BOARD OF ANIMAL SERVICES COMMISSIONERS
CITY OF LOS ANGELES

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA
Tuesday, February 27, 2018
7:00 P.M.

WEST VALLEY ANIMAL SHELTER
20655 PLUMMER STREET
CHATSWORTH, CALIFORNIA 91311

LARRY GROSS
President

OLIVIA E. GARCÍA
Vice-President

LAYNE DICKER
ALISA FINSTEN
ROGER WOLFSON

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 anticipio al (213) 482-9558.

FACILITY TOUR OF WEST VALLEY ANIMAL SHELTER

Commission Tour of West Valley Animal Shelter (starts at 6:15 p.m.). Public is welcome. The Commission meeting will begin promptly at 7:00 p.m.

I. 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. NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL COMMENTS - (Discussion with Neighborhood Council representatives on Neighborhood Council Resolutions or Community Impact Statements filed with the City Clerk which relate to any agenda item listed or being considered on this agenda for the Board of Animal Services Commissioners)

3. COMMISSION BUSINESS

   A. Approval of the Minutes for Meeting of February 13, 2018. (Action Item; Public comment limited to one minute per speaker).

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

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

6. BOARD REPORTS

   A. Annenberg Foundation Donation Acceptance. (Action Item; Public comment limited to two minutes per speaker).

   B. California Assembly Bills Concerning Animal Issues. (Action Item; Public comment limited to two minutes per speaker).

7. ADJOURNMENT

Next Regular Meeting is scheduled for 9:00 A.M., March 13, 2018, at City Hall 200 North Spring Street, Room 1060, Los Angeles, CA 90012. (Enter on Main Street).

AGENDAS - The Board of Animal Services Commissioners (Board) meets regularly every second (2nd) and fourth (4th) Tuesday of each month at 9:00 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, 221 North Figueroa Street, 6th Floor, Suite 600, Los Angeles, CA 90012. 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.)

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

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.
Meeting called to order at 9:05 a.m. Commissioners present were Gross, García, Dicker and Wolfson. (NOTE: Commission Wolfson was not present at the time attendance was taken but arrived at 9:06 a.m.). Also present from Los Angeles Animal Services (LAAS) Board Secretary Johana Moran, General Manager (GM) Brenda Barnette and Assistant City Attorney (ACA) Dov Lesel.

Commissioner Gross opened the meeting, introduced staff, and provided an overview of the meeting agenda.

I. ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS

1. Possible Dangerous Animal Case: DA 171428 HAR
   Respondent: Matthew Garland
   Harbor Animal Care and Control: Lieutenant Robert Rios
   Complaining Witnesses: Edgar Ojeda and Cynthia Ojeda

   No witnesses were present. Respondent Matthew Garland was present and argued against the determination that his dog Penny is a dangerous animal, including that his dog Penny is 14 years old and he alleged that the Ojedas intimidated him prior to the hearing causing him to not contest their testimony out of concern for his family’s safety.

   The Board discussed the merits of the appeal, the evidence provided to the Hearing Examiner and the grounds to uphold or modify the General Manager’s determination.

   Commissioner Wolfson made a motion to uphold the decision of the General Manager. The Board resumed discussion and Commissioner Wolfson withdrew the motion. ACA Lesel confirmed that the witness is not required to be present for the appeal hearing.

   Commissioner Dicker made a motion to modify the decision of the General Manager and reissue the license for Penny with Terms and Conditions. Commissioner Wolfson seconded and the motion failed by a vote of 2-2.

   Commissioner Garcia made a motion to modify the decision of the General Manager and revoke the license for Penny and prohibit Mr. Garland from having dogs for three years. After Board discussion on the risks to public safety Commissioner Dicker seconded and the motion was approved by a vote of 3-1.
Public Comment:
None.

2. **Barking Dog Noise Case: BD 171223 WV**
   Respondents: Robin Permaul and Lawrence Permaul
   West Valley Animal Care and Control: Captain Wendell Bowers
   Complaining Witness: Kathy Kalaba

Respondents Lawrence Permaul and Robin Permaul were present and argued that the evidence does not support the decision of the General Manager because the majority of the incidents predate the complaint, the duration of barking was not proven and they asserted that the barking is not excessive. Witness Kathy Kalaba was present and testified that the duration of the excessive barking was proven by evidence she provided, including audio and video recordings on her cell phone. **Commissioner Garcia** requested counsel from ACA Lesel on the issue of evidence that predates the complaint. **ACA Lesel** confirmed that such evidence is admissible and advised that if another hearing takes place it will be under the new barking dog ordinance which contains less strict guidelines for evidence. The Board advised the Permauls to specify which of the Terms and Conditions they wish to appeal and the Permauls responded that they disagree with the use of a bark collar and the requirement for adult supervision when Zeus is outside. The Board sought Ms. Kalaba’s input and she stated there was slight improvement after the Terms and Conditions were issued.

