Sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices, or other auxiliary aids and/or services may be provided upon request. To ensure availability, you are advised to make your request at least 72 hours prior to the meeting you wish to attend. For information please call (213) 482-9558.

Si requiere servicios de traducción, favor de hacer pedido con 24 horas de anticipío al (213) 482-9558.

I. ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS

1. Barking Dog Revocation Case: BR 153069 WL
   Respondent: Tamara Parsons Tweedie Pitman
   Complaining Witness: Lauren and Barry Smith
   West Los Angeles Animal Care and Control: Captain Wendell Bowers

2. Dangerous Animal Case: DA 152110 EV
   Respondent: Anabel Garcia and Roxanna Flores
   Complaining Witness: Gloria Quijas and Maria Barba
   East Valley Animal Care and Control: Captain Karen Knipscheer-Cox

II. REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING
1. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD - (Comments from the public on items of public interest within the Board’s subject matter jurisdiction that are not on the Agenda; two minutes per speaker).

   Public Comments: The Brown Act prohibits the Board and staff from responding to the speakers’ comments. Some of the matters raised in public comment may appear on a future agenda.

2. COMMISSION BUSINESS

   A. Board Recognition of LAASEE Award Volunteer Recipients (Action Item; Public comment limited to one minute per speaker):
      1. Luis Favela, North Central

   B. Approval of the Minutes for the Meeting of February 23, 2016 (Action item; public comment limited to one minute per speaker)

   C. Approval of Minutes for the Meeting of March 1, 2016 (Action item; public comment limited to one minute per speaker)

3. ORAL REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER (Public comment limited to one minute per speaker).

4. COMMISSIONERS’ ORAL REPORTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (Public comment limited to one minute per speaker)

5. DISCUSSION ITEMS

   A. Discussion Regarding Proposal by WAG to Offer Free Walks and Gift Bags to People Adopting from Los Angeles Animal Services  (Public comment limited to one minute per speaker)

6. BOARD REPORTS

   A. Staff Report re Review of, and Proposed Changes to, Permitting Rules for Use and Display of Exotic Animals (Public comment limited to one minute per speaker)

   B. Staff Report on Proposal to Modify Requirements to Increase Accessibility of Spay/Neuter Vouchers to Low-Income Residents (Action item; public comment limited to two minutes per speaker)

   C. Staff Report and Recommendation to Enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with Inner City Law Center and Downtown Dogs to Provide Pet-Related Services to Homeless Persons  (Action item; public comment limited to two minutes per speaker)

   D. Staff Report and Recommendation re California Assembly Bill 1825 (Gordon-Maienschein) Concerning Canine Victims of Animal Fighting Crimes  (Action item; public comment limited to two minutes per speaker)

Please join us at our website: www.LAAnimalservices.com
7. ADJOURNMENT

Next Regular Meeting is scheduled for 10:00 a.m., March 22, 2016, at City Hall, 10th Floor, Room 1060, 200 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, California 90012. (Entrance on Main Street)

AGENDAS - The Board of Animal Services Commissioners (Board) meets regularly every second (2nd) and fourth (4th) Tuesday of each month at 10:00 A.M. Regular Meetings are held at City Hall, 200 North Spring Street, Room 1060, in Los Angeles, CA 90012. Evening Meetings are held in various locations throughout the City, from 7:00 to approximately 9:30 P.M. The agendas for Board meetings contain a brief general description of those items to be considered at the meetings. Board Agendas are available at the Department of Animal Services (Department), Administrative Division, 350 South Grand Avenue, 45th Floor, Suite 4501, Los Angeles, CA 90071. Board Agendas may also be viewed on the 2nd floor Public Bulletin Board in City Hall East, 200 North Main Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012. Internet users may also access copies of present and prior agenda items, copies of the Board Calendar, MP-3 audio files of meetings as well as electronic copies of approved minutes on the Department’s World Wide Web Home Page site at http://www.laanimalservices.com/CommissionAgendas.htm

Three (3) members of the Board constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. Some items on the Agenda may be approved without any discussion.

The Board Secretary will announce the items to be considered by the Board. The Board will hear the presentation on the topic and gather additional information from Department Staff. Once presentations have finished, the Board President will ask if any Board Member or member of the public wishes to speak on one or more of these items. Each speaker called before the Commission will have one (1) minute to express their comments and concerns on matters placed on the agenda. (For certain agenda items, speakers will have two (2) minutes.)

PUBLIC INPUT AT BOARD MEETINGS – Public Participation on Agenda Items. Members of the public will have an opportunity to address the Board on agenda items after the item is called and before the Board takes action on the item, unless the opportunity for public participation on the item was previously provided to all interested members of the public at a public meeting of a Committee of the Board and the item has not substantially changed since the Committee heard the item. When speaking to an agenda item other than during Public Comment (see Public Comment below), the speaker shall limit his or her comments to the specific item under consideration (California Government Code, Section 54954.3).

Public Comment. The Board will provide an opportunity for public comment at every regular meeting of the Board. Members of the public may address the Board on any items within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board as part of Public Comment.

Speaker Cards. Members of the public wishing to speak are to fill out one speaker card for each agenda item on which they wish to speak and present it to the Board secretary before the item is called.

Time Limit for Speakers. Speakers addressing the Board will be limited to one (1) minute of speaking time for each agenda item except during general public comment period which is limited to two (2) minutes per speaker. (For certain agenda items, speakers will have two (2) minutes each.). The Chairperson, with the approval of a majority of the Board, may for good cause extend any speaker’s time by increments of up to one (1) minute.

Brown Act. These rules shall be interpreted in a manner that is consistent with the Ralph M. Brown Act, California Government Code Section § 54950 et seq.

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STANDARDS OF CONDUCT. Speakers are expected to behave in an orderly manner and to refrain from personal attacks or use of profanity or language that may incite violence.

