ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL HEARING

Commission President called the Administrative Appeal Hearing to order at 6:15 P.M. Present were Commissioners Khero, Riordan, Ponce, and Quincey. Commissioners Brown arrived at 6:17 P.M.

1. Appeal of the General Manager’s Decision in Barking Dog Case – BD 07515SL

Appellant: Mr. Kevin Hackie
Complaining Witness: Mr. Todd Berrien
District Manager, South Los Angeles Animal Care Center, Jorge Figueroa, Captain
Hearing Coordinator, Department of Animal Services, Ross Pool, Management Analyst II

Commissioner Quincey motioned to overturn the General Manager’s original decision to revoke the dog licenses for “Costa”, License Number L07-109280 and “Zues”, License Number L08-205164. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The vote to uphold the terms and conditions was split evenly 2-2. Commissioner Khero abstained. Due to the inability by the Board to make a final decision, the General Manager’s original decision was upheld.

Determination: General Manager’s Decision Upheld, License Reissued.

2. Appeal of the General Manager’s Decision in Barking Dog Case – BD 07563WV

Appellant: Mr. David Lee Jones
Complaining Witness: Mr. Marcel Kloetzer
District Manager, West Valley Animal Care Center, Jan Selder, Captain
Hearing Coordinator, Department of Animal Services, Ross Pool, Management Analyst II

Commissioner Brown motioned to modify the General Manager’s decision that the original Terms and Conditions set forth in the Notice of Order, dated September 7, 2007, do not apply to “Pepper”, License Number L08-202520, and that hours listed in Term #1 be changed. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Quincey and passed on a vote of 5-0.
Commissioner Riordan motioned to overturn the General Manager’s original decision to reissue the dog license with terms and conditions for “Jake”, License Number L07-202519. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Quincey and passed on a vote of 4-1.

**Determination:** General Manager’s Decision Overturned, License Reissued without Terms and Conditions.

3. **Appeal of the General Manager’s Decision in Barking Dog Case – BD 07571WV**

   Appellant: Ms. Jennifer Statt  
   Complaining Witness: Mr. Marcel Kloetzer  
   District Manager, West Valley Animal Care Center, Jan Selder, Captain  
   Hearing Coordinator, Department of Animal Services, Ross Pool, Management Analyst II

Commissioner Riordan motioned to overturn the General Manager’s original decision to reissue the dog licenses for “Nibbles”, License Number L07-212253 and “Chase”, License Number L07-212254. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ponce and passed on a vote of 5-0.

**Determination:** General Manager’s Decision Overturned, License Reissued without Terms and Conditions.

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**COMMISSION MEETING**

Commission President Khero called the Commission Meeting to order at 7:05 P.M. Present were Commissioners Khero, Riordan, Brown, Ponce, and Quincey.

1. **ORAL REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER – EDWARD BOKS**

   - The General Manager sadly informed the Commission of the recent passing of Ms. Yvonne Funches.
   - The Department continues to have ongoing discussions with Pierce College about different partnerships involving students assisting at the shelters with grooming and veterinary technician functions. The first opportunity to involve the students maybe February 24, the Department’s official “Spay Day LA” event.
   - The General Manager announced that February 26 is “Spay Day USA.”
   - The Department continues to work with Western University on developing internship opportunity programs. At the next Commission Meeting, representatives from Western University would like to come before the Board and present their ideas.
   - February 23: The Department will host the Grand Opening of the new West Los Angeles Animal Care Center at 12:00 PM.
   - March 1: The Department will partner with the Los Angeles Zoo Department and host an adoption event at the Zoo.
   - May 4: The Department is potentially looking to host another “Big Sunday” event, involving the East Valley, North Central, South Los Angeles, and West Valley Animal Care Centers.
   - May 10: The Department will partner with Council Member Ed Reyes and LAUSD to host the “Be Kind to Animals” event. The purpose of the event is to demonstrate to the City’s youth the different career opportunities in animal welfare. The Department anticipates over 300 children to attend.

**Please join us at our website:** www.LAAnimalservices.com
• The Department has continued to take action to improve their overall customer service. The Department is currently in the process of developing surveys to collect valuable feedback. The Department is also working with their HLP Chameleon partners to help identify power users, internal weaknesses and processes.
• The General Manager announced that the individual arrested by the Animal Cruelty Task Force on dog fighting charges last April, recently pled guilty and was sentenced to five years in the state penitentiary.
• The Senior 4 Seniors Program is now running. The centers’ Volunteer Liaisons are reaching out to senior centers to schedule adoption events.
• The City Council has asked the Department to formulate an equine task force to deal with horse licensing and registration, manure removal, and horse paths issues.

2. COMMISSION BUSINESS

A. Approval of the Commission Meeting Minutes of January 14, 2008 and January 28, 2008

Commissioner Ponce motioned to approve the minutes for the January 14, 2008 Commission Meeting with her recommended changes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Quincey and passed on a vote of 5-0.

Commissioner Riordan motioned that the approval of the minutes for the January 28, 2008 Commission Meeting be held over to the next Commission Meeting on February 25, 2008 with Commissioner Ponce’s recommended changes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ponce and passed on a vote of 5-0.


