

staff would be given further material to use in the field for reference.

Commissioner Knaan expressed concern that the procedures needed to be made more specific and clear. Commissioner Brown recommended establishing a specific investigative plan to help maintain consistency. Commissioner Atake commented on several instances of neglect and abuse. She felt that such cases of neglect from the staff should also be investigated. Commissioner Knaan asked that Captain Wendell Bowers report to the Board within a month on when training would be conducted for the staff, and what exactly the staff would be given in terms of a checklist for procedures.

Public Comments

Phyllis Daugherty: State law mandates that anyone relinquishing an animal to the Department must submit positive identification. Suggested that staff take pictures of all animal wounds and injuries, and to quickly check on the residents' premises for other animals when animal turn-ins occur.

Commissioner Knaan motioned to table the approval of the board report and include a procedural checklist to the May 8 Commission Meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Atake and passed 4-0.

Action Item: Approval of the Board Report on Procedure for Handling Abused or Neglected Animals Impounded at Shelters to be tabled for the Commission Meeting on 05/08/06.

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. Commission Recommendation For New Agenda Items

- Mr. Pool clarified that the Board Report on the Spay and Neuter RFP had been moved to the April 24 Commission Meeting.
- Commissioner Knaan wanted a discussion on a recruitment plan to hire more veterinarians for the Department's shelters to be placed on the agenda for the April 24 Commission Meeting.

Jane Garcia: Requested again if Dr. Katie Rainey could come in and speak on the medical staff training.

4. COMMISSION BUSINESS

A. Approval of the Minutes for March 13, 2006

Commissioner Riordan motioned that the approval of the March 13 minutes be tabled to the next Commission meeting on April 24. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Knaan and passed 5-0.

Commissioner Atake motioned that the approval of the March 28 minutes be tabled to the next Commission meeting on April 24. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Riordan and passed on a vote of 5-0.

Action Item: Approval of the Minutes for March 13, 2006 and the Minutes for March 28, 2006 to be tabled as agenda items for the next Commission Meeting on 04/24/06.

B. Meetings/Events Attended

Commissioner Atake volunteered at dog adoption events on March 18, March 25, April 1, and April 8. She also attended Nathan Winograd's session on temperament testing at UCLA Law School on March 22.

Commissioner Brown attended a meeting on April 7 between the Department, City Attorney, and the LAPD on training and Animal Cruelty Task Force issues. Commissioners Riordan and Brown attended a meeting on April 3 with Mr. Jim Bickhart from the Office of the Mayor, and several individuals from the community to discuss raising the limits on cats and the requirement for permits. Commissioner Knaan participated in the Los Angeles County Bar Association's No Kill panel. She also made visits to the East Valley shelter, the Studio City mobile adoption event, and an appearance on the television show Critter Crusades. Commissioner Khero had nothing to report.

5. GENERAL MANAGER RECOMMENDS FOR NEW BOARD ACTION

A. None

REGULAR AGENDA DISCUSSION ITEM

B. Report: Senior 4 Senior Progress Report

The Department had considered changing the Senior 4 Senior Program so that senior citizens 62 years and older would be able to adopt for free any senior animal seven years and older. Currently, the program in place identifies senior citizens as 55 years and older, and allows them to adopt for free any animal five years and older. Mr. Jeff Brill, Sr. Management Analyst II, reported that 54 animals, 15 cats and 39 dogs, have been adopted since the Senior 4 Senior Program was first implemented on February 14, 2006. The Department has been working with the Department of Aging to promote the program in their centers.

Commissioners Riordan and Knaan requested that the Report on the Senior 4 Senior Program return to the agenda as a discussion item to the next Commission meeting on April 24, with Ms. Heidi Huebner present to address questions on promotions and on the volunteer program.

Mary Catalano: Requested that the seniors be given disability information in regards to the law and landlords allowing animals to be living with disabled individuals.

Phyllis Daugherty: Agreed with Commissioners Atake that no animal should be given away for free. There has been no way to monitor the program as several animals have already been returned to the shelters. Suggested that people need to invest and make a commitment to the animal.

C. Report: Sam Simon Spay and Neuter Contract Update

Ms. Rachel Paap, Director of Community Programs for the Sam Simon Foundation, reported on the Sam Simon Foundation in meeting their contractual obligations with the Department. Currently, they are on schedule to reach their goal of 7,000 sterilization procedures by the end of their first contract year. They have held a number of public events and educational presentations to increase community involvement. They have promoted their services on busses, on the radio, and at various churches, schools, and community centers. Ms. Hannah Lieberman, Outreach Coordinator, added that mass flyer distribution and the many volunteers have been instrumental in their success. The Sam Simon Foundation added three additional operating days to March and to April, and will add four operating days per month, starting in May. Commissioners Riordan and Knaan were concerned with the Sam Simon numbers, and wanted more concentration on sterilizing the dogs over 50 lbs. Dr. Scott Amsel, Director of Medicine, commented on past experience and expected a steady increase in sterilizations during the summer months. He noted that they operate on all dogs brought to the vans, but generally do not receive many large dogs.

