MINUTES
BOARD OF ANIMAL SERVICES COMMISSIONERS
CITY OF LOS ANGELES
REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2004
10:00 AM
BOARD OF ANIMAL SERVICES
COMMISSION ROOM
12th Floor
419 S. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90013

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.
Commissioner Jolly convened the meeting at 10:16 AM. Members present were Commissioners P. Jolly, K. Metz, K. Riordan, and A. Rubalcava

1. REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER
A. Service Complaint Form: General Manager Jerry Greenwalt reported that the form has been modified and will be complete this week.
B. Update: Life Oriented/Low Kill Plan: Greenwalt reported that a meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 18, 2004 with various activist groups, rescue groups, City staff and other outside agencies. An update will be provided at the next Commission Meeting.
C. Doggy Daycare: Greenwalt reported that a meeting is being scheduled with Building and Safety
and the Doggie Daycare Business owners who appeared before the Commission to voice their concern. The issue will come before the Board to amend the previous decision following the meeting between the Departments and the business owners. Commissioner Rubalcava requested that the Department initiate an investigation as to the scope of the number of business that will be impacted by the decision. The Conditional Use permit issue will be resolved by the Department of Building and Safety. In the interim the Department is holding off on any activity in this area.

D. **Proposition F Facility Plan:** Drawings and models are available. Brad Smith, Deputy City Engineer, will work with the Department to get the information out. Anyone interested can call our office and we will make the information available.

E. **Spay/Neuter Truck Signs:** Signs advertising Spay/Neuter have been installed on Department field vehicles in both English and Spanish. An outside person paid for the cost of printing and the installation of the brackets. This will now enable the Department to change its signs without expensive installation costs. Between 50-65 trucks have been prepared with the signs.

F. **Rabies/Vaccination Clinic:** Greenwalt reported that the Rabies/Vaccination Clinic opens on Saturday, February 14, 2004 from 9-12 PM. Microchip and vaccination services will be provided in the clinics. Ultimately groups from outside jurisdictions and agencies will have access to our facilities to perform sterilization surgeries.

G. **West Los Angeles Shelter Vandalism:** Greenwalt reported that the West Los Angeles Animal Shelter was vandalized. A brick wall and the front of the building were spray-painted. Vehicle tires were slashed. This resulted in a tire blowout while an employee was unknowingly driving one of the vandalized vehicles on the freeway.

H. **Update: Angel Puss Rescue:** Commander Diliberto reported that SPCA-LA went out and seized all of the animals from Angel Puss Rescue. The case is being processed. Commissioner Jolly asked if the City could serve as co-prosecutors in this case. Diliberto will look into the matter.

I. **Upcoming Items to be Considered:** Greenwalt reported that within the next couple meetings, several issues will be addressed including, but not limited to: the Proposed Change in the $100 Licensing Deposit Exemption Agreement, the Vouchers, and the Pet Overpopulation Ordinance.

J. **Update: Credit Card:** The Department is still working with the Treasury Department to implement this service. Greenwalt will provide the Board with a chronology of the process and the Department’s efforts as soon as the document is available.

K. **Pilot Canvassing Program:** Greenwalt reported that the Canvassers have been working really well alongside the Spaymobile on Tuesday – Saturday. This has resulted in a lot of informational requests to our shelters and to our staff about the necessity of licensing, how to get vaccinations, spay and neuters. This has also resulted in the distribution of substantial quantities of information on animal care and treatment, additional licenses issued, and additional revenue for the City. A formal update will be provided in one month. Commissioners Rubalcava and Riordan requested that the silhouette of the head on the current press release be removed or changed.

2. **COMMISSION BUSINESS**

A. **Approval of Minutes for the meeting of January 12, 2004** – Commissioner Riordan moved to adopt the minutes from the meeting on January 12, 2004. Commissioner Metz seconded the motion. The minutes for the meeting on January 12, 2004 were approved by a 4:0 vote.

B. **Approval of Minutes for the meeting of January 26, 2004** - Commissioner Riordan requested that Agenda Item 3A be modified. Commissioner Metz moved to approve the minutes of the meeting of January 26, 2004 as amended. Commissioner Riordan seconded the motion. The minutes of the meeting of January 26, 2004 were approved 4:0.

**Please join us at our website:** [www.LAAnimalservices.com](http://www.LAAnimalservices.com)
C. Meetings/Events Attended – Commissioner Jolly attended the “Summit to Save the Animals”
put on by Warren Ekstein of KRLA. Jolly reported that it was a troubling summit. Jolly was
disturbed that the forum was not channeled toward more constructive ideas. The outcome was
that one solution to euthanasia in Los Angeles was passing an ordinance to outlaw euthanasia.
Common themes were that the Department was not responsive to the public in general. Jolly
recommended that the Department try harder to change perceptions about our responsiveness.

D. Consideration of Future Agenda Items – Jolly asked that this item be reviewed during
discussion of Agenda Item 3B.

3. REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS
A. Oral Report: Proposed RFP for Mobile Spay/Neuter Services – Greenwalt reported that the
RFP has been sent back to the City Attorney to review some of the language. The Department
is asking for continuation of the Spaymobile with the present or a different company to
provide the services. The $50 voucher program was explained. Frank Orozco, Assistant City
Attorney, reported that the Commissioners’ role is to review what the Department presents
and recommend modifications in the proposal or candidate selection if deemed necessary.