All persons present at Board meetings are expected to behave in an orderly manner and to refrain from disrupting the meeting, interfering with the rights of others to address the Board and/or interfering with the conduct of business by the Board.

In the event that any speaker does not comply with the foregoing requirements, or if a speaker does not address the specific item under consideration, the speaker may be ruled out of order, their speaking time forfeited and the Chairperson may call upon the next speaker.

The Board, by majority vote, may order the removal from the meeting of any speaker or audience member continuing to behave in a disruptive manner after being warned by the Chairperson regarding their behavior. Section 403 of the California Penal Code states as follows: “Every person who, without authority of law, willfully disturbs or breaks up any assembly or meeting that is not unlawful in its character, other than an assembly or meeting referred to in Section 302 of the Penal Code or Section 18340 of the Elections Code, is guilty of a misdemeanor.”

VOTING AND DISPOSITION OF ITEMS – Most items require a majority vote of the entire membership of the Board (3 members). When debate on an item is completed, the Board President will instruct the Secretary to "call the roll". Every member present must vote for or against each item; abstentions are not permitted unless there is a Conflict of Interest for which the Board member is obliged to abstain from voting. The Secretary will announce the votes on each item. Any member of the Board may move to "reconsider" any vote on any item on the agenda, except to adjourn, suspend the Rules, or where an intervening event has deprived the Board of jurisdiction, providing that said member originally voted on the prevailing side of the item. The motion to "reconsider" shall only be in order once during the meeting, and once during the next regular meeting. The member requesting reconsideration shall identify for all members present the Agenda number and subject matter previously voted upon. A motion to reconsider is not debatable and shall require an affirmative vote of three members of the Board.

When the Board has failed by sufficient votes to approve or reject an item, and has not lost jurisdiction over the matter, or has not caused it to be continued beyond the next regular meeting, the issue is again placed on the next agenda for the following meeting for the purpose of allowing the Board to again vote on the matter.
NOTIFICATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL HEARINGS
To Be Held:
Tuesday, March 8, 2016, at 10:00 A.M.
City Hall
200 North Spring Street, 10th Floor, Room 1060
Los Angeles, CA 90012
(Entrance on Main Street)

This serves as formal notice pursuant to Section § 53.18(q) 4 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) to the following parties and witnesses in the appeal(s) listed below:

1. **Barking Dog Revocation Case: BR 153069 WL**
   Respondent: Tamara Parsons Tweedie Pitman
   West Los Angeles Animal Care and Control: Captain Wendell Bowers
   Complaining Witness: Lauren and Barry Smith

2. **Dangerous Animal Case: DA 152110 EV**
   Respondent: Anabel Garcia and Roxanna Flores
   East Valley Animal Care and Control: Captain Karen Knipscheer-Cox
   Complaining Witness: Gloria Quijas and Maria Barba

These hearings will not be rescheduled, except for good cause.

As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and, upon request, will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services and activities. Sign Language interpreters, assistive listening devices, or other auxiliary aids and/or services may be provided upon request. To ensure availability, you are advised to make your request at least 72 hours prior to the meeting you wish to attend.

For additional information, please refer to the Board’s “Rules and Procedures for Appeals”, or contact the Department of Animal Services at (213) 482-9558, or visit the Department’s website: [http://www.laanimalservices.com/](http://www.laanimalservices.com/). Written statements can be submitted to the Commission seven days prior and, if in excess of 50 pages, seven hard copies must be provided. You may submit your statement (50 pages or less) via email to: ani.commission@lacity.org.

Para información en español, llame al (213) 482-9558.
Meeting called to order at 7:02 p.m. Commissioners present were Zaft, Gross and Yañez. Commissioner Wolfson arrived at the beginning of item 2.A. Also present from Los Angeles Animal Services (LAAS) Board Secretary Rita Moreno, Assistant General Manager (AGM) Dana Brown and General Manager (GM) Brenda Barnette; and Assistant City Attorney (ACA) Dov Lesel.

Commissioner Zaft opened the meeting and provided an overview of the meeting agenda, and recognized Jonathan Coto from Councilmember Englander’s Office.

I. REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING

1. PUBLIC COMMENT

   Ady Gil: Thanked Commissioners for support; provided an update on his application for a kennel and indicated community support. Andrew Brown: Requested more spay neuter clinics for adopted animals; contracted clinics should not be able to dictate the size and sex of animals they will take; indicated it takes 5-6 days to get animal fixed; rabbit adopters are turned away because no clinic will take them; rabbits not available for foster program; behavioral notes should not be on front of cards; indicated volunteer shirts are no longer free. Cathy Serksnas: Discussed foster program and blue list for cats; asked for status of kitten nursery pilot program; blue list is for animals with medical conditions too severe for shelter vets, but some cats’ condition is not too severe. Gail Raft: Discussed surrender fees for those who can’t afford the fees or are homeless.

2. COMMISSION BUSINESS

   A. Board Recognition of LAASEE Award Volunteer Recipients (Action Item; Public comment limited to one minute per speaker):

      a. Beverly Grab Mitchell, North Central
      b. Sherry Brewer, East Valley
      c. Heidi Okuhara, West Valley
      d. Luis Favela, North Central (tabled until March 8, 2016)

   Commissioner Wolfson and Commissioner Zaft gave a summary of the purpose of the LAASEE Award. Commissioner Wolfson shared his personal experience with Beverly Grab Mitchell, his nominee, and presented her with the award. Beverly Mitchell thanked the Commission and shared her thoughts. Commissioner Gross shared his personal experience with and volunteer history of his nominee, Sherry Brewer, and presented her with the award. Sherry Brewer
thanked the Commission and recognized other East Valley volunteers. **Commissioner Zaft** discussed the contributions of his nominee, Heidi Okuhara, and presented her with the award. **Heidi Okuhara** thanked the Commission and shared her thoughts.

