

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

**MINUTES
August 3, 2009**

**Location:
West Los Angeles Animal Shelter**

Spay/Neuter Advisory Committee Chairperson Laura Beth Heisen called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Present were Committee members:

NAME	COUNCIL DISTRICT
Marie Atake	11
William Bender, D.V.M.	12
Bobby Dorafshar	3
Laura Beth Heisen	10
Rachel Paap (L)	4
Christine Peters (L)	1
Cheri Shankar	6
Suzanne Isabelle Simmons	8
Cathy M. Simpson	9
Scott Sorrentino	2
Lezle Stein (L)	14
JeanMarie Wisniewski (L)	13

Absent were Committee members:

NAME	COUNCIL DISTRICT
Judie Mancuso	7
Elizabeth Oreck	5
Theresa Sardisco	15

I. General Business

No discussion.

II Approval of Minutes, August 3, 2009 Meeting

The minutes for the July 6, 2009 meeting were presented. Laura Beth Heisen stated that Rachael Papp had suggested one change to the Minutes. A motion to approve the Minutes with the suggested change by Ms. Papp was made by Dr. Bender and seconded by Cheri Shankar. The motion was approved by a vote of 8-0.

III. Updates

Ms. Heisen stated that she is having a DVD showing the Neighborhood Neuter program as operated in Oklahoma downloaded to YouTube and it will be available to Committee members, LAAS, and the general public, probably by tomorrow. Ms. Heisen will provide the link and asked that everyone watch.

Ms. Heisen commented that LAAS had indicated its intent to make the changes recommended by the City Controller's audit updated released in June 2009. Ms. Heisen noted that those recommendations related to administrative processes and does not specifically generate increased spay/neuter outreach, education or services.

Jim Bickhart said the transfer permit ordinance is "in the queue" at the City Attorney's office, with licensing reform to occur first, followed by roosters, and then the transfer permit. Mr. Bickhart did not know the time frame when the transfer permit ordinance would be presented to City Council, although he stated that the transfer permit had been sent to Dov Lesel at the City Attorney's office in Spring 2009.

Ms. Heisen recently met with Interim General Manager, Kathy Davis, Assistant General Manager, Linda Barth and Chief Veterinarian Dr. Prupas. Ms. Heisen asked Ms. Barth to clarify a statement made at that meeting, that LAAS cannot hire Veterinarians for LAAS to operate its spay/neuter clinics due to a hiring freeze. Ms. Barth stated that the city has "managed hiring" which is the same as a hiring freeze. She stated that exceptions to the hiring freeze are possible but it is a "long, convoluted process," and that "no one is entertaining" any unfreeze at present because the city is awaiting the outcome of its early retirement offer. Who decides on an unfreeze? Ms. Barth stated that this is the Mayor's office, the City Administrative Officer's office and the City Legislative Analyst's office.

Ms. Barth stated that the City's budget is still not balanced, and that some LAAS employee classifications including Registered Veterinary Technicians were required to take one furlough day each pay period. Consequently, RVTs (and others) are now working only 72 hours every two weeks.

Cheri Shankar stated regarding the Neighborhood Neuter program that FixNation and CatNippers have been using volunteers for high volume spay/neuter for years.

Ms. Shankar stated that she would get data from the Harbor shelter spay/neuter clinic grand opening from Aimee.

Jim Bickhart stated that Found Animals Foundation prepared a licensing report about one year ago and it “helped inform” the LAAS licensing report.

The Amanda Foundation sponsored by Downtown Dog Rescue will hold a high volume spay/neuter event at the East Valley shelter on August 29th.

IV. Enforcement and Ordinances

Bobby Dorafshar provided suggested ordinance changes to City Codes. A discussion ensued on language required and the best way to implement change.

Linda Barth stated that Officer George Figueroa is in charge of the license canvassers. No individual is specifically designated as in charge of license programs. Ms. Barth stated that ACOs take licensing action when they observe a license violation in connection with other duties.

V. October 2009 Final Report

- See Attached Chart.

Individual/group outlines of sections for the October 2009 report are due by the next meeting and should be Emailed to Ms. Heisen three days before (by August 28, 2009).

For the October 2009 report, each Committee member is also responsible for assessing LAAS’ implementation of the Committee member’s respective recommendations made in the March 2009 Preliminary report.

When any questions and requests are sent to LAAS for current report sections or to update implementation of March 2009 report recommendations, please copy Ms. Heisen, to avoid duplicated work.

Ms. Barth stated that the LAAS organization chart is substantially as it was when the organization chart was provided to the Committee late in 2008.

VI. Committee member task to complete before next meeting

All Committee members are to prepare an outline of their October 2009 report sections. Please submit the outlines to Ms. Heisen by Email by August 28, 2009, which is three days before the next meeting. Ms. Heisen will send the outlines to

the other Committee members for discussion at the next meeting.

Please also watch the Neighborhood Neuter DVD on YouTube.

Ms. Heisen asked if any Committee members wish to make recommendations to LAAS in preparing the new RFP for the LAAS spay/neuter clinics which remain closed and without any identified operator.

VII. Future Agenda Items

None noted.

VIII. Public Comments

Jim Bickhart discussed the status of SB 250 (Spay and Neuter Bill). He expects a City Council vote re supporting the bill.

IX. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 P.M.

October 2009 Report Section Responsibilities

EXTERNAL	INTERNAL	VETERINARY	ALSO
Outreach – Rachel, Suzanne (Cathy also but more specifically see below)	Programs - Scott	Outreach to Veterinarians (to work for LAAS, provide low cost S/N services to low income residents, for special events) – Bill, Marie, Jean Marie	Follow-up on March 2009 Report - All
Outreach from government side including neighborhood councils – Lezle	Programs for bully breeds – Scott, Bobby	RFP – Bill, Laura Beth	Timeline – All
How to reach those most in need: Overcoming objections – Cathy	Program for cats – Scott, Jean Marie, Judie, Christine	Clinics (run by LAAS) – Laura Beth, Scott	Measuring Success - All
How to reach those most in need: Help finding affordable S/N - Cathy	Program for Chihuahuas - Scott	What to do in city areas lacking enough affordable S/N Veterinarians – Jean Marie, Marie	
Specific parts of the City (how to find volunteers, local community leaders who will help, provide more S/N services, etc.) – Cathy, Suzanne, Lezle	Statistics – Judie	User friendly complaint system for the public to use (also re “incident reports” from LAAS S/N clinic operators) - Bill	
Volunteers – Rachel How volunteers can help S/N other than inside the shelters - Lezle	Computer – Judie	LAAS contract Veterinarians’ add-on costs - Bill	
Humane Education - Christine	Licensing efforts impacting S/N - Rachael		
Fundraising (including in kind donations) – Cheri, Elizabeth Grants - Suzanne	Enforcement – Bobby, Judie, Laura Beth		
Pilot Program - Cheri	Ordinances – Laura Beth, Bobby, Judie,		
Annual Calendar (S/N events, PR) – Rachel			