B. Oral Report by the Commission on Meetings and Events Attended

Commissioner Ponce attended the January 30, 2008 City Council Meeting to hear the discussion on the Mandatory Spay/Neuter Ordinance and the February 1, 2008 City Council Hearing in Van Nuys on the same subject. On February 5, she also met with Council Members José Huizar and Ed Reyes, field deputies and shelter staff to discuss “Be Kind to Animals Week,” humane education to the youth. Commissioner Riordan also attended the January 30, 2008 City Council Meeting to support the amendment to the Breeder’s Code. Commissioners Khero, Brown, and Quincey had nothing to report.

3. GENERAL MANAGER RECOMMENDS FOR BOARD ACTION

A. Revised New Hope Policy and Procedure (Held from the Meeting of December 17, 2007)

Ms. Linda Barth, Assistant General Manager, gave a brief overview of the specific changes the Department recommends to the New Hope Program. The Policies and Procedure Manual now encompass New Hope adoption of dogs, cats, and rabbits, rather than a separate set of forms for rabbit adoptions. New Hope partners are required to specify the primary breed that the organization rescues. New Hope Partners shall transfer registration of the animal’s microchip to the adopter at the time of a legal adoption of animal by a new owner from the New Hope Partner organization. All members under the New Hope Partner must go thru a process and properly be registered and authorized by the organization. A California Driver’s License
number must be provided and verified for all members authorized to adopt animals on behalf of a New Hope Partner organization.

The Department revamped the report form so that it can be emailed to the Partner groups every month. One of the key differences with the present document is that the Department restored the New Hope Rescue Groups’ authority to take out animals not green-listed or red-listed, as long as the animals were made available to the public for at least two operating days. Regarding disclosure of medical information, the forms were modified so one could simply check-off conditions from a list.

In an effort to increase licensing, organizations must provide the Department with the address of all adopters and transferee rescues that reside in the City of Los Angeles for purposes of follow-up on the licensing of the animals, as well as the name and zip code of adopters that do not reside in the City.

Mr. Scott Sorrentino, a member of the New Hope Ad Hoc Committee, presented a memo to the Board highlighting the areas of the New Hope Program that the Committee did not agree on. One of the concerns included the transfer of registration of the animal’s microchip to the adopter by the owner from the New Hope Partner organization, and that both be listed as registrants with the Department. Mr. Sorrentino commented on how the requirements to provide personal information to the Department raised privacy issues, and that having such requirements would greatly impede adoptions with the rescue groups. He strongly recommended that the Department consider implementing the use of a transfer permit as another alternative.

Public Comments

Kathy Helmkamp: The rescue organizations are not the law enforcement extension of the Department. Agreed with Mr. Sorrentino that many individuals enter into adoptions with the rescue organizations without the fear of the law looking for them. People who are aware that there is a law to license their dogs will continue to re-license their dogs. The Department does not have a viable way to enforce licensing procedures.

Lisa Janes: Expressed concern that the Department was considering increasing their adoption rescue fees.

Ben Lehrer: Member of the New Hope Ad Hoc Committee. Agreed that the Rescue Community is not the enforcement arm of the Department. Commented on the Department changing the fee structure for adoptions.

Lori Golden: The best idea is to consider using the transfer permits.

Vivi Sparvoli: Commented on information that is voluntarily submitted versus information that is required by law. The proposed changes would create an administrative burden for the rescue groups to monitor. Hoped that people who already practice re-licensing their dogs would continue to do so.

Susan Romaine: Commented on the changes to the fee structure as being counterproductive to the Departments goal of saving as many animals as possible. Felt that the rescue organizations would not have a problem with the 2-day waiting period, but that it put the animals.
The General Manager suggested conducting a study to issue transfer licenses for a trial period and observe the actual success of the transfer licenses.

Commissioner Riordan motioned to continue the item on the Revised New Hope Policy and Procedures Manual, Partnership Agreement, Information Forms, and Reporting Requirements to an agenda for a future Commission Meeting, and that the Commission direct the General Manager and Department Management to meet again with New Hope Ad Hoc Committee and the New Hope Partners to discuss the areas of disagreement in the newly revised policy. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ponce and passed on a vote of 5-0.

4. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. None

5. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Cathie Turner: Felt that the Commission was doing a great disservice to the finances and licensing levels of this community by passing mandatory spay/neuter. Presented charts to the Board displaying the Department’s licensing compliance, New Hope Placements, and euthanasia statistics. The mandatory spay/neuter legislation has never worked in a single jurisdiction, and has never increased licensing compliance.

Lois Krokover: Commented on how the proposed law would be enforced. Said that the proposed law would create a loss in revenue, microchipping, and rabies compliance.

David Powers: Concerned with the 4-month period in the mandatory spay/neuter ordinance. There are many studies that demonstrate psychological and physical repercussions with spaying/neutering at such a young age. Presented reports to the Board from the University of Minnesota, University of Pennsylvania, and the University of Zurich.

Lori Golden: Concerned about licensing. Suggested that canvassers target a pet supplies store in Van Nuys that has a mobile clinic. Expressed her frustration with trying to contact the Animal Cruelty Task Force.

Scott Sorrentino: Commented on the fee discount with regards to New Hope partners. One of the concerns of the Department with the New Hope partners was that they did not want the rescuers to frequently rescue the most adoptable animals. Reiterated that many rescue organizations microchip animals to themselves and not to the adopting parties. Asked that the Department consider the Transfer Licenses.

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no new requests from Commissioners for Future Agenda Items.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Riordan motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ponce and passed on a vote of 5-0. The Commission Meeting was adjourned in the honor of Ms. Yvonne Funches at 8:55 P.M.