Public Comment
None

**Commissioner Wolfson** moved to approve LAASEE Award recipients Beverly Grab Mitchell, Sherry Brewer and Heidi Okuhara; **Commissioner Yañez** seconded and the motion passed 4 – 0.

B. Approval of Minutes for January 26, 2016.

Public Comments
None

**Commissioner Gross** moved to approve the minutes for January 26, 2015 and **Commissioner Yañez** seconded. The motion passed 4 - 0.

3. ORAL REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

**GM Barnette** discussed the following:

- February 18 budget meeting with CAO and Mayor to discuss priorities: $500,000 for EIR projected to cost $800,000 ($300,000 in current budget) to fight injunction; need for promotional ladder for several positions; preliminary blue book online; needs to go to City Council.
- February 16 DFO Salazar met with Fleet Services and California Truck Company to review proposed modifications to two animal collection vehicles purchased last year to correct trucks and get delivery date; visited other departments to see their vehicles to work with Fleet Services on our needs.
- DFO Salazar reviewing concerns of ammunition used to euthanize injured wildlife in the field; hollow point ammunition removed and only round tip ammunition is being used.
- Lt. Transow trained vice detectives at Police Academy on animal cruelty and its direct link with human violence.
- February 2-4 six part-time Canvassers wrote 50 ACE citations for spay neuter requirements.
- February 8-10 Bound Angels University held first class at West L.A.; hands-on animal training of dogs with behavioral issues attended by animal shelter staff (L.A., Long Beach, Ventura, Arizona and Oregon).
- Personnel Department announced delay in hiring of Animal Control Officers; 18 candidates in background processing available for hiring in early March; conditional job offers being made this week; 8 vacancies plus 12 new positions and 12 in inappropriately, which are the ones being filled.
- Staff testifying in court on case involving owner surrender dog in bad shape.
- January 25 Officer Sheldon assisted with cat trapped under hood of car.
- February 5 Officer Collins responded to Echo Park for injured duck with Hook and fishing line attached to beak; inflatable boat used by rescue team.

Please join us at our website:  [www.LAAnimalservices.com](http://www.LAAnimalservices.com)
• Early February Officer Navarro rescued entangled large Canadian goose and transported to International Bird Rescue.
• Early February Officer Gonzalez responded to call for injured duck and transported to Balona Creek and released.
• February 13 Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian hosted pet awareness event at East Valley, Found Animals and Amanda Foundation hosted vaccinations for dogs, microchipping, licensing, spay and neuter services, and talked about shelter intervention program.
• February 3-7 Somebody to Love discount event: 299 adoptions - 45 cats, 193 dogs and 19 other types of pets; rescues adopted 42 pets.
• Shelter Vets doing specialty work with injured animals
• February 13-14 My Furry Valentine event: 39 cats, 119 dogs and seven other animals found homes.
• February 10 ACO McCarthy submitted humane case to City Attorney involving a neglected Chihuahua from 49th Street; Dr. Ewing provided medical treatment.
• February 15 LAPD arrest for animal cruelty at Harold Way, Officer Perez transported dead dog to shelter for necropsy.
• Meeting with Inner City Law Center’s Lori Weiss regarding services for homeless or low-income people’s animals.
• Celebrated World Spay Day this morning at City Council; three spay neuter vans parked in front of City Hall on Main Street for people to tour; Gail Anderson from KTLA broadcasted from Lucy Pet Foundation van, Danny Trejo and Spay4LA participated, reception in Councilmember Koretz’s office.

Public Comment

Andrew Brown: Stated that Vets are doing sterilizations when other surgeries are needed; suggested that vets conduct all surgeries needed by an animal at same time, or wait.

4. COMMISSIONERS’ ORAL REPORTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Commissioner Gross: Assisted with Department info table at February 4 Mass Transit Forum held by Assemblymember Nazarian and Councilmember Krekorian at Valley College; thanked Public Relations Specialist Sara Ebrahim for the materials and Officer Susan Botta for relieving him; attended February 13 event with Assemblymember Nazarian at East Valley for free spay neuter, Lt. Botta and others processed 128 licenses; noted need for more staff at events – Teri Austin provided canopies to shield public from sun; significant number of hearings where either party does not show up – hearings may be inaccessible to public due to transit and costs – requested discussion at future meeting; AB2780 introduced by Assemblymember Matthis on behalf of California Realtor Association will undermine protections for people with support animals.

Commissioner Yañez: Celebrated World Spay Day; received $75,000 grant from Doris Day Foundation to provide spay neuter in four cities; received 2 million dollar donation for Pets4Life Los Angeles; received $7,500 grant from Ahmanson Foundation for new washer and dryer to wash TNR towels and to buy module storage units; next outreach event will held in April in coordination with new Commissioner in unincorporated East L.A. – will provide free spay neuter, free pet food and free vaccines; future agenda item to discuss policy on what Canvassers will offer when
Commissioner Zaft: Has been participating in planning meetings for strategic planning process for department – 15 meetings to be held in each Council District for public input on priorities; requested report and recommendation from staff on how to increase licensing numbers – aware of Chameleon’s new licensing module.

Commissioner Wolfson: Agreed with Commissioner Zaft and stated that he has requested an item to discuss strategies to increase licensing; would like two hearings per shelter per year held in the evening because people have day jobs; would like discussion on cat protocol – when beds are full in shelters; discussion on charge for adoptions and second animal adoption; discussion on policy for accepting major donations from corporations and individuals; request for RFP for kiosks in shelters for pet stores.