Public Comment:
1. Sue Taylor of Actors and Others for Animals – Expressed her support for the
sterilization van and suggested that the spay/neuter van has the same, if not larger,
overhead than stationary veterinary clinics because of the salary and benefit cost
differentials mandated by City Ordinance. Taylor stated that the $50 vouchers are
negotiated with all Veterinarians prior to their participation in the program. Taylor
also reported that Vets often try to collect more money from customers by requiring
vaccinations, dog collars, etc. Stated that the Department has a variety of redeemable
voucher programs. Urged the Board to visit the sterilization van and find out how the
various voucher programs work.

2. Phyllis Daugherty of the Animal Issues Movement – Expressed her support for the
Spaymobile. Stated that the vouchers were never intended to provide free spay/neuter
service. They were to be supplemental. Dog owners must pre-determine with the Vet
what the costs are.

3. Zsuzsa Blakely, Concerned Citizen – Stated that Vet rates are between $75-$150 and
above. Vouchers do little to help recover costs. Suggested that Actors and Others
place signs to promote their work at City shelters.

B. Review of Commissioner Calendar – Omar Anderson, Commission Secretary, explained the
Commission Calendar’s function and how it is processed. Jolly requested that more detail be
needed as to how much staff time will be required to address each issue. It was determined
that Commissioners will funnel all proposed agenda items through the Commission President
who will then forward the message to the Commission Secretary for placement on the
calendar. Commissioner Riordan asked if the City Attorney could investigate if an owner, who
made no attempts to properly train or confine a “dangerous animal”, resulting in the animal’s
death, can be charged with animal cruelty due to the lack of training or containment. Jolly
requested that a message be placed on the Department website informing the public of who to

Please join us at our website: www.LAAnimalservices.com
Public Comment:
1. Mary Catalano, Concerned Citizen - Requested that “Customer Service Training for Shelter Staff” be added to the Commission. Reported that shelter staff is not encouraging customers to: be more supportive of adoption and rescue, sterilize their pets, refrain from turning their animals in, and look into the Isolation Section if they cannot find their pets in the general animal population.
2. Phyllis Daugherty of Animal Issues Movement – Requested that more discussion occur about humane investigations in the field. Requested that the Board add “Exploring What Animal Cruelty Laws are on the Books Presently and Developing Ways to make the Laws More Stringent” to the Commission Calendar.
3. Zsuzsa Blakely, Concerned Citizen – Stated that the shelters are not safe. Reported that the agenda was not on the website. Requested that the agenda be put on well in advance. Requested that future agendas be placed on the website.

GENERAL MANAGER RECOMMENDS FOR BOARD ACTION

C. Board Vote to Include Pet Finder Insurance Promotional Materials in Adoption Packages along with City Endorsement Disclaimer – Commissioner Jolly recused himself from voting on the matter due to potential conflicts of interest. Frank Orozco, Assistant City Attorney, requested that the Commission hold off from deciding on this matter until the pros and cons can be examined with additional information from the CAO. Commissioner Rubalcava asked why are we being prevented from offering pet insurance due to a lack of disclosure of non-endorsement if we have not been prevented from offering dog food due to a lack of disclaimer? Rubalcava requested that a full Board Report be prepared complete with non-endorsement disclaimer language included. Requested that the City Attorney add language in the disclaimer stating that this is information service being provided with no monetary value.

Orozco stated that the Board needs to have a broader view of the City and the Department’s involvement in distributing pet food, carpet deodorizer, and any other items for public use. He suggested that a broad enough disclaimer would allow the Department to distribute any promotional items without endorsement.

Public Comment:
1. Mary Catalano, Concerned Citizen – Demanded that pet food be taken out of the adoption packages if the insurance promotional materials cannot be included. Urged the Department to place the Pet Finder insurance materials in the adoption packages.
2. Zsuzsa Blakely, Concerned Citizen - Urged the Board to vote in support of placing Pet Finder in the adoption packages because people should be informed that there is free insurance available for them.
3. Phyllis Daugherty, Animal Issues Movement - Suggested that placing the pet insurance in the adoption packages has serious legal implications. Feels this would create an unfair business advantage through endorsement.
4. Jo Ann Wagner, Concerned Citizen – Stated that the Department also endorses AVID microchips and stated that that endorsement poses a similar situation.
4. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD
   A. Phyllis Daugherty, Animal Issues Movement – Stated that mandatory spay/neuter is a violation of a property ownership rights. Stated that this it is federal law not state law. Informed the Board that New York now has a bill to classify dogs as weapons if they are found vicious. Stated that frequent targets of this legislation are pit bulls and Rottweilers.
   B. Jo Ann Wagner, Concerned Citizen – Asked if the Department of Sanitation will carry the Spay/Neuter ads on them? Reported that on Sunday, the South Los Angeles shelter had no cash, and that lines were excessively long. Suggested that adoptions should take place at the shelters on Sundays and that kennel cards are needed on all animals at all times.
   C. Jeff Fleis, Concerned Citizen – Suggested that Veterinarians should have set prices to help standardize the voucher program. Does not condone violence or vandalism. Asked to put City website address on outside banners. Feels that Department staff needs to do better job at responding to resident calls.
   D. Mary Catalano, Concerned Citizen – Reported that service at the South Central Shelter on Sunday was slow. Requested that the Department hire more clerks at the shelter. Noticed that cat boxes have not been in the shelters. Volunteered to take the ones that are here down to the shelter. Asked for the status on the alleged “Cat Beating” incident.
   E. Zsuzsa Blakely – Stated that breed-specific legislation is bigotry. Stated her opposition to breed-specific legislation. Hopes the Board will not support such legislative action.

5. ADJOURNMENT
Commissioner Jolly adjourned the meeting at 12:10 PM.