COMMISSION MEETING, 10:00 A.M.

Commission President Riordan called the Commission meeting to order at 10:10 A.M. Present were Commissioners Riordan, Atake, and Knaan. Commissioner Khero joined the meeting at 10:18 A.M. Commissioner Brown was absent.

1. REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER – EDWARD BOKS

- The General Manager gave an update on the Plus 1 Minus 1 Program. There has been a significant decrease in euthanasia (32%), and an increase in adoptions (10%) from 2005. Rescue group adoptions however, have decreased significantly (38%) from 2005.
- The committee of Commissioner Atake, Laura Beth Heisen, Scott Sorrentino, and others from the community has continued to work with the Department on the New Hope Program. The General Manager hoped to soon put the program in place and make adjustments later as needed.
- Positive discussions with the Mayor’s Office and the City Attorney’s Office on the Budget needs of the Department have continued to take place. Mr. Jim Bickhart informed the Board that an official budget document released in March that would be sent to the City Council for public hearings.
- The General Manager recognized the efforts of the staff at the West Valley shelter that have persevered in dealing with the difficult conditions brought about by the construction.

Public Comments

**Phyllis Daugherty:** The employees are often overlooked for their efforts and never commended by the Board.

**Jane Garcia:** Misunderstanding with an email that said that rescue groups would not be able to adopt animals until they appeared on the euthanasia list.

The General Manager clarified that the New Hope List would not be a euthanasia list, but one that identified animals that were difficult to place.

2. OLD BUSINESS

Please join us at our website: [www.LAAnimalservices.com](http://www.LAAnimalservices.com)
A. Board Report: Increase in the Number of Cats Allowed (Held Over from Feb. 13, 2006)
B. Board Report: Procedure for Handling Abused or Neglected Animals Impounded at Shelters (Held Over from Feb. 13, 2006)

The Department is still undergoing administrative review of the reports. The staff would have the three board reports completed and ready to present by the next Commission meeting. Commissioner Khero motioned to continue the board reports on the agenda for the March 13, 2006 Commission meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Knaan and passed on a vote of 4-0.

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. Commission Recommendation For New Agenda Items

- The General Manager assured the Commission that there would be complete report on customer service training placed on the agenda for the March 13, 2006 Commission meeting.
- Commissioner Knaan wanted an updated report on the spay/neutering performed by the Sam Simon Foundation during the months of December, January, and February to be placed on the agenda for the March 13, 2006 Commission meeting.
- Commissioner Riordan asked for a report on shelter adoption policies.
- Commissioner Riordan asked the Department to consider providing incentives to pet shops for taking in shelter animals.
- Commissioner Riordan asked for an update on the fees for livestock and how they compared to market slaughter prices.

Commissioner Knaan read the following motion to be placed as a future agenda item:

The Board of Animal Services and the Los Angeles City Council in 2000 adopted Section 53.15.2.c of the Los Angeles Municipal Code. This section requires people who wish to breed their animals to obtain a breeder’s license from the City.

Considering the number of bred-for-sale animals – especially dogs – available for sale at any given time within the city limits, it is apparent that few breeders obtain licenses. They engage in what is known as “backyard breeding” in an uncontrolled manner that contributes to pet overpopulation in Los Angeles.

At any given time there are dozens of classified advertisements for animals bred by these breeders running in locally distributed newspapers and periodicals. Because so few breeders’ licenses have been purchased, it is apparent that most of these ads are placed by people who lack such a license. Requiring that any publication distributed within the city limits include the breeder’s license number in the text of any classified or display advertisement offering animals for sale would encourage wider compliance with City statute.

NOW, I THEREFORE MOVE that the Department of Animal Services and the City Attorney prepare a proposed ordinance requiring any classified ads featuring animals for sale to require the advertiser to include his or her breeder’s license number clearly visible in the text of the ad.

Public Comments

Zsuzsa Blakely: Felt that the public needed access to view Chameleon information on the animals placed on
the kill lists.

4. **COMMISSION BUSINESS**

A. Approval of the Minutes for November 14, 2005 (Held over from Jan. 23, 2006)

Commissioner Khero motioned that the transcription of the November 14, 2005 meeting be accepted as the minutes for that meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Knaan and was passed on a vote of 4-0.

B. Approval of the Minutes for January 23, 2006 (Held over from Feb. 13, 2006)

Commissioner Knaan motioned that the approval of the January 23, 2006 minutes be tabled to the next Commission meeting on March 13, 2006. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Khero and was passed on a vote of 4-0.

**Action Item:** Approval of the Minutes for January 23, 2006 to be tabled as an agenda item for the next Commission Meeting on 03/13/06.

C. Meetings/Events Attended

Commissioner Atake attended dog adoption events on February 18, and February 25. Commissioner Knaan attended the Director of Animal Welfare meeting on February 19, at which Mr. Boks served as the guest speaker. Commissioners Riordan and Khero had nothing to report.

5. **GENERAL MANAGER RECOMMENDS FOR NEW BOARD ACTION**

A. Board Report: Approval of Special Meeting on March 28, 2006

Monday, March 27, 2006 is a City holiday, celebrating Cesar Chavez Day. A special Commission meeting would be held on the following Tuesday evening of March 28, 2006, with exact time and place to be determined. This special meeting would be focused on the several administrative appeal hearings that have been filed with the Department. Commissioner Knaan motioned to have the special Commission meeting, limited to only appeals, on the evening of March 28, 2006. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Atake and passed on a vote of 4-0.

**REGULAR AGENDA DISCUSSION ITEM**

B. None

6. **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

**Phyllis Daugherty:** Commented on the success of the County’s ordinance. The City has too many loopholes in their ordinance. There is difficulty in establishing where an animal is actually bred. The City issues breeder’s permits without requiring business licenses. The County’s ordinance has much stricter provisions. The City needs to address penalties to enforce the ordinance. Need to review State law on not giving away animals for free.

**Lisa Edmundson:** Stated that the rabbits are the most difficult animals to place and that they should be given attention under the New Hope Program.

Please join us at our website: [www.LAAnimalServices.com](http://www.LAAnimalServices.com)
Jane Garcia: Questioned the accuracy of the Chameleon reports that appeared on the Department’s Website.

Zsuzsa Blakely: Agreed with Ms. Garcia. Added that the animals that were placed on the kill lists and scheduled to be killed are already listed as dead on the Department’s Website. Plead to stop the killing. Said that she was hopeful in the future efforts of the Department and the Commission.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 11:10 A.M.