Public Comment
Andrew Brown: Stated that policy for licensing fee for unaltered dogs not being followed – spay neuter hearings are being held instead – dog waiting for five months at shelter for hearing; adoption prices for pocket pets are higher than at pet stores. Gail Raft: Suggested meetings be held in the community so that people who work can attend; don’t tell people they can’t surrender their animals because they get dumped.

5. Board Reports

A. Staff Report Requesting Authority to Enter into a Memorandum of Understanding Between the City of Los Angeles and Western University of Health Sciences for a Veterinary Shelter Medicine Program

GM Barnette provided an overview of the staff report and introduced Zarah Hedge who will be responsible for setting up the program.

Commissioner Zaft asked about the timing of construction at North Central. GM Barnette responded that it has to go out to bid again since the first RFP resulted in bids over budget. Commissioner Gross asked how that impacts this MOU. GM Barnette responded that if we go out to bid before MOU, it limits the University’s ability to provide input on the project. Commissioner Zaft confirmed that the University would not begin the program until construction is completed. GM Barnette responded affirmatively. Commissioner Gross asked about interaction with Chief Vet Jeremy Prupas. GM Barnette responded that both Jeremy and Dr. Steven Feldman have been working with Western students.

Public Comment
Vince Wong: Expressed support of MOU by Found Animals.

GM Barnette added that students at Western University have been graduating with top scores in the State.

Commissioner Yañez moved to approve the request for authority to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Los Angeles and Western University of Health Sciences for a Veterinary Shelter Medicine Program. Commissioner Wolfson seconded and the motion passed 4 - 0.
B. Staff Report Requesting Authority to Enter into a Sole Source Contract with Francisca Baxa for Strategic Planning Services

AGM Brown provided an overview of the staff report.

Commissioner Zaft clarified that initial meetings were being conducted with staff. GM Barnette added that people will be able to give input at meetings, provide written input and complete surveys. Commissioner Zaft asked how the meetings were going to be publicized. GM Barnette stated that Sara is working with Council Offices to publicize them in throughout the districts, the schedule will be posted on the website, and a press release will go out. Commissioner Wolfson asked if the selection had gone through a competitive process. GM Barnette responded that the sole source contracted does not require it and that Ms Baxa was selected due to her work with the Department and Commission retreat. Commissioner Wolfson stated that Ms Baxa does not have background in animal services; suggested using Deloitte or Anderson that may provide service for free, or other partners who have experience and can bring best practices to process. GM Barnette responded that it is intended to allow the community to take ownership of their shelters. Commissioner Gross added that big companies don’t have experience with the community and Ms Baxa has a track record in that; Commissioners and department have role to provide animal services background. Commissioner Wolfson suggested that what is being proposed is not a strategic plan, but an outreach plan. GM Barnette clarified that all responses will go to Ms Baxa and she will come back to department with results to be used to craft strategic plan. Commissioner Wolfson asked who will write the strategic plan. Commissioner Zaft clarified that it provides information that we may not be focused on. GM Barnette added that the department will put it into a strategic plan to present to the Commissioners for approval. Commissioner Wolfson stated that Ms Baxa is not providing strategic planning services, rather collecting information from the community; suggested calling it a community outreach plan. Commissioner Gross responded that it is part of the process for a strategic plan.

Public Comment
None

Commissioner Gross moved to approve the request for authority to enter into a sole source contract with Fracisca Baxa for strategic planning services. Commissioner Yañez seconded and the motion passed 4 - 0.

C. Staff Report re Proposal for Pilot to Keep One Shelter Open One Evening Per Week

AGM Brown discussed her meeting with the Joint Labor Management Committee regarding this issue. Representatives for RVTs, ACTs, Clerks and ACOs were in attendance. Those present were not generally in support; they discussed prior efforts that were not successful – the public did not benefit, but rescue groups did; they noted that there is already 24/7 coverage in case of emergencies. The strongest opposition was related to staffing as there is not enough staff; most vocal were RVTs and Clerical; ACOs brought up safety concerns with limited lighting after dark – recommended pilot program during summer months. Recruitment and
retention is already a problem with the Clerical staff who prefer a more traditional Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. assignment. When asked what would entice participation, they responded paid overtime, increased salaries.

Commissioner Zaft indicated that the pilot would involve shifting the hours not adding additional hours. AGM Brown responded that they were not interested in a proposal that did not involve overtime. GM Barnette added that it involves a change in working conditions which requires the Department to meet and confer with the Union. AGM Brown stated that the pilot will cost the Department. Commissioner Wolfson stated that the majority of country is moving toward an evening schedule to allow people to find pets after work and volunteers to come during evening hours; having one shelter open one evening per week offers some benefits; suggested picking a shelter with adequate lighting and GM Barnette added the most adequate location would also need to be picked; discussed need to publicize project and noted that it may not have been publicized in the past; need volunteers willing to help. GM Barnette stated that as a pilot only one shelter should be used. Commissioner Gross suggested selecting a shelter where the community has most need to after hour access; asked if there is money to provide overtime and, if so, is that the opening to get buy-in from Unions. AGM Brown responded that it depends on how much overtime is needed; unions will want to discuss the location since best location may not match the staff who wants to participate. GM Barnette added that the volume at the shelter makes a difference – need space to take in animals and adopt animals. Commissioner Gross stated that we need a cooperative effort with the Unions. GM Barnette added she would like to get Commander Dedeaux’s input. Commissioner Wolfson stated he appreciated the effort and suggested coming back in a month with potential choice. GM Barnette stated that we can figure out the overtime if we look at a couple of shelters. AGM Brown added that there are other creative options such as a 3/12 or 4/10 schedule. Commissioner Wolfson stated that people tend to adopt more at shelter closing time. Commissioner Yañez asked whether a schedule shift can only be done in 2019 negotiations. AGM Brown responded that only the issue of additional pay would need to be discussed during contract negotiations. Commissioner Yañez clarified that a formal shift can be done now and AGM Brown responded affirmatively. GM Barnette added that we need to figure out where the money for overtime comes from because the shelter will still need to open during regular business hours. Commissioner Yañez asked can the hours be shifted but limit what can happen after hours. AGM Brown responded that it needs to benefit them not just make it more inconvenient. GM Barnette added that we work seven days a week and that is why there is high attrition.

