved by a 3:0 vote.

B. Meetings/Events Attended: None to report.

C. Consideration of Future Agenda Items: Commissioner Jolly requested that the Department provide the Commission Meeting calendar at the next Commission Meeting to discuss planning activities for the new calendar year.

3. REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

A. Update: Owner Turn-In Alternative Program: Aram Salmasi, Adoption Coordinator, reported that 59 letters were sent to adoption partners. 17 groups responded to our proposal; 16 expressed willingness to participate. Budget and signage costs are currently under consideration. Commissioner Jolly stated that this project might be eligible for grant funding.

B. Commission Role in Handling Citizen Complaints: Frank Orozco, Assistant City Attorney, recommended that the Board use the Department’s existing protocol for handling Citizen complaints. Orozco also recommended that the Department generate a quarterly report informing the Board of the nature and resolution of said complaints. General Manager Jerry Greenwalt committed to submitting to the Board a follow-up report on citizen complaints at the February 9, 2004 Commission meeting.

GENERAL MANAGER RECOMMENDS FOR BOARD ACTION

C. Commission Vote - Doggie Daycare Board Report: Commander David Diliberto, District Director informed that Board that the Department will treat Doggie Daycare facilities in the same category as dog kennels and apply the same $130.00 permit fee to such day care facilities.

Commissioner Rubalcava moved to adopt the Doggie Daycare Board Report. Commissioner Riordan seconded the motion. The motion passed by a 3:0 vote.

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4. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

A. Phyllis Daugherty, Animal Issues Movement, re: Agenda Item 2C – Requested that, during public comment periods, Commissioners refrain from engaging in discussions relative to items not on the agenda.
   - re: Agenda Item 3A – Asked if this program constitutes City endorsement of these groups? Recommended that the Department tightly monitor and oversee implementation. Recommended that a disclaimer be drafted to release the City of any liability caused by participating partners.
   - re: Public Comment – Reported that Los Angeles County has established an A,B, C letter grade rating system to rate pet shops in their jurisdiction. Announced that her Animal Cruelty film has been distributed to several jurisdictions throughout the County.

B. Lisa Janes, Life 4 Paws, re: Public Comment – Requested that 501(c)(3) organizations be exempt from paying the $100 licensing deposit for unaltered animals.

C. Michael Bell, re: Public Comment – Requested that the Department investigate allegations that Marge Weems is involved with the possession of over 300 cats being housed at Angel Puss and Pooch Rescue.

D. Frederick Jordan, Citizen of Los Angeles, re: Public Comment – Expressed his concern that the Animal Defense League has made accusations about the Department unrelated to animal concerns. Requested that information discussed during public comment, not directly related to animal concerns, be stricken from the minutes and that the time allocated to such individuals be forfeited.

E. Daniel Gus, The STAND Foundation, Inc., re: Public Comment – Following up on the alleged South LA Cat Beating incident, Mr. Gus informed the board that he has documents indicating that management was previously warned that Department staff alleged to be involved in the incident had displayed violent tendencies towards animals in the shelter.

F. Sue Freeman, re: Public Comment – Urged the Department to look into Marge Weems and her involvement with the Canoga Park Angel Puss and Pooch Rescue. Thanked the Department for working with her to help find a home for the dogs belonging to a recently deceased friend of hers.

G. Julie Aisles, re: Public Comment – Offered to share her pamphlet entitled, Love Is Not Enough. The pamphlet is intended for people who assist in adopting dogs out to reduce recidivism. Areas addressed include: confinement techniques, leash walking, and stationing methods.

H. Kirsten Nelson, re: Public Comment – Announced that she would be taping Department Commission meetings and having them placed on public access television.

I. Vijay, re: Public Comment – Voiced his belief that all living creatures belong to those who save or preserve their lives.

J. Mary Catalano, Dead Animals & Those Soon to Die, re: Public Comment – Requested that the Board find out if kennel personnel are disinfecting carriers and kennels where cats are kept.

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Requested that the public be informed that unweaned animals being brought into the shelters will be euthanized. Requested that the Department boost staffing and stock sufficient change in its shelters on Sundays so that customers are not inconvenienced with having to provide exact change. Requested that the Department make the complaint forms readily accessible and that Commission meetings be held at night.

K. Sheryl Greene, Cat Crossing, re: Public Comment – Extended an invitation and requested that the Department participate in and fund the purchase of training materials for a March 20, 2004 Emergency and Disaster Preparedness Training for Animals. Suggested that applying the $100 license fee to rescuers violates Sections 5312.2 – Breeding and 5312.3 – Licensing of the Municipal Code because rescuers are not considered animal owners. Requested that the Board address and resolve this issue.

L. Zsuzsa Blakely, re: Public Comment – Requested that all of the items requested for consideration at the last meeting, be placed on the next Commission meeting agenda. Asked that the $100 licensing fee be deferred to avoid penalizing rescuers. Requested that this item also be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

5. ADJOURNMENT
Commissioner Jolly adjourned the meeting at 11:04 AM.