

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
SPAY/NEUTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES
September 22, 2008

Meeting was called to order at 6:35 P.M., by Ed Boks, General Manager, Department of Animal Services.

Present were Committee members:

NAME	COUNCIL DISTRICT
Dr. Bill Bender	12
Bobby Dorafshar	3
Cheri Shanker	6
Elizabeth Oreck	5
Jean Marie Wisniewski	13
Judie Mancuso	7
Laura Beth Heisen	10
Lezle Stein	14
Marie Atake	11
Rachel Paap	4
Ricardo Mendoza	9
Scott Sorrentino	2

Absent were Committee members:

NAME	COUNCIL DISTRICT
Christine Peters	1
Theresa Sardisco	15
Willie Solomon	8

I. INTRODUCTION

Ed Boks, General Manager, Department of Animal Services welcomed participants to the first Spay/Neuter Advisory Committee Meeting. Mr. Boks invited all those in attendance to introduce themselves. Committee members introduced themselves, stated the Council district they represent, and described their pertinent experiences and organizations.

Mr. Boks then requested Ross Pool, Management Analyst II, Department of Animal Services, to highlight terms of the Brown Act. Mr. Pool described the

responsibilities of an ad-hoc committee regarding Committee members' communications with other members and Brown Act requirements. Questions were raised regarding the interactions of members assigned to a Subcommittee of the group. Mr. Pool indicated that he would confer with the Office of the City Attorney and EMail all members of the Committee any information he receives.

II. ELECTION OF CHAIR

Mr. Boks opened the floor up to nominations for a permanent Chairperson of the Committee. Ms. Marie Atake placed into nomination the name of Laura Beth Heisen. The nomination was seconded by Lezle Stein. A second nomination for Cheri Shankar was made by Judie Mancuso, with a second by Bobby Dorafshar. Supporters for each candidate made short introductory remarks about the qualifications of each nominee. A secret vote was taken and Cheri Shankar was elected Chairperson of the Committee by a vote of 7 to 5. Mr. Ricardo Mendoza recounted the ballots and verified the results of the election. Chairperson Shankar then took charge of the meeting.

Laura Beth Heisen was nominated as Co-chairperson and elected on a voice vote of the Committee members present. The voice vote was 12-0

Public Comment: Dan Guss voiced support for Laura Beth Heisen.

III. REVIEW OF THE PURPOSE AND OPERATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

Cheri Shankar then led a discussion regarding the purpose and operations of the Committee. Scott Sorrentino asked who prepared the document outlining the purpose, mission, rules and procedures of the Committee entitled "Spay/Neuter Advisory Committee (Draft)." Mr. Boks responded that the document had been prepared by Department staff under his direction. Chairperson Shankar commented that the Committee was formed to address the challenges and get the word out regarding resources available for spay and neuter. She suggested places to start are recreation centers, churches/houses of worship, and community leaders. Ms Wisniewski indicated she does this in the Atwater district. She indicated that it is a way to get to know everyone in the area. Furthermore she is striving to get medical care for pets. Ms. Wisniewski indicated that in low income neighborhoods, pets are not a priority. She works with neighborhood councils to get resources.

Ms. Shankar agreed and commented that the Committee members must be creative in their thinking. Ms. Stein questioned why the last spay and neuter schedule posted on the Department's website was over two months old. The comment was made that this is the last schedule received from the spay and neuter providers.

Mr. Boks then asked that the Committee go over the reasons for its existence. Mr. Boks cited Section (b) of Section §53.15.2, of the Los Angeles Municipal Code, Section 8 that establishes a Spay/Neuter Advisory Committee to advise the Commissioners on the impact of the City's spay and neuter policies on the City's low-income residents. In addition paragraph 8 H(1) through H(6) of the ordinance describing what the Committee shall do were discussed.

Ms. Mancuso indicated that spay and neuter services from all groups should be posted on the website. She said she was working with groups to provide a spay day for Los Angeles using participating veterinarians. She also commented on PSA announcements that were running in local theaters. In addition, Ms. Mancuso passed out a flyer that is to be used to advertise spay and neuter services and special days.

Chairperson Shankar indicated that the Committee mandate requires the Committee to review the impact of the spay and neuter ordinance on the poor. She asked for suggestions on how to achieve this goal. In support of this effort Bill Bender asked about the availability of vouchers. Mr. Boks indicated that Department staff would be available at the next meeting to answer these questions. Mr. Bender also indicated that a list of vendors who have space for spay and neuter services would be helpful in reviewing the impact of the spay and neuter services on the poor.

A question regarding the meaning of item H (3) Quality of Services and Accountability Measures was raised by Ms. Heisen. In addition, she suggested that the Committee concentrate on areas that have the greatest impact. Ms. Heisen suggested that several Subcommittees be established to analyze and report on separate areas of concern.

After discussion, three Subcommittees were established. Each Committee member was encouraged to pick the Subcommittee to which they could provide the best support and absent Committee members were assigned to a Subcommittee. Members of each Subcommittee elected Chairs for their Subcommittees. The Subcommittees, Chairs and members are as follows:

SUB-COMMITTEE	MEMBERS
External	Ricardo Mendoza (Chair), Rachael Paap, Cheri Shankar, Willie Solomon, Lezle Stein, Jean Marie Wisniewski
Internal LAAS	Scott Sorrentino (Chair), Bobby Dorafshar, Laura Beth Heisen, Judie Mancuso, Christine Peters, Theresa Sardisco
Veterinary	Dr. William Bender (Chair), Marie Atake, Elizabeth Oreck

Each Subcommittee will establish its own meeting times and places.

IV. SELECTION OF STANDING MEETING DATES AND TIMES

The Committee proposed to meet monthly for the next several months with the exception of December, due to the holidays. Meetings have been scheduled, as follows:

Day	Month	Date	Year	Time	Location
Tuesday	October	21	2008	7:30 P.M.	West L.A. Shelter
Monday	November	17	2008	7:00 P.M.	South L.A. Shelter
Monday	January	5	2009	7:30 P.M.	West L.A. Shelter

V. SYNOPSIS OF LA ANIMAL SERVICES SPAY / NEUTER PREPARATIONS

No discussion of this topic occurred as a result of the subject being covered in previous discussions and the Committee is awaiting a representative from L.A. Animal Services to discuss the information with the Committee.

VI. AGENDA REQUESTS FOR NEXT MEETING

A suggestion for the next meeting topic was an "Outline of the Subcommittees' Proposals."

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.