Public Comment
Renee Shamlou: Tarzana Neighborhood Council; she and President support the proposal and indicated that people come in to the shelter 15 minutes before closing, but not enough time to find right fit. Andrew Brown: Stated that lighting at all shelters is inadequate to be safe; suggested lighting be improved. Gail Raft: Stated that it’s an excellent idea; volunteers are the ones who show the animals and do the adoptions. Cathy Serksnas: Stated that when she started seven years ago West Valley was open twice per week until 7:00 p.m.; doesn’t recall any issues or safety concerns; ACTs and Clerks were on a different schedule – no overtime; stated that public servants are here to serve public – asked what will department do if public asks for shelters to be open twice a week until 7:00 p.m.; expressed
support for AGM Brown’s idea of 4/10 schedule. **Sherry Brewer:** Stated she was volunteering when shelter was open two nights a week until 7:00 p.m.; no issues and people came in to see animals; asked where funds from animal auctioning goes – can it be put toward...; stated donations of leashes, collars and beds are received through Amazon wish list – could take place of kiosk.

**Commissioner Zaft** asked for next steps. **GM Barnette** indicated she would discuss issue with senior staff. **Commissioner Zaft** asked if a report with recommendations would come back to Commissioners. **AGM Brown** responded affirmatively.

D. Woofstat Report Through January 2016

**GM Barnette** congratulated staff, volunteers and community – overall year-to-date live save rate is 78.2%; goal for year was 75%; cats are up to 66.6% or 16% above last year – credit grant from ASPCA that underwrote adoption fees for cats over four months of age; for the month of January, cats were at 93.4%; dogs at 85.8%; for a total of 87.57% for the month; overall licensing is up 24% from $64,024 to $79,484 – attributable to ACE citation program and admin staff being able to catch up; Vets are getting back to goals for spay and neuter; overall euthanasia totals are down 24%; volunteers are up 25% from January 2015 – hours are down, but not sure how they were being calculated - open orientations are occurring; working on stats for ACE citations – 700 done in January, but no comparison information yet since program had not yet started; wildlife calls dropped slightly this month; working with vendors on numbers; biggest shelter struggles in South because higher intake, but animals being transferred to other shelters.

**Commissioner Zaft** noted that euthanasia numbers may be down because impounds are down – dogs are down 12%, cats 4%; adoptions are holding steady, but Best Friends and New Hope Partner placements are down – overall live release is holding steady; asked about thoughts on decreased intake trend. **GM Barnette** responded that dealing more aggressively with dangerous dogs on street; hopefully spay neuter being done by all clinics and mobile vans is having impact. **Commissioner Zaft** noted strays are down 3,000 for the year. **GM Barnette** added that animals are place on blue and red list to make them free for rescue partners – doesn’t mean that if they stay in the shelter they will not be treated – if a rescue partner wants to take them, we let them go with no adoption fee so that we have fewer animals in shelter and they take animals that are true rescues. **Commissioner Yañez** asked the difference between the ACE citation and citations issued. **GM Barnette** responded that it was a different kind of form – not ACE citation program – they went to County Courthouse, not the City Attorney. **Commissioner Wolfson** noted the increase in fosters. **GM Barnette** responded that staff is working harder to encourage people to foster. **Commissioner Wolfson** noted that allowing fosters on same day as they're available for adoption, and the work of Commissioner Yañez with spay neuter program have lead to decrease in impounds. **Commissioner Yañez** added that it takes a few years to see the impact of the work. **Commissioner Zaft** asked about plans to expand foster program for kitten season. **GM Barnette** responded that leaning on Best Friends who will sponsor rescues to do kitten nurseries; department will find space at a shelter if necessary; they are taking in any neonatal kitten, sick or well, through the month of March. **Commissioner Gross** noted that hearings are up. **GM Barnette**
responded that we are doing 10 per week; when they were held in the field they were doing two per week; held over the phone if people cannot attend. AGM Brown added that Council Offices helping to accommodate people – they swear them in and we take testimony by phone. Commissioner Gross noted that spay neuter is down by LAAS Vets, the vouchers and clinics at shelters. Commissioner Zaft responded that redemption of $30 vouchers is up. Commissioner Yañez stated that the voucher numbers for the last report were through the roof. GM Barnette stated that a proposal to let people self-identify as low-income will be brought to Commission at next meeting – discussed during budget meeting since funds not being spent and can be lost; includes value increase of voucher, which is in process – going to PAW Committee at next meeting, then goes to City Council. Commissioner Yañez asked if that means accepting other forms of identification such as the Consular matriculas. GM Barnette responded that it means a person simply has to say they are low-income.

Public Comment
Beverly Mitchell: Stated that the numbers are down at North Central because of the intervention program – run by volunteers; stated that dogs are not available for adoption/foster on same day at North Central – up to Supervisor to decide (GM Barnette will follow-up with Commander Dedeaux). Andrew Brown: Stated that animals are allowed to be fostered right away if not likely to be adopted or shelter is full – agrees with practice; recommended keeping fosters for adoption on website and bulletins. Sherry Brewer: Discussed Best Friends’ “No More Homeless Pets” conference – when not enough fosters, idea to keep motorhome at shelter for kittens and volunteers would help in shifts – windows would be opened and people would pay 25 cents to see kittens. Gail Raft: Recommended consideration of fee for people who can’t afford to surrender animals.

