MINUTES
BOARD OF ANIMAL SERVICES COMMISSIONERS
CITY OF LOS ANGELES

Monday February 25, 2008
10:00 A.M.
CITY HALL
200 N. Spring Street
Room 1060
Los Angeles, CA  90012

Commissioners:  Tariq Khero, President
Kathleen Riordan, Vice-President
Glenn Brown
Irene Ponce
Archie Quincey, Jr.

ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL HEARING

Commission President called the Administrative Appeal Hearing to order at 10:10 A.M. Present were Commissioners Riordan, Brown, Ponce, and Quincey. Commissioners Khero was absent.

1. Appeal of the General Manager’s Decision in Barking Dog Case – BR 07520WL
Appellant:  Mr. Michael Lerner
Complaining Witness:  Mr. Donald Phillips
District Manager, West Los Angeles Animal Care Center, Jesse Castillo, Captain
Hearing Coordinator, Department of Animal Services, Ross Pool, Management Analyst II

Commissioner Brown motioned to uphold the General Manager’s original decision to reissue the dog licenses for “Chief”, License Number 046023 with terms and conditions. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Quincey and passed on a vote of 4-0.

Determination:  General Manager’s Decision Upheld, License Reissued with Terms and Conditions.
COMMISSION MEETING

Commission President Khero called the Commission Meeting to order at 10:55 A.M. Present were Commissioners Riordan, Brown, Ponce, and Quincey.

1. ORAL REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER – EDWARD BOKS

- The City Council recently passed a historic Citywide spay/neuter ordinance by a vote of 14-1. A Bill signing ceremony is scheduled for 9:30 AM. on February 26, 2008 in the Governor’s Conference Room at City Hall.
- The Department celebrated February 24, 2008 with the Department’s official “Spay Day LA” event, opening the facilities of North Central, South Los Angeles, and West Valley for spay/neuter services. Partnering with the Amanda Foundation and the Sam Simon Foundation, the Department was able to sterilize 169 animals.
- February 23, 2008: The Department hosted the Grand Opening of the new West Los Angeles Animal Care Center at 12:00 PM.

2. COMMISSION BUSINESS

A. Approval of the Commission Meeting Minutes of January 28, 2008 and February 11, 2008

Commissioner Riordan motioned that the approval of the minutes for the January 28, 2008 and the February 11, 2008 Commission Meetings be held over to the next Commission Meeting on March 10, 2008 with Commissioner Ponce’s recommended changes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ponce and passed on a vote of 4-0.


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

On February 19, Commissioner Ponce met with Department staff and representatives from two Council offices to discuss “Be Kind to Animals Week – Humane Education For the Youth.” Commissioner Ponce mentioned that Commissioner Riordan had been instrumental in providing valuable input with regards to the agenda for that particular meeting. Commissioners Ponce and Quincey attended the West Los Angeles Animal Care Center Grand Opening on February 23, 2008. Commissioner Riordan recently had discussions with out-of-state officials about pet food legislation. Commissioner Brown had nothing to report.

3. GENERAL MANAGER RECOMMENDS FOR BOARD ACTION

A. Request for Proposals for a Pet Health Insurance Sponsorship

Over the last several months, several vendors of pet health insurance have approached the Department. In the ongoing quest to enhance the value of pet adoptions, the Department decided it would be worthwhile to release an RFP and vendors to respond with what they can provide the City in terms of pet health insurance. The RFP will be open to all pet health insurance providers. The proposals will be evaluated based on the...
firms’ background, qualifications, their record of performance, the quality and variety of proposed deliverables, their coverage levels offered to customers, timing, and their services’ financial value to adopters and redeemers. The Department will select the top-ranked proposer and recommend a contract award to the Board at a subsequent Board Meeting.

Ms. Linda Barth, Assistant General Manager, explained that entering into such a partnership will provide the opportunity for the Department to promote a pet health insurance provider at the care centers and pet fairs, directly to new and current pet owners, while receiving a sponsorship fee from the insurance provider exchange. Coverage packages specially targeted to adoption and redemption customers will be available for dogs, cats, rabbits, and horses and may include other animals as well. The Department will promote the insurance provider by placing signage, brochures, and other materials in public areas in Care Centers, for distribution to the public. The Department website will show a link to the insurance provider’s website, and Department pet-adoption events will include insurance provider presence. The sponsorship relationship would both increase the well-being of pets and people, and earn additional revenue for the City. The Department will seek a three-year contract with the insurance provider, with a renewal option of up to three (3) additional years, exercisable at the City’s discretion.

Commissioner Riordan expressed her concern that the evaluation process would favor the bigger companies over the smaller ones in terms of what they can provide for the City. She believed that certain carriers might have a specialization in providing a certain service that would interest and attract a customer, and that it might be beneficial for one to be able to choose from a list of insurance provider instead of selecting just one. Ms. Barth responded that the potential advantage of going with a specific company is that the specific company could be tied into the Department’s adoption process in such a way as that people could actually have something printed on their adoption receipts. She mentioned however, that a modification could be made to the RFP that allows for multiple contracts, depending on how the proposals turn out.

Public Comments

Phyllis Daugherty: The Department dealt with this before and had a problem with one company’s enterprises that were found to be very offensive. Concerned about the liability of the City, as insurance companies are often very flaky.

Commissioner Brown advised that the insurance company be an admitted carrier in the state of California with a guaranteed fund to limit the liability to the City.

Commissioner Ponce motioned to direct Staff to release a Request for Proposals (RFP), substantially in the form as on file and subject to review by the City Attorney as to form, for a Pet Health Insurance Provider to sponsor the Department and to be the exclusively-promoted insurance option for pet owners adopting or redeeming animals from the Department’s Animal Care Centers with the added provisions that there be an option to be able to award multiple contracts, and that the carrier must be admitted in the state of California. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown and passed on a vote of 4-0.

4. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. None
5. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Phyllis Daugherty: The biggest and most important dog-fighting bust in the past week by the Humane Society of the United States with the arrests of Mr. Terry Williams and Mr. Mahlon Patrick in Pima County, Arizona. Mentioned that she would be getting two of Mr. Williams’s autographed books for evidence in pending cases against the two men. Commented that filming for post-training on Animal Cruelty has been completed.

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Requests from Commissioners For Future Agenda Items:

- Commissioner Riordan requested a report on the recent incident concerning unauthorized documents found at the shelters, and what the Department is doing to ensure that such an incident does not occur in the future

7. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Brown motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ponce and passed on a vote of 4-0. The Commission Meeting was at 11:45 A.M.

The next Commission Meeting will be held Monday March 10, 2008 at 10:00 A.M., at CITY HALL, 200 N. Spring Street, Room 1060, Los Angeles, CA 90012.