The Board discussed the merits of the appeal, the evidence provided to the Hearing Examiner, and the grounds supporting the General Manager’s determination. The Board found that the evidence supports the decision of the General Manager and that the hearing was properly conducted. **Commissioner Dicker** contemplated modification of the Terms and Conditions **Commissioner Gross** made a motion to uphold the decision of the General Manager to reissue the license for Zeus with Terms and Conditions. **Commissioner Garcia** seconded and the motion was approved by a vote of 3-1.

Public Comment:
None.

II. REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING

1. **PUBLIC COMMENT**
   None.

2. **NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL COMMENTS** - (Discussion with Neighborhood Council representatives on Neighborhood Council Resolutions or Community Impact Statements filed with the City Clerk which relate to any agenda item listed or being considered on this agenda for the Board of Animal Services Commissioners)
   None.

3. **COMMISSION BUSINESS**

Please join us at our website:  www.LAAnimalservices.com
A. Approval of the Minutes for Meeting of January 23, 2018.

**Commissioner Wolfson** made a motion to approve the minutes of January 23, 2018. **Commissioner Dicker** seconded and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 4-0.

Public Comment: None.

4. **ORAL REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER** *(Taken out of order, heard after Item 6. A)*

**GM Barnette** discussed the following:

- Tammy Watson is officially hired as the new Administrative Assistant General Manager (AGM). AGM Watson is coming to us from the Personnel Department and has knowledge of LAAS and the shelters. The candidate for Life-Saving AGM is pending completion of a background check. The Department is working with a candidate for the Director of Volunteer Services position.

- Notice was put out by our Animal Control Officers and Emergency Team; they are accepting applications to provide training for emergency services for large animals during fires and disasters.

- Most LAAS shelters now have a New Hope Coordinator and a Volunteer Coordinator. Some of the New Hope Coordinators also serve as Life-Saving Liaisons while a few shelters have a separate Life-Saving Liaison.

- Animal Care Technician (ACT) Veronica Perry is going to participate in a weeklong apprenticeship program with Maddie’s Lifesaving Academy.

- The Board-approved fee ordinance was transmitted to City Council, meaning that LAAS can stop charging owner-surrender fees as soon as approved by City Council.

**Commissioner Gross** brought up Commissioner Wolfson’s question about the shelter hours. **GM Barnette** responded that it is a labor issue and may be something that AGM Watson can help us with. **Commissioners Wolfson and Dicker** spoke on the importance of serving the community by offering later shelter hours, utilizing volunteers and requested that a discussion be agendized.

Public Comment:

**Phyllis Daugherty:** Inquired if the Department is sending any staff to the Animal Care Conference in early March and explained why it is important.

5. **COMMISSIONERS’ ORAL REPORTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS** *(Taken out of order, heard after Item 3)*

**Commissioner Wolfson:** Requested a discussion on shelter hours. **Commissioner Gross** responded that it may a labor issue and that the Board can ask the General
Manger for an update or the discussion can be agendized. After a brief exchange on
the history of this topic ACA Lesel admonished that a discussion is occurring and
that it is clear that Commissioner Wolfson is asking for this to be an agenda item.

Commissioner Garcia: Requested reports on a free spay/neuter program for cats
and expanding the shelter intervention program to all LAAS shelters.

Commissioner Dicker: Agreed on expanding shelters hours; spoke on his
experience at the Austin Pets Alive conference; explained the importance
of increasing volunteer hours. ACA Lesel reminded the Board that this cannot be used
as a platform. Commissioner Dicker responded that he was simply explaining and
added that the Brown Act does not prohibit the Commissioners from responding to
public comments. ACA Lesel clarified that the Board can comment when it is an item
on the agenda but not on general public comments.

Commissioner Gross: Passed.

Public Comment: None.

