Commissioners: Kathleen Riordan, Vice-President  
Tariq Khero  
Ken Metz  
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.

SPECIAL COMMISSION MEETING, 10:00 A.M.

Commissioner Riordan called the meeting to order at 10:20 a.m. Members present were Commissioners T. Khero, K. Riordan, and A. Rubalcava. Commissioner K. Metz was absent.

1. REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

General Manager, Sharon Morris, reported as follows:

A. May 1st and 2nd, 2004 Adoptathon Events: Morris reported that Adoptathons were held on May 1st and 2nd. Morris reported that the Department did not perform as well as it had last year and in previous years. Although 171 animals were adopted, last year there were 294
adoptions that weekend. Morris recognized that the Department has to do better in the future. The Department is looking at the heat, coupled with competition from Cinco de Mayo events held on those dates, as possible causes for the drop in adoptions.

B. **Holding Periods after Mobile Pet Adoptions & Adoptathons**: Morris explained that when “Regular” Adoptathons occur, animals are held until the Tuesday following the promotional event. Morris reported that on “Super” Adoption Events, animals are held until the Friday following the promotional event.

Morris went on to explain that this has caused confusion when rescuers presuppose that an event is a “Super” Adoption when, in fact, it is a “Regular” Adoptathon, or vice versa.

The update is, effective immediately; there will not be two different holding periods. Animals will be held until the Thursday following any Mobile Pet Adoption event.

C. **Adoption Agreement 10 Point Checklist** – Morris asked the Board to review the document provided in their folders and then ask follow-up questions at the next Commission meeting scheduled for May 24, 2004. The Board concurred.

D. **Credit Cards** – The Department is in the process of testing and integrating the system. The Department is working with the Treasurer’s Office and the bank to handle some debugging issues. One change made is that implementation will occur at the Harbor shelter, rather than at the Downtown Administrative facilities. Full implementation is scheduled for the end of May 2004.

E. **Update on South LA Fumigation** – Morris reported that fumigation will be scheduled pending the development of finalized plans to handle the logistical issues of placing the animals and informing the owners of where their animals can be located. Morris stated that, in the meantime, the Department has talked with Los Angeles County Vector Control to avoid a repeat infestation. The Department has learned that this is truly a Community-wide issue and that handling the issue in our shelters would not resolve the problem. The Department is taking an extraordinary step of arranging a community meeting along with the Council, Los Angeles County Vector Control and other City Departments to develop a strategy for the community around the rats. A determination of the most appropriate action will occur pending the outcome of the meeting.

F. **Legislative Update**: **SB 1301** (Vincent Bill) is enabling the Participant Shelter Ordinance. SB 1301 is still moving forward and has passed from Business and Professions Committee to the Appropriations Committee. If it passes through Appropriations, SB 1301 will then move to be considered on the Assembly floor. Commissioner Riordan noted that the Food and Agriculture Code has a sunset clause that will allow the Department to continue waiving fees for a couple of years while the bill is being considered for adoption.

**AB 2513** (Levine) deals with overpopulation and the sale of unaltered animals. AB 2513 allows cities to issue sales permits and it makes it illegal for anyone to sell animals on either
public or private property without possessing one of these sales permits. The bill has now passed out of Business and Professions and is on its way to the Appropriations Committee. The bill does not address “give-aways”. Morris reported that the Department is addressing the issue of people giving away animals under eight (8) weeks of age at various events. The City supports this legislation. Other jurisdictions are opposed to the passage of AB 2513 because it will require them to modify many of their ordinances and practices.

G. **Revised Board of Animal Services Commission Meeting Rules** – Morris asked the Board to review the document provided in their folders and then ask follow-up questions before adopting the proposed meeting rules at the next Commission meeting scheduled for May 24, 2004. The Board concurred.

Morris reported that under the Brown Act, each agenda item has a public comment period whereby the public is to comment before the Commission takes any action. The point of the public comment at the end of the meeting is not to rehash over the items addressed. This period is to discuss items that are not on the agenda but are within the Commissions jurisdiction.

