COMMISSION MEETING

Commission President Riordan called the Commission meeting to order at 10:08 A.M. Present were Commissioners Riordan, Khero, Atake and Knaan. Commissioners Brown joined the meeting at 10:40 A.M.

(There was a power failure midway through the Commission Meeting. Subsequently the tape recording system failed. The minutes were prepared based on partial tapes and notes that were taken.)

1. ELECTION OF ANIMAL SERVICES COMMISSION OFFICERS

Election of Officers for the forthcoming year will be held in abeyance pending the arrival of Commissioner Brown.

2. REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER – PRESENTED BY CAPTAIN NANCY MORIARTY

Captain Moriarty reported that the General Manager, Ed Boks was in Sacramento representing the City and the Department regarding a bill before the legislature, SB 1806 Animals Left Unattended in Vehicles.

3. OLD BUSINESS INCLUDING MATTERS FOR BOARD ACTION

A. Board Report: Animal Adoption Policy (DNA)

Captain Nancy Moriarty reported on the Department’s new policy and procedure regarding an Animal Adoptions. At the direction of the Commission, Captain Moriarty reviewed the Department’s policy on adoptions and the Do Not Adopt Policy (DNA). Captain Moriarty found the adoption policy limited in scope. After benchmarking with shelters and humane organization, a new policy was prepared and presented to the Commission. The policy attempts to target individuals that were potential problems that could not provide an animal’s life. The policy addresses the use of adoption counselors when they become available, possibly when the new shelters open.

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Commissioner Knaan commented that it would be beneficial to have turn-in counselors available to speak to the public when they arrive at the shelter to relinquish an animal. Captain Moriarty reported that 40 to 50% of dogs turned in to our facilities are owner surrenders. There is a turn-in rate of 60% for cats at our West Los Angeles Shelter. In fact there are more owner surrenders than strays coming into the West Los Angeles Facility. Commissioner Atake asked about impound of a dog under impound number A11885. The owners turned the dog in and lied about ownership. Captain Moriarty explained that the identification of persons turning in animals is checked. Dog owner’s area required to present identification and the information is entered into Chameleon. If a person turns-in a dog with the reason that they do not have time for it, this would place them on the do not adopt list immediately. However, if they can prove that a financial or home situation precludes them from continuing to care for the dog, they will not be placed on the do not adopt list. Most persons do not turn in animals because they are aggressive. Most turn-ins is because they are moving, I don’t have time for it, my child is afraid of it or I don’t have the money to care for it. One program offers counseling to persons turning in an animal. A follow-up phone call is made at a later date to see if the person would like to get the animal back, especially if it is not adopted or becomes ill. There is no charge for this. Persons must be educated to understand that when they are adopting an animal it is for life. The half-hour it takes to be counseled for the adoption is well worth the time it takes. Commissioner Knaan asked if the Department has the ability to check any criminal records prior to an adoption. The Department would not check criminal records they would base their action on what is presented at the time of adoption. A person’s name is entered into Chameleon. If the name comes back as do not adopt they would be denied the ability to adopt an animal. The Animal Cruelty Task Force is looking into having local agencies create a database as a do not adopt registry. Commissioner Khero asked if the Department knew why the number of owner surrenders was increasing. Captain Moriarty indicated that the Department did not know the answer. A study on people moving and the reasons for the increase must be initiated. Captain Moriarty indicated that the policy is a living document. She also indicated that staff is on board with the policy and is just waiting for the forms and policy to be adopted.

Public Comment:

Phyllis Daugherty: Should be happy people are relinquishing their animals. A few years ago animals were being abandoned on the street. Is not in favor of offering animals to individuals who turn them in. Have problems with wording as some of the policy goes against state laws.

Scott Sorrentino: Needs to be a clearer policy that what has been stated here. There needs to be a year suspension for owners surrender with some rules for overturning a suspension. Without this people will come into the shelter with the correct answer. Rescue people have a lot of do not adopt information.

Jane Garcia: Agreed with the previous speaker. Felt that there needs to be a year suspension. Also suggested this item is addressed at a nighttime meeting, as many people in the community would like to attend and comment on the issue.

Teri Austin: First time she can remember that a shelter has entertained the thought of a do not adopt policy. Refreshing that the Department has the guts to go forward and set the trend for the whole country. Reason the rescue groups have so few returns is because of rescue counseling.

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Commissioner Knaan asked for a clear-cut list of reasons for a do not adopt policy. Also requested that staff opinions be obtained. The staff comment on the policy is very important.

**Action Item:** Approval of the Animal Adoption Policy (DNA) to be tabled as an agenda item for the next Commission Meeting on 08/28/06.

**NOTE:** At 10:43 A.M. Commissioner Brown joined the meeting.

Commissioner Knaan motioned that Item 7A-Discussion of Veterinary Vacancies and 7B-New Hope Alert Reporting Criteria be continued. Commissioner Khero seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

4. **NEW BUSINESS**

   A. Commission Recommendation For New Agenda Items

   Commissioner Atake recommended that the Department should recommend that unaltered dogs be banned at dog parks.