6. Board Reports

A. Animal Welfare Trust and Animal Sterilization Fund Balances for December
   2017.

   Chief Accounting Employee (CAE) Lilia Liclican presented an overview of
   activity and balances in the Animal Welfare Trust Fund (AWTF) and Animal
   Sterilization Fund (ASF) and took questions from the Board. Senior
   Management Analyst (SMA) John Forland highlighted that the balance
   available to cover contract encumbrances is of concern and took questions from
   the Board. GM Barnette added that the Department’s budget proposal has
   asked for the City to resume making contributions and advised the Board that
   they can advocate for it. There was discussion on projects including the rabbit
   room renovation in West Valley and shelter intervention programs.

   Public Comment: None.

B. Request to Purchase Incubators to Save Underage Kittens. (Taken out of order,
   heard after Item 4)

   GM Barnette credited this life-saving idea to District Supervisor (DS) Karen
   Knipscheer-Cox, DS Christy Louzan and Director of Operations William Tranzow.
The cost is under twenty thousand dollars and does not require City Council
approval, Board approval is sufficient for staff to complete the purchase.

   Commissioner Dicker made a motion to approve the Purchase of Incubators to
   Save Underage Kittens. Commissioner Wolfson seconded and the motion was
   unanimously approved by a vote of 4-0.

   Public Comment:
None.

C. Request to Enter into Contract for Operation of the West Valley Spay/Neuter Clinic.

Senior Management Analyst (SMA) John Forland presented a brief summary of the report including that only one proposal was received and it was submitted by the Heaven on Earth Society For Animals, Inc. partnering with Latino Alliance for Animal Care Foundation (Heaven/LAACF). GM Barnette mentioned that Heaven on Earth is a member of the NKLA Coalition and is a New Hope Partner. Commissioner Gross reported that he knows the LAACF and that he visited to the Heaven on Earth facility over the weekend; it's a good combination. GM Barnette pointed out Ritchie Geisel from Heaven on Earth in the audience. Commissioners Garcia and Dicker expressed their support of the collaboration with both organizations.

Commissioner Wolfson made a motion to approve the Request to Enter into Contract for Operation of the West Valley Spay/Neuter Clinic. ACA Lesel mentioned that some of the financial pieces are not yet in place and will be finalized before it goes to City Council for approval. Commissioner Dicker seconded and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 4-0.

Public Comment:
None.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting ended at 10:33 a.m.
Report to the Board of Animal Services Commissioners

MEETING DATE: February 27, 2018
REPORT DATE: February 22, 2018
SUBJECT: DONATION FROM ANNENBERG FOUNDATION

PREPARED BY: Brenda Barnette
TITLE: General Manager

BOARD ACTION RECOMMENDED:

1. ACCEPT the donation of $50,000 from the Annenberg Foundation on behalf of the Los Angeles Animal Services;

2. APPROVE the deposit of these funds into the Animal Welfare Trust Fund;

3. APPROVE the disbursement of these funds in accordance with the provisions of the Animal Welfare Trust Fund; and

4. FORWARD the acceptance of this donation to the Mayor and City Council for approval.

SUMMARY:

The Los Angeles Administrative Code, Section 5.200.1 (Receipt of Property) states that any gift or bequest to be used by the Department that exceeds $25,000 must be accepted by the Mayor and City Council.

In February 2018, the Department received the attached distribution letter from the Annenberg Foundation identifying a $50,000.00 unrestricted charitable contribution to Los Angeles Animal Services. Pending approval by the Board, the Mayor, and the City Council, all funds received will be deposited into the Animal Welfare Trust Fund (Fund 859).

"Creating a Humane LA"

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER
Visit our website at www.LAAnimalServices.com
FISCAL IMPACT:

There will be no financial impact on the Department's budgeted funds. This donation will be deposited into the Department's Animal Welfare Trust Fund and used to support Department programs in accordance with the provisions of the Fund.

Approved:

Brenda Barnette, General Manager

Attachments

BOARD ACTION:

_______  Passed  Disapproved  _______

_______  Passed with noted modifications  Continued  _______

_______  Tabled  New Date  _______
February 9, 2018

Brenda Barnette  
General Manager  
City of Los Angeles Department of Animal Services  
221 N. Figueroa Street, 6th Floor, Suite 600  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  

Dear Ms. Barnette:

As Chairman of the Board, President and CEO of the Annenberg Foundation, I am pleased to enclose a check from the Annenberg Foundation for $50,000 as an unrestricted contribution for the charitable purposes of the City of Los Angeles Department of Animal Services.