H. **1st Quarter Complaints, Resolutions, and Compliments:** Morris reported that most of the complaints have been resolved. There are a couple of complaints that are still outstanding.

I. **Customer Complaint re: Euthanasia of his animal while standing in line to redeem his dog:** Morris informed the Board that an investigation was conducted. The Department found the following:

1. Department staff did follow procedure.
2. The dog’s owner was given many opportunities to retrieve his dog.
3. The owner knew the animal was at the shelter and had twice requested that the Department maintain the animal for an extended period of time.
4. The Department complied but the owner did not come in at either of those instances to redeem his pet.
5. The animal was held for two more days. On the day in question, the owner did not make his presence known and the euthanasia occurred two days after the second deadline to redeem the pet.

Commissioner Riordan asked if a volunteer could be used to contact animal owners on the day that the animal is scheduled for euthanasia. Morris agreed to look into the possibility of implementing such a practice.

J. **The Companion Animal Anti-Tethering Ordinance:** Commander David Diliberto informed the Board that Council approved the Guard Dog Anti-Tethering Ordinance. Diliberto informed the Board that the Public Safety Committee requested that the Department look into the level of public support exists relative to the Companion Animal aspect of the ordinance. The Department has received overwhelming support from groups such as the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), SCVMA and PETA. Diliberto explained that the controversial

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aspect of the ordinance is the anti-tethering mandate proposed. Enforcement of this ordinance will be by the Department Animal Control Officers.

K. Mountain Lion in Griffith Park: Councilman LaBonge moved to have LAAS and the Department of Recreation and Parks, in cooperation with the State Department on Fish and Game, to launch an aggressive community outreach campaign to let the community know how to respond to mountain lion sightings. The Department of Recreation and Parks has already begun placing signage in English along the equestrian and hiking trails warning people of the sightings. Signs will also be posted in Spanish, Korean and Russian. Wildlife staff has put together a draft of a brochure for the Department called “Encounters with Mountain Lions”. The brochure will be also translated in Spanish, Korean, and Russian. An aggressive outreach campaign will follow.

I. Press Release: Morris reported that the Sam Simon Foundation had a press conference at City Hall announcing their new spay/neuter van. This van will compliment the Department’s Spaymobile.

Public Comment:

1. Zsuzsa Blakely – Expressed concern that the shelters are only understaffed when it comes to adopting animals but not when animals are being euthanized. Objects to Ms. Morris’ nameplate suggesting that she is the General Manager. Requests that the nameplate be changed to read Interim General Manager. Feels one minute is not sufficient time for public comment.

2. Lois Newman – Requested that the Department publish lots of public relations encouraging National Adopt a Shelter Cat Month in June. Requested that the Department credit card capabilities be expanded to service customers online. Opposes AB 2513.

3. Phyllis Daugherty – Support the Companion Animal Ordinance. Would like to see that fines be associated with negligence in the care of the animals.

   Commander Diliberto added that the Department has asked the City Attorney to assign a misdemeanor penal charge to the Ordinance.

4. Mary Catalano – Feels the change in location of the meeting was very inconvenient and prohibitively expensive to park.

2. COMMISSION BUSINESS

A. Approval of Minutes for the meeting of April 12, 2004 - Because not all Commissioners received the minutes, the Board agreed to holdover approval of the minutes until the next Commission Meeting.

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B. Approval of Minutes for the meeting of April 26, 2004 - Because not all Commissioners received the minutes, the Board agreed to holdover approval of the minutes until the next Commission Meeting.

C. Meetings/Events Attended: None to report.

D. Consideration of Future Agenda Items: Commissioner Riordan requested that she would like to see streamlining the re-issuance of rescue cards to those organizations that have abided by Department regulations. Subject to the availability of staff from the Planning Department and Building and Safety, Riordan also requested that the Zoning issue be moved to a subsequent date.

