Meeting called to order at 10:25 AM

Commissioners Ramsayer, Secunda, Khero, Macellaro and Riordan were in attendance.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None

2. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Board Report on illegal Animal Sales at Various Locations throughout the City

Public Comment:

Darla Brunner: This is not about individual animals. It is about the beginning of the cycle of violence against both animals and individuals.

Ed Buck: Incentive for behavior is money. Need to remove the financial incentive by informing the Board of Equalization of the individual so the can be taxed.

Andrew Stewart: Conducting surveillance at sale location. It is three individuals who take the animal's home at the end of each day. Willing to work with LAPD to solve problem.

Lejla Hadzimuratovic: Concerned that you need prototype for baby bunnies. So easy to determine whether the bunny is unweaned.
Patricia Clode: Aware of what is going on in Santee Alley and Venice Beach. Need signage to inform the public of problem and let the people who are selling the animals that it is illegal.

Commissioner Ramsayer invited Commander Andrew Smith and Officer Fisher, LAPD and Annette Ramirez, LAAS to testify. Commissioner Secunda asked what was necessary to prosecute a person for animal Cruelty. Ms. Ramirez indicated a veterinary report was necessary to determine what charges the City Attorney can level. Only problem is that the person is arrested under the wrong section of the Municipal Code. Officers need to book under LAMC 53.42 for animal sales rather than 42.00 which is for illegal sales on street. Patrol officers should be educated to use the correct code. Officer Fisher indicated patrol officers arrest under the 42.00 section because the section has a more severe section than the lesser animal sale section. Commissioner Macellaro asked if they could be arrested under both sections and let the city attorney sort it out. It is possible if the city attorney is notified of the two sections.

Commander Smith gave a short history and problems regarding enforcement of state and municipal codes in the Santee Alley area. It is a labor intensive process for police officers to arrest and book persons selling on public property. Commissioner Secunda indicated that she had brought infractions to police officers attention and questioned how the process worked. Commander Smith indicated that he would inform the staff at Pacific Station of the problem. Commissioner Secunda indicated this is important and should be a priority. Commander Smith indicated that it would help if the bail was increased to show it was important. Most gang members selling on Venice Beach are independent salesman so a gang injunction would not work to stem the sales. Commissioner asked if signage informing the public that the purchase of animals is against the law. Commander Smith indicated that signs would be of a great help in the enforcement of LAMC sections. In addition, a media campaign would help a lot.

Commander Smith commented that he would talk to the staff at the Pacific Station regarding animal sales at Venice Beach, and would also meet with the ACTF to identify where the animals are held. He would also contact the authorities in Riverside to work on the problem where the animals come from.

3. COMMISSION BUSINESS

A. Approval of Commission Minutes for April 12, 2011

Approval of the minutes for April 12, 2011 was continued to the next meeting.

Please join us at our website: www.LAAnimalservices.com
B. Oral Report by the Commissioners on Meetings and Events Attended

Commissioner Ramsayer: Visited Santee Alley to view animal sales. Met with Dr. Prupus.

Commissioner Secunda: Visited Santee Alley to view animal sales. Met with Dr. Prupus.

Commissioner Riordan, Khero and Macellaro: None

4. GENERAL MANAGER RECOMMENDS FOR BOARD ACTION

A. Amendment to Los Angeles Municipal Code, Section 53.30

Commissioner Riordan commented that the code criminalizes keeping injured animals. As medical care of animals has improved, this LAMC section should be amended.

Commissioner Macellaro indicated that she was uncomfortable with the amendment and section of the LAMC.

Phyllis Daugherty: Commented that this is about people who can not afford to care for dogs and this is the only protection these animals have.

Commissioner Ramsayer tabled the motion until a future meeting when the Bob Ferber from the City Attorney’s Office could be present.

B. Support for California Senate Bill (SB) 702

Public Comment

Judie Mancuso: Sponsor of SB 702. Bill allows for a microchip to implant in animals redeemed from a shelter in an effort to return more animals to the owners.