Please note that any printed listing of the funding entity should acknowledge the Annenberg Foundation as the donor.

On behalf of the Annenberg Foundation, I wish you much success.

Sincerely,

Wallis Annenberg  
Chairman of the Board, President and CEO

Enclosure

Commitment # 18-032
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vendor Acc't #</th>
<th>Invoice Number</th>
<th>Invoice Date</th>
<th>Outstanding Amt</th>
<th>Net Paid Amt</th>
<th>Discount Taken</th>
<th>Write Off</th>
<th>Net Check Amt</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18-032</td>
<td>02/09/2018</td>
<td>$50,000.00</td>
<td>$50,000.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$50,000.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTALS:**

$50,000.00 $50,000.00 $0.00 $0.00 $50,000.00

---

**The Annenberg Foundation**
2000 Avenue of the Stars
Suite 10005
Los Angeles, CA 90067

**The Northern Trust Company**
Chicago, IL 6010
Payable Through
Northern Trust Bank/Cupage
Oakbrook Terrace, IL

**DATE**
Feb 8, 2018

**AMOUNT**
$50,000.00

Pay
Fifty Thousand Dollars and 00 Cents

to the Order of:

**City of Los Angeles Department of Animal Services**
221 N. Figueroa Street, 6th Floor,
Suite 600
Los Angeles, CA 90012

---

**Security Features:**
- 145877
- 70-2382-719
- Feb 8, 2018
- $50,000.00
Report to the Board of Animal Services Commissioners

MEETING DATE: February 27, 2018

REPORT DATE: February 21, 2018

SUBJECT: ANIMAL RELATED STATE LEGISLATURE PROPOSALS

BOARD ACTION RECOMMENDED: DISCUSS and ADVISE

BACKGROUND:

The Department of Animal Services usually gets notices from the Chief Legislative Analyst’s Office if a Bill is being considered that could impact Los Angeles Animal Services (LAAS). Sometimes those notices do not allow enough time for the Commission to consider the Bill and to advise staff.

SUMMARY:

This year there are six proposed actions in the State Legislature related to animals that we have identified. I am bringing them to the Board’s attention now, so that the Board can watch these Bills as they move through the process and can advise of their support or lack of support as we get further into the legislative process.

A few preliminary notes are included for the first item listed.

Attached are the fact sheets created by the ASPCA for the bills they are sponsoring.

AB 2774(Limón) – Animal abuse: database.
http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180AB2774

I have spoken with two respected individuals who work on legislative issues in animal welfare. Neither can speak publicly because their agencies have not taken a stance. Both gave me similar off the record responses:

Practically speaking, this is not an effective use of resources and could create liability for shelters and rescues. The bill will likely have difficulty due to the costs inherent in creating and administering the database.

"Creating a Humane LA"

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Visit our website at www.LAAnimalServices.com
AB2362 (Rubio) Safe transportation of dogs and cats.
http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180AB2362

AB2300 (Maienschein) – Veterinarian Continuing Education
https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180AB2300

CA Assembly Bill 2300 would create an incentive for licensed veterinarians to provide pro bono Spay/Neuter services in low-income communities. Veterinarians would be eligible for continuing education credits when they provide these services in coordination with eligible organizations, including public animal shelters.

AB2791 (Muratsuchi) – Kitten Compassion
https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180AB2791

CA Assembly Bill 2791 would waive the three day hold period for kittens under the age of 8 weeks and permit their release to an eligible nonprofit for fostering and adoption.

http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180SB1005

AB 1780 (Maienschein): Protection of Public Health – Limitation on Pet Importation
http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180AB1780

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact.

Approved:

Brenda Barnette, General Manager

BOARD ACTION:

[Blank] Passed

[Blank] Passed with noted modifications

[Blank] Disapproved

[Blank] Continued

[Blank] Tabled

[Blank] New Date
THE ISSUE

Voluntary spay and neuter (S/N) for cats and dogs has consistently been proven as an effective method in reducing shelter intake and euthanasia rates. Uncontrolled breeding, particularly among cats, is a major cause of shelter overpopulation, resulting in numerous negative health and social impacts to animal health and well-being.

Unfortunately, cost is a primary barrier to S/N surgery in many communities. Lower income households are statistically associated with having higher rates of sexