

**CITY OF LOS ANGELES
SPAY / NEUTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES
February 17, 2009**

**Location:
North Central Animal Shelter**

Spay/Neuter Advisory Committee Chairperson Laura Beth Heisen called the meeting to order at 7:25 p.m.

Present were Committee members:

NAME	COUNCIL DISTRICT
Marie Atake	11
Bobby Dorafshar	3
Laura Beth Heisen	10
Elizabeth Oreck	5
Rachel Paap	4
Christine Peters	1
Cheri Shankar	6
Lezle Stein	14
JeanMarie Wisniewski	13

Absent were Committee members:

NAME	COUNCIL DISTRICT
Dr. Bill Bender	12
Judie Mancuso	7
Ricardo Mendoza	9
Theresa Sardisco	15
Willie Solomon	8
Scott Sorrentino	2

I. GENERAL BUSINESS

Copies of Committee member draft recommendations for the March preliminary report and reports of meetings were made available for the public.

II. MINUTES

Chairperson Heisen requested approval of the minutes for the meetings of January 16, 2009. Ms. Atake motioned for approval of the minutes and Ms. Stein seconded the motion. The minutes were approved on a 9-0 vote.

Ross Pool, LAAS Management Analyst II, noted that the Committee's report goes to City Council (as well as the Mayor and LAAS Commission).

III. COMMITTEE MEMBER PROGRESS REPORTS

Ms. Papp stated that the LAAS Subsidized Spay/Neuter Clinic survey is delayed in distribution due to LAAS AGM Linda Barth's questions about how to distribute and collect the surveys. Ms. Papp has again clarified this for Ms. Barth.

IV. SELECT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MARCH 2009 PRELIMINARY REPORT

The following numbered recommendation topics as set forth below were selected for the March 2009 preliminary report. The comments noted following recommendation topics were mentioned but may or may not be included in the March or October report. Recommendation topics with broad scope will be refined into specific recommendations by the individual(s) responsible for the recommendation; more about the broader topic will be covered in the October 2009 final report. Where more than one name is listed with a recommendation topic, those listed will communicate with one another ASAP to create their draft for Committee review.

1. Opening the city's spay/neuter clinics for the public. [Ms. Heisen]
 - Define the purpose of a shelter s/n clinic/Veterinarian.
 - Define who is eligible for services at a shelter s/n clinic.
 - Uniform prices among the shelter s/n clinics for the public would be good. For example there are currently some much higher prices at Value Vet than are expected at Clinico and both differ from the South LA s/n clinic prices.
 - Clarify that add-on product sales are optional and prior approval by the client should be necessary. Ms. Atake noted her group's recent experience picking up a dog from Value Vet; her volunteer stated that there was a bill for products sold to the volunteer without advance permission.
 - Consider including that the LAAS Veterinarian(s) should be included in determining what the RFP will require from a Veterinarian.

2. Allocating funds for \$30 coupons and \$70 certificates. [Ms. Sardisco & Mr. Sorrentino with Dr. Bender, Ms. Atake & Ms. Oreck]
 - It was noted that some rescue groups and at least one shelter cannot give away the \$30 coupons; the public does not want them because they do not cover enough of the cost of spay/neuter to enable owners to pay the remaining balance of the s/n cost.

- It was also noted that shelters often run out of the \$70 certificates on between the first and the fourth day they are available for the month.
- Ms. Heisen read from the LAAS budget for 2008/09 and averaged the last three years actual and estimate numbers to reveal that approximately 13,000 of the \$30 coupons were redeemed annually, costing the city \$390,000 annually for those 13,000 spay/neuters. In contrast, approximately 6,000 of the \$70 certificates were redeemed annually, costing the city \$420,000 annually to provide those 6,000 spay/neuters. It was noted that only the \$70 certificates are intended to assist specifically low income residents while the \$30 coupons are available to anyone and do not specifically target help for low income residents.
- Ms. Papp noted similar information in the City Controller's Spay/Neuter Audit of August 2008.