Commissioner Zaft responded that Commission has discussed proposal to allow for waiving of fees; this issue can be separate item. GM Barnette responded that all fees are being reviewed to go to Council. Commissioner Gross added that if someone brings in pet and says they found the pet, there are no fees.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Wolfson made a motion to adjourn and Commissioner Yañez seconded. Motion passed 4 - 0.

Meeting ended at 9:14 p.m.
Special Meeting called to order at 10:04 a.m. Commissioners present were Zaft, Gross and Yañez. Commissioner Wolfson was absent. Also present Board Secretary Rita Moreno, Los Angeles Animal Services (LAAS); General Manager (GM) Brenda Barnette; and Assistant City Attorney (ACA) Dov Lesel.

Commissioner Zaft opened the meeting and provided an overview of the meeting agenda. Commissioner Gross discussed the appeal hearing process and conducted the hearings.

I. ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS

1. Dangerous Animal Case: DA 152092 NC
   Respondent: Marga Vergara and Luis Damian Robles
   Complaining Witness: Alheli Barrios and Jose Orozco
   North Central Animal Care and Control: Lieutenant John Cessna

   (Testimony was taken from the Respondent's and Complaining Witnesses on January 12, 2016, at which time the decision was continued in order to listen to the audio recording of the Administrative Hearing and get a translation of the Spanish language testimony.)

   Commissioner Zaft found that there was no evidence supporting the grounds of the revocation; moved to modify the General Manager's decision and reissued the licenses for “Remi” (L17-346418) and “Shelly” (L17-346419), subject to the terms, conditions and restrictions as delineated by ACA Lesel. Commissioner Yañez seconded and the motion passed 3-0.

2. Dangerous Animal Case: DA 153021 WL (taken out of order after item I.3)
   Respondent: Paul Morales
   Complaining Witness: George and Nakaya Horton
   West Los Angeles Animal Care and Control: Captain Wendell Bowers

   The Respondent, Paul Morales, was not in attendance. Complaining Witness Nakaya Horton was present and stated that her husband was out of town and could not attend, but was told that he did not have to attend the Administrative Hearing. The Commissioners discussed the merits of the appeal and the evidence provided to the Hearing Examiner.

   Commissioner Zaft found that there was no evidence to support the General Manager’s determination because the Witness was told that he did not have to attend;
made a motion to remand the case back to the Department for a new hearing, and to notify both the Respondent and Complaining Witnesses of the new hearing date. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Yañez and was approved by a vote of 3 - 0.

3. Dangerous Animal Case: DA 155022 WV *(taken out of order after item I.1.)*  
   Respondent: Sal and Naranjika DeSilva  
   Complaining Witness: Joyce Herbst and Dhia Alhashim  
   West Valley Animal Care and Control: Captain Karen Knipscheer-Cox

Testimony was taken from the Respondent’s Attorney, Marla Tauscher, who stated that there was no direct evidence or witness testimony to support the determination. None of the Complaining Witnesses were in attendance. The Commissioners discussed the merits of the appeal and the evidence provided to the Hearing Examiner.

Commissioner Zaft noted that there have been several cases in which the Hearing Examiner findings and General Manager’s determinations have made decisions where there is no direct evidence provided or eye witness testimony. Commissioner Gross asked procedural and evidentiary questions. ACA Lesel responded that there are exceptions to the hearsay rule that can be used to establish a case; noted that the Hearing Examiner did not find the animals dangerous; stated that training is needed for Hearing Examiners to determine findings. Commissioner Zaft added that the department needs to ensure that witnesses can attend hearings. ACA Lesel stated that compelling testimony can be provided by an ACO who was at the scene, saw the bite, or interviewed the victim or other witnesses, and dog owner.

Commissioner Zaft found that there was a lack of evidence to support the General Manager’s determination; and made a motion to reverse the General Manager’s decision and reissue the dog licenses for dogs “Lily” (L17-382387) and “Leila” (L17-237970) without restrictions. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Yañez and was approved by a vote of 3 - 0.

4. Dangerous Animal Case: DA 152104 EV  
   Respondent: Edward Grover Sherlock White  
   Complaining Witness: Felipe Morales, Elisa Morales and Ivan Gomez  
   East Valley Animal Care and Control: Captain Karen Knipscheer-Cox

The Attorney, Marla Tauscher, appeared on behalf of the Respondent, who did not attend. None of the Complaining Witnesses were present. Ms Tauscher stated that the Respondent was not notified of the Administrative Hearing and granted a second hearing; that the Respondent was not able to cross examine the Witness because he did not attend; and that testimony given by the Witness was in Spanish and a translated transcript was not provided to the Respondent. The Commissioners discussed the merits of the appeal and the evidence provided to the Hearing Examiner, and the grounds supporting the General Manager’s determination.

Board Secretary Moreno informed the Commission that in cases remanded for a second hearing due to notification issues, only the party who was not notified was required to attend. Commissioner Zaft noted that a hearing notice was sent to the Complaining Witness. Commissioner Gross asked procedural and evidentiary questions. ACA Lesel responded that cross examination is not a major issue when the
Witness does not show up; prior testimony can be considered. Commissioner Zaft noted that testimony in Spanish was not transcribed in English and provided to the Respondent. GM Barnette stated that there are concerns about public safety with this dog and has offered to provide the Respondent with a different dog. Commissioner Gross noted the Respondent’s testimony of the dog being a “patrol dog” to stop crime and that it is very protective.

Commissioner Zaft found that there is sufficient evidence in the record to support the Hearing Examiner’s findings; expressed concern with the hearing procedures and stated that when a hearing is conducted in Spanish, a certified third-party transcript must be provided; moved to uphold the General Manager’s decision to revoke the dog license for “Cooper” (L16-492371) and declare “Cooper” a Dangerous Animal; and prohibit the Respondent from owning, possessing, controlling, or being in charge of any dog for a period of three (3) years. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Yañez and was approved by a vote of 3 - 0.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Zaft made a motion to adjourn and Commissioner Gross seconded. Motion passed 3 - 0.