Teri Austin: Felt that there was much misinformation in the report. The Amanda Foundation is doing 20% large dogs compared to the Sam Simon Foundation's 13%. The Sam Simon Foundation needs to create events to address the large dog issue, not simply distributing flyers and attending already-established events.

Phyllis Daugherty: Left out the age of the dogs. Younger pit bulls and rottweilers are usually less than 50lbs, and sterilizing them is exactly what the Department should be doing. Notified the Board that Dr. Marvin Mackie would be leaving the West Los Angeles clinic.

Curt Steindler: Worried that the Sam Simon Foundation is failing to meet their goal of 7,000 procedures. Agreed with Phyllis on the importance of the age of the dogs and not the weight. Thought that there is still a need for statistical data that is more detailed and specific.

D. Report: Proposition F Update Report on Isolation, Quarantine and Rabbit Areas

Commissioner Knaan motioned to table the Report on the Proposition F Update for the Isolation, Quarantine and Rabbit Areas to the next Commission Meeting on April 24. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Riordan and passed on a vote of 5-0.

Action Item: The report on Proposition F Update Report on Isolation, Quarantine and Rabbit Areas returns as an agenda item for the next Commission Meeting on 04/24/06.

E. Discussion: Assistant General Manager Qualifications

After consulting with the Department of Personnel, the educational requirements were included. A Bachelor's Degree in the related field would be the minimum, with a Master's Degree being preferred. Mr. Brill clarified that the AGM position included in the '05-'06 Budget would be an administrative position, dealing with budget, personnel, and information technology issues. The AGM position overseeing shelter operations was included in the unreleased '06-'07 Budget to be approved by City Council. Commissioners Riordan and Knaan were concerned that if the second AGM position were denied, that the qualifications for the first AGM position would have to be changed. Mr. Bickhart advised the Department to move forward with releasing the AGM qualifications to avoid the risk of a possible hiring freeze being imposed by the Mayor should they wait longer to fill the position. Mr. Brill added that releasing the first AGM qualifications and hiring someone to fill the position would take pressure off of the General Manager and relieve him from devoting close attention to the various administrative issues.

At the encouragement of the Mayor's Office, Commissioner Riordan placed the Qualifications for both Assistant General Manager positions as discussion items for the next Commission Meeting on 04/24/06.

Zsuzsa Blakely: Mr. Nathan Winograd had recommended hiring an individual without experience, but with a vision for change. Wanted the Department to eliminate the Assistant General Manager Qualifications.

Action Item: The Qualifications for the Assistant General Manager - Administration Position and the Qualifications for the Assistant General Manager – Shelter Operations Position to be placed on the agenda as voting items for the next Commission Meeting on 04/24/06.

F. Presentation: Presentation of new Department Logo By Otis Art Institute

The representative from the Otis Art Institute was not in attendance at the Commission meeting to present the new Department logo. Mr. Brill will contact the professor of the students and coordinate with them when they would be able to come in and make their presentation before the Board.

Phyllis Daugherty: The original logo was a lengthy process and changing the logo would be costly to the Department. The public already identifies with the logo. Suggested that the Department concentrate on more pressing issues first before discussing to make the change.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Teri Austin: Pointed out that Dr. Amsel did not have extensive experience in high spay/neuter surgery until his hiring by the Sam Simon Foundation. Expressed that the organization had an inept management situation, citing problems with the emergency hotline and the lack of communication at their mobile spay/neuter sites.

Commissioner Brown left the meeting at 12:42 P.M.

Phyllis Daugherty: Mentioned Dr. Mackie's desire to leave the West Los Angeles clinic. Advised that there needs to be a Department protocol to handle donations. Recommended that the Department take advantage of the Daily News as a way to communicate with the public about their need for more volunteer involvement. Was apprehensive about the General Manager's possible appointment for director of the spay/neuter program.

Curt Steindler: Sensed that there was still much confusion about the change in policy in feeding reptiles with live animals. Wanted clarification that reptiles are to be fed with frozen and thawed animals. Asked that reports be made available much earlier to the public on the Department Website.

Jane Garcia: Asked that bottle baby feeders be included in the New Hope Program.

Mary Catalano: Questioned whether the Department is releasing underage kittens to the public without sterilization. Disagreed with animals being given away for free with the Senior 4 Seniors Program.

Zsuzsa Blakely: Applauded the Department for their efforts in killing fewer animals. Suggested that the kill lists also include animals placed on for medical reasons.

Arthur Hernandez: Requested that something be done about the pit bulls off-leash in the Harbor areas. Wanted to see legislation passed to change the laws on owning pit bulls.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 1:05 P.M.