Ed Buck: Ditto

Commissioner Ramsayer made a motion to approve the General Manager’s recommendation as stated to support SB 702. Commissioner Khero seconded the motion and the motion passed 4-0

4. ORAL REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

The General Manager reported on the following items:

GM Report to Commission on 5-10-2011

Please join us at our website: www.LAAnimalServices.com
We are through the budgeting cycle and the answers are not all in. Some of the Coalitions that did not vote to accept the compromise and we are waiting for additional voting and/or negotiations so we are in limbo.

Licensing Pilot: West LA (428) and North Central (548) are way ahead of the other shelters having sold a total of 1160 in the field. It will take a series of reports to validate, but the clerks tell us we are getting more walk in traffic too that they attribute to the press releases and having officers in the field selling licenses.

Pink Donkey: Lt. Jesse Castillo was on it. No permits. No cruelty. Legs were not tied together.

Kennel Sponsorship Program $50,500

Questions about TNR Injunction and Pet Limits: We are waiting for the results of the survey to come back for TNR to see what we need to do. Pet Limits is still with the Planning Dept and the two may be related in some ways.

Update on SLA Shelter: reason for Annex has been forwarded to City Attorney Pete Echeverria and the other internal changes have been approved.

Assigned Kathy Davis to work with Bureau of Street Services for signs for SLA. She will report back on permits, approvals, etc.

Chameleon does not alert us to someone surrendering too many animals. I don't know if Chameleon has that capability - but I'm sure if it did, the list of those that have too many would have every NH Partner and rescuer on it... We do "flag" persons in Chameleon, such as placing Do Not Adopts, which we do frequently whenever there is a cruelty/neglect issue, notification from a neighboring jurisdiction, etc. Then we then do not adopt any animals to them and ACOs have a heads up should they receive a further complaint at their address.

On strays, we ask for where they found the animal, if they know who owns it, etc. On OS, we ask them why they are surrendering it. The answer to that question will generally lead to others, such as if there a friend, neighbor, etc. that can take the animal, or is there some general information to help solve the problem - or can we give you a s/n ctf. if they can't afford it and that's why they're turning it in. If there is a concern about cruelty or neglect, the ACT will call out an officer to come have a conversation with the person to determine if they need to open a case. In both these cases, the person turning in the animal has to provide picture ID, which we then log into the computer so we know exactly from whom we got the animal.
If someone turns in an adult and immediately wants to adopt a puppy, the ACT Supervisor should be having a conversation with them to determine exactly why and whether they want to further assist them with the adoption. We do have the ability to say no if we think it is not in the best interest of the pet. In general, this doesn't happen because we don't have many puppies and they get adopted as soon as they're available.

If someone turns in a dog and they say they have more at home (beyond the 3 limit) the ACT should refer it to an officer. The ACT can also counsel the person on the law and offer s/n vouchers to help the person get into compliance. Generally, an officer would take lead on this matter and they would determine whether a home check was appropriate, issue a notice, etc. depending on the circumstances and what information was provided to the officer. Currently, the officers see this in the Vaccination Clinic lines and issue notices accordingly for s/n and licensing (because they're bringing in too many animals to get vaccinated).

Best Friends Adoption Event: May 21-22

5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Commissioner Riordan: 53.30 and 53.50. How often are animals brought into the shelter under these sections. Provide the policy on animal surrender to shelter.

Commissioner Secunda: How to outlaw sale of bunnies in pet stores and on street. A report on how much the City spends on the purchase of police service dogs and what effort is made to find these dogs in our shelters. Discuss the RFQ for purchase of shelter medical supplies, food and microchips, with a view to re-open the contracts.

7. MEETING ADJOURNED

Next Commission meeting is scheduled for 10:00 A.M., May 24, 2011, Los Angeles City Hall, Room 1060, 200 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, California 90012.

Commissioner Ramsayer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Khero seconded the motion and the motion passed 4-0

The meeting ended at 2:47 P.M.