   Commissioner Knaan requested a report on the Transfer Policy at the September 11th meeting.

   Commissioner Riordan requested an update on the number of animals released unaltered. Additionally a report on the increase in unaltered dog licenses.

   **Public Comments**

   **Jane Garcia:** Suggested that a report on dog walkers be added to the list. Would like to know what the Department is doing to look into the level of vet care.

5. **COMMISSION BUSINESS**

   A. Approval of the Minutes for July 10, 2006

   Commissioner Knaan motioned that the Commission minutes for July 10, 2004 is approved. Commissioner Khero seconded the motion and it was approved 5-0.

   Commission tabled the Minutes for the Meeting of July 24, 2006 until the next meeting.

   **Action Item:** Approval of the Minutes for July 24, 2006 to be tabled as an agenda item for the next Commission Meeting on 08/14/06.

   B. Meetings/Events Attended

   Commissioner Atake volunteered at dog adoption events on July 29, August 5 and August 12, 2006. Commissioner Riordan appeared before the City Council on August 9, 2006 for her confirmation hearings.

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6. GENERAL MANAGER RECOMMENDS FOR BOARD ACTION

A. Board Report: Sam Simon and Amanda Pet Foundation Contracts

Mr. Jeff Brill, Sr. Management Analyst II reported on the contracts for the Sam Simon and Amanda Pet Foundations. Mr. Brill reported on the latest negotiations and agreements reached with the Sam Simon Foundation in regards to providing spay and neuter services for the South Los Angeles clinic. As of October 1, 2006, the Sam Simon Foundation would be taking over the South Los Angeles clinic in an interim position Mr. Brill reported that the Department believed that both contracts were satisfactory to all parties. However on Friday afternoon correspondence from the Sam Simon Foundation Attorney indicated there were significant changes to the contract. The Office of the City Attorney has not reviewed the changes to the contract. The contract must be to the City Council by the middle of September to be effective on October first. Commissioner Knaan asked for a copy of the redline version of the contract for review. The Amanda Pet Foundation contract is complete and ready to review.

Public Comment

Jane Garcia: Veterinary staff should have experience with spay and neuter of rabbits.

Teri Austin: Thankful this is going forward. Anxiously awaiting beginning of the program. In addition, it is important to let the people know about the program. We are the only city in the country that is paying for spay and neuter events.

RETURN TO ITEM 1 – ELECTION OF ANIMAL SERVICES COMMISSION OFFICERS

Commissioner Knaan motioned to nominated Commissioner Riordan for President. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The vote was 4 Commissioners in favor of the motion and one Commissioner opposed.

Commissioner Riordan indicated that she felt another Commissioner should be President. Assistant City Attorney Dov Lesel indicated that as the voting had been concluded, a motion to reconsider would have to be made by one of the Commissioners who voted in the majority. Commissioner Riordan asked for a reconsideration of election. No Commissioner put forth a motion to reconsider the election. Commissioner Riordan requested the other members of the board to allow her to step down and decline the Office of President. At this point Commissioner Riordan informed the Board of Animal Services Commissioners that she was stepping down as President of the Commission. A motion to nominate Commissioner Khero as President was put forth by Commissioner Brown and seconded by Commissioner Knaan. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

Tape Failure due to a power outage.

Commissioner Khero nominated Commissioner Riordan for Vice-President of the Commission. Commissioner Atake seconded the motion. The motion passed with 4 votes and one abstention.

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Commissioner Khero commented that Commissioner Kathleen Riordan is the heart and soul of the Commission. Her knowledge and hard work enabled the Commission and Department to focus on the care and well being of animals.

7. **REGULAR AGENDA DISCUSSION ITEM**

   Items continued to future date (See Item 3)

8. **GENERAL MANAGER RECOMMENDS FOR BOARD ACTION**

   None

7. **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

   **Phyllis Daugherty:** Spoke on the Adoption Policy (Do Not Adopt). She is unsure how the Department would enforce the policy and how officers would respond. Actors and others for Animals was acknowledged by the Mayor for their work with animals.

   **Teri Austin:** Reported the Amanda Foundation Performed 242 feral cat spay and neuter procedures with two vets. She is thrilled to work with the City under a contract at the new shelters. It is important that problems with the contracts are worked out.

   **Scott Sorrentino:** Happy to be here. Suggested the Department revisit Do Not Adopt Policy. Rescue groups have adoption counselors. However they are only as good as the information available. Each counselor should have training. The San Francisco SPCA has advertisements on their website for animal friendly apartments.

   **Jane Garcia:** Congratulates the Commission on the Do Not Adopt Policy. Understands this is a very delicate matter. Animals are brought into the shelter daily.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

   Meeting was adjourned at 11:55 A.M.