Meeting ended at 11:25 a.m.
January 4, 2015

221 N. Figueroa Street
6th Floor, Suite 600
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Commissioners,

Please see the attached outline for a donation that Los Angeles-based dog walking company, Wag!, would like to offer to LA Animal Services.

About Wag!:

Launched the beginning of 2015, Wag!’s success in serving dog owners has allowed them to expend rapidly throughout the country and is currently serving the following markets: Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle, Chicago and New York City. Wag! has received extensive media coverage from some of the top news outlets including The New York Times, Entrepreneur, Tech Crunch, ACB and Ryan Seacrest on KISS FM.

Wag’s mission is to make pet ownership easier by providing dogs the care they deserve while giving pet parents the flexibility they desire. Wag! is a community of neighborhood certified dog lovers. All Wag! walkers are rigorously screened/vetted, Wag! certified, insured and bonded. Wag! offers both on-demand or recurring walk services. All walks are tracked live on the in-app GPS map. Post walk, pet parents are provided with a report card featuring a photo or video from the walk, distance and duration of the walk.

We look forward to being able to offer this gift to LA Animal Services to help promote and encourage adoptions throughout the greater Los Angeles area.

Best Regards,

[Signature]

Lauren Daigle
Wag!
Partnership Programs
LA Animal Services Partnership Proposal

Purpose:

To help LA Animal Services increase the number of adoptions throughout the Los Angeles area.

Method:

Promote adoptions by offering five free walks through Wag’s walking services for every person who adopts a dog through an LA Animal Services Shelter.

Support to LA Animal Services:

• LA Animal Services will be provided a unique promo code that LAAS may distribute to pet parent at the time of adoption, to be redeemed on Wag’s mobile application.
• LAAS will be under no obligation to endorse Wag! Or to discuss the coupons with prospective pet adopters.
• The walk coupons for five free ½ hour walks are valued at $125, and will be a credit in that amount to the adopter’s Wag! account on the mobile app
• Wag! will provide Wag Swag Bags which include toys, treats, bandanas and the coupon for the five free walk redemptions as a gift to all new adopters. Wag! Would take responsibility for providing the gift bags to LAAS; all LAAS would have to do to help pet adopters obtain the free walks would be to provide new adopters with those bags. LAAS would be under no obligation or penalty if they were unable to provide bags to every adopter.
• Wag! will provide additional bags, documentation, and explanation to LAAS and to pet adopters as necessary
• Wag! Would provide support for LA Animal Services as needed at special events, like adoption events.

What’s in it for LA Animal Services?

• Wag!’s free walks offer an additional incentive for pet parents to consider adopting
• No financial investment on the part of LAAS

What does LA Animal Services Have to do?

• Simply accept our donation of free walk coupons and Wag Swag Bags
• Let Wag! know how else we can support LAAS in any other way to encourage adoptions in Los Angeles
Report to the Board of Animal Services Commissioners

MEETING DATE: March 8, 2016  PREPARED BY: Dana Brown
REPORT DATE: March 3, 2016  TITLE: Assistant General Manager

SUBJECT: LOW INCOME SELF IDENTIFICATION FOR FREE SPAY/NEUTER CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

BOARD ACTIONS RECOMMENDED:

- **APPROVE** a change in the low income verification procedure to determine eligibility for the Free Spay/Neuter Certificate Program that allows self-identification of low income status using a signed affidavit;

- **AUTHORIZE** the Department to work with the City Attorney’s Office to develop an appropriate affidavit that allows City of Los Angeles residents to declare their annual income to determine eligibility for the Free Spay/Neuter Certificate Program.

SUMMARY:

The Free Spay/Neuter Certificate Program assists qualified residents of the City of Los Angeles with sterilization of their companion animals. Qualified residents are entitled to receive up to six (three dog and three cat) certificates that each cover the full cost of a sterilization surgery at a participating veterinary hospital. This program is instrumental in assisting low income residents on complying with the mandatory spay/neuter ordinance in the City of Los Angeles.

Currently, the total annual income threshold set for low income determination is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1 PERSON</th>
<th>2 PERSONS</th>
<th>3 PERSONS</th>
<th>4 PERSONS</th>
<th>5 PERSONS</th>
<th>6 PERSONS</th>
<th>7 PERSONS</th>
<th>8 PERSONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$29,900</td>
<td>$34,200</td>
<td>$38,460</td>
<td>$42,700</td>
<td>$46,150</td>
<td>$49,550</td>
<td>$52,950</td>
<td>$56,400</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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According to the current practice, the following documentation is acceptable proof of income:

- California Resident Income Tax Return Form 540 or;
- W-2 Income Form or;
- DWP Lifeline Bill or;
- Social Security Benefits Statement or;
- Award letter of the amount of SSI benefits, General relief, or Cal Works/AFDC or;
- Southern California Gas CARE Program

The above-mentioned forms of documentation are often unavailable to those members of the community who are homeless, undocumented, or otherwise unaffiliated with federal, state, or local government entities and/or utility programs. Even so, these residents are often pet owners are in need of these vouchers to care for their companion animals and stay in compliance with pet laws.

From 2000 to 2009, Animal Services did not consistently require proof of eligibility for participation in the low income free certificate program. In 2009, the City Controller conducted a performance audit of the Department's Spay and Neuter Program and made a recommendation that the Department establish procedures for staff to consistently verify/validate income prior to distributing and approving free certificates. Since then, the Department has required consistent proof of income for participation in the Free Spay/Neuter Certificate Program as described above.

It is recommended that the Department allow residents to self-identify their low-income status by signing an affidavit declaring their annual income. In doing so the residents who are not able to furnish the current documentation requirements will have an opportunity to take part in the free certificate program and have their animals altered in compliance with the law.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no direct impact to the City's General Fund. The cost of the Free Spay/Neuter Certificate Program is covered by the Animal Sterilization Fund. It is anticipated that the proposed change in the low income verification procedure will result in an increased usage of the program by those residents who are unable to furnish the documentation currently required for participation.

Approved:

Brenda Barnett, General Manager

Attachment
BOARD ACTION:

_______  Passed  Disapproved  _______

_______  Passed with noted modifications  Continued  _______

_______  Tabled  New Date  _______
Report to the Board of Animal Services Commissioners

MEETING DATE: March 8, 2016
PREPARED BY: Brenda Barnette
REPORT DATE: March 4, 2016
TITLE: General Manager

SUBJECT: RECOMMENDATION TO ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH INNER CITY LAW CENTER AND DOWNTOWN DOGS TO PROVIDE PET-RELATED SERVICES TO HOMELESS PERSONS

BOARD ACTIONS RECOMMENDED:

APPROVE the formation of a partnership with Inner City Law Center (ICLC), Downtown Dogs Rescue (DDR) and Los Angeles Animal Services (LAAS) to provide pet-related services for people who live outdoors in the inner city subject to an MOU to be prepared by the City Attorney’s Office.

BACKGROUND:

Pursuant to the Mayor’s Initiative on homelessness, the Department of Animal Services is requesting permission to enter into an agreement with ICLC and DDR to provide services for homeless pet owners.

The three agencies met. ICLC will provide office space in their building for clients meetings and to store supplies. DDR will provide counseling and outreach services. LAAS will provide free spay/neuter services from the Spay/Neuter Trust Fund and will request additional funding through the Animal Welfare Trust Fund for additional supplies.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None.

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Report to the Board of Animal Services Commissioners
SUBJECT: Staff Report and Recommendation to Enter into a Memorandum of Understanding
with Inner City Law Center and Downtown Dogs to Provide Pet-Related Services to Homeless
Persons

Approved:

[Signature]
Brenda Barnette, General Manager

BOARD ACTION:

[ ] Passed [ ] Disapproved
[ ] Passed with noted modifications [ ] Continued
[ ] Tabled [ ] New Date

2
Report to the Board of Animal Services Commissioners

MEETING DATE: March 8, 2016
REPORT DATE: March 3, 2016
PREPARED BY: Brenda Barnette
TITLE: General Manager

SUBJECT: CALIFORNIA ASSEMBLY BILL 1825 (GORDON-MAIENSCHEN) CONCERNING CANINE VICTIMS OF ANIMAL FIGHTING CRIMES

BOARD ACTIONS RECOMMENDED:

APPROVE the Department of Animal Services requests to recommend that the City include endorsement of AB 1825 in its 2016 legislative platform.

BACKGROUND:

Under current state law, Section 31603 (a) of Division 14 of the Food and Agricultural Code mandates that the label of “vicious dog” be automatically applied to “[a]ny dog seized under Section 599aa of the Penal Code and upon the sustaining of a conviction of the owner or keeper under subdivision (a) of Section 597.5 of the Penal Code.” Given this requirement, local shelters have no latitude to evaluate whether or not these animals actually pose any risk to public safety. It doesn’t matter if the victim is an eight-week old puppy, a bait dog, a stolen pet, a breeding mother dog, or a dog who will thrive in a loving home. As a result of this mandated designation, many of these dogs end up facing a death sentence.

In fact, many dogs seized in connection with animal fighting do not pose any risk to other dogs or humans and have gone on to live healthy, happy lives. In the high-profile case of dogs seized from the property of NFL player Michael Vick, 48 of 49 seized dogs were evaluated positively – some going on to become therapy or service dogs. None of those dogs have been involved in incidents “where when unprovoked caused severe injury or death of a human” (the Penal Code’s behavior-based trigger for a ‘vicious dog’ designation).

California is one of only twelve remaining states that continue to define dogs in this fashion. Others have recently eliminated this requirement from their codes, recognizing it as outdated and responsible for the unnecessary deaths of many thousands of adoptable animals.

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Report to the Board of Animal Services Commissioners
SUBJECT: California Assembly Bill 1825 (Gordon-Maienschein) Concerning Canine Victims of Animal Fighting Crimes

Assembly Bill 1825 (AB 1825), jointly authored by Assembly members Rich Gordon (D-Menlo Park) and Brian Maienschein (R-San Diego) and coauthored by nearly two dozen other state legislators, proposes to delete the following outdated provision:

**SECTION 1.** Section 31603 of the Food and Agricultural Code is amended to read: 31603. "Vicious dog" means any of the following:
(a) Any dog seized under Section 599aa of the Penal Code and upon the sustaining of a conviction of the owner or keeper under subdivision (a) of Section 597.5 of the Penal Code.

This deletion will restore to local jurisdictions the power to make determinations about the outcomes of animals based on behavior, freeing them from a state mandated definition that limits each municipality’s ability to decide how best to handle animals seized in such operations.

AB 1825 has the support of the ASPCA, Best Friends Animal Society, the Humane Society of the United States and the San Francisco SPCA, as well as the cities of Stockton and Sacramento. The bill was also just endorsed by the California Animal Control Director’s Association, a key indication that animal control agencies feel that it is consistent with their mandate to protect public safety.

The Department of Animal Services requests that the City of Los Angeles include endorsement of AB 1825 in its 2016 legislative platform, in order to reduce the number of animals unnecessarily euthanized under an outdated state mandate, and to restore local control of such decision making.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

None.

Approved:

[Signature]

Brenda Barnette, General Manager

**BOARD ACTION:**

- Passed
- Passed with noted modifications
- Tabled