3. Pit bulls, Chihuahuas and unweaned kittens. [Ms. Sardisco & Mr. Sorrentino with Ms. Papp]

4. How to get Veterinarians on board with affordable s/n, whether directly through LAAS or through their own veterinary practices. [Dr. Bender, Ms. Atake & Ms. Oreck]

- Include Ms. Papp's idea re involving Veterinarians in 30 s/n a month program as done in Hollywood. [Ms. Papp]

5. Spay/neuter resources already "out there." [Ms. Peters]

6. Utilizing volunteers for spay/neuter. [Ms. Stein & Ms. Wisniewski]

7. Staff training re spay/neuter. [Ms. Stein, Ms. Peters & Ms. Wisniewski]

8. Information/outreach [Ms. Papp & Ms. Shankar]

- Prominent and uniform spay/neuter display area at each shelter; same information provided to ACOs, Canvassers, City Council offices, and Neighborhood Councils for dissemination.
- This will also include among other recommendations: Using data to show success in order to encourage Veterinarians involvement in affordable s/n. [Ms. Papp]

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Sigala of Councilmember Alarcon's 7th Council District stated that the Councilmember hopes to see recommendations from the Committee regarding:

- a. Targeting low-income and non-English speaking residents for s/n outreach and information, and for s/n services.
- b. S/N Outreach to schools.
- c. Using Neighborhood Councils to help spread s/n information and potentially assist with funding projects within a Council's geographic boundary.

9. The most urgent enforcement needs and ordinance changes. [Mr. Dorafshar]

- To include among other possible recommendations:
 - Changing the name of the "breeders" permit. [Ms. Atake]
 - Shortening 180-day period for starting serious enforcement measures. [Mr. Dorafshar]
 - Breeding permit and breeding permit exemption modifications. [Ms. Heisen & Mr. Dorafshar]

V. ANY ISSUES IN SUBMITTING FINAL REPORT RECOMMENDATION DRAFTS NO LATER THAN MARCH 2, 2009.

No members indicated any issues.

VI. REPORT FORMAT

Each March 2009 preliminary report recommendation topic should include an explanation of why the recommendation is needed, the recommendation itself, and identification of available resources to implement the recommendation, along with any supporting information. Each recommendation topic covers different subject matter so Committee members should use as their guide whatever makes sense for their recommendation topic.

Ms. Heisen requested the following format conventions:

"LAAS" should be used rather than "the department."

Animals should never be referred to as "it"; rather, they should be "he," "she," "his," "her," "the cat," "the dog," etc.

Please include citations to authority, data and fact sources, such as web addresses.

The recommendation format utilized by Mr. Dorafshar in his draft provided to the Committee is a very good example. Please also include your identification of available resources for implementing your recommendation.

VII. How to define:

- a. "Low income"
- b. "Affordable" spay/neuter

Postponed due to time considerations.

VIII. COMMITTEE MEMBER TASKS TO COMPLETED BEFORE THE NEXT MEETING

Before 3-2-2009 meeting (one week BEFORE our next meeting):

March preliminary report recommendations: Please Email your completed recommendations written, completed and ready for review by the full Committee. Please Email them to Ms. Heisen, *no later than March 2, 2009*. This date is important so that the Committee can have adequate time to review. Ms. Heisen will compile the recommendations for Committee review.

Shortly after 2-28-2009:

Employee surveys: Committee members should please pick up employee surveys from the shelter where the members took them. The survey period ends February 28, 2009, so the surveys should be picked up as soon after that date as possible.

Please bring the employee surveys to the next Committee meeting.

Between now and next meeting:

Captain reports, City Council office reports, etc.: If you have not yet given your report orally or if you did not yet EMail your report to Ms. Heisen, please EMail your report to Laura Beth.

IX. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

XI. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:20 p.m.