Finally, Commissioner Riordan asked if the Department would place in the Matters to be Calendared section “Updating the LAAS Website”. Riordan expressed concern that not all animal photos are presented. Riordan also would like to address placing animal impound numbers on the webpage.

Commissioner Rubalcava requested that meeting packets receive a tracking report on the status of Board decisions that have been voted on, are in progress, but have yet to be implemented. Rubalcava asked that a periodic update and that staff appear before the Board to present information about the various LAAS major programs. Rubalcava recommended that the calendar be adjust so that on June 14, 2004 – the Board address “Voucher Redemption Value” issue as well as Commissioner Riordan’s Adoption Partner, Rescue Card, and Zoning issues. Rubalcava also suggested that the Evidence Animal Policy and Procedure issue be moved to sometime in July 2004. The Board concurred.

Public Comment:

1. Zsuzsa Blakely – Feels that someone in the Department is driving rescuers away, the photos on the website are of poor quality, and the Department is stonewalling the public by delaying the $100 license fee issue. Requested the status of the animal in ISO be posted on the website.

2. Phyllis Daugherty – Declined her opportunity to speak.

3. Mary Catalano – Feels rescuers should never have had to pay for helping the Department save animals lives. Expressed her disappointment with delaying the $100 licensing fee issue. Inquired as to when the Department will address the customer Service and Credit Card issues.

3. REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

A. Vote: Location & Time Change for Future Board of Animal Services Commission Meetings. Commissioner Rubalcava moved to postpone the vote and hold the next Commission meeting at 419 S. Spring Street, 12th floor location.

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Public Comment:

1. Mary Catalano - Asked the Board to consider meeting in the evenings. Requested that meetings be held at the 419 S. Spring St. location.

2. Zsuzsa Blakely: Feels City Hall is a better place to meet if the City would pay for the public to park.

GENERAL MANAGER RECOMMENDS FOR BOARD ACTION

B. Board Report: Wildlife Policy Proposals. Commander David Diliberto and Lieutenant Wendell Bowers presented a list of suggestions geared towards reducing animal trappings, reducing euthanasia, and improving collaborations with the State Department of Fish and Game.

Commissioner Riordon inquired about accountability: was the animal dropped off in the same place that is was captured? Will there be a Departmental requirement or provision to hold people accountable? Riordan also inquired as to how the Department was going to handle Department filed complaints and rude rehabbers? Commissioner Rubalcava asked what the next steps were and if the website would be updated.

Mary Cummings requested that the Department relinquish its wildlife duties.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Zsuzsa Blakely: Expressed her confusion as to what is being done.

2. Mary Catalano: Requested information to be translated into Spanish. Feels education is an important aspect to this issue.

C. Board Report: Attacks on Service Animals- Penal Code Infraction
Guest Speaker: Ms. Shirley Manning. Commissioner Rubalcava moved to have this item held over until the next available Commission meeting. Commissioner Khero seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 3:0 vote.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

1. Jo Ann Wagner: Complained about the staff at the South Los Angeles Shelter. Feels they do not work with rescuers trying to removed animals out of the ISO Unit. Presented instances where staff has asked Spanish-speaking customers to read signs that were printed in English. Asked what is the authority that allowed the Department to require that people bring stray animals to the shelter.

2. Daniel Guss: Expressed disappointment that Commissioner Metz was unable to attend today’s meeting.

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3. Scott Sorrentino: Thanked the board for considering the Adoption Partner issue. Asked why the $94.50 licensing fee could not immediately be suspended pending further review?

4. Bill Dyer: Asked where the department was going with the appointment of the new General Manager? Hoped the process will be an open one. Cannot find information on the website about the progress of the process. Feels this is not the Department’s fault but feels this reflects negatively on the Department. Asked if the Department would post the job description and where people can mail in their resumes.

5. Daniel Gritzman: Asked the Department to help him resolve a problem in figuring out the number of dogs at a facility and how dogs should be separated by size at an overnight boarding facility?

5. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Riordon adjourned the meeting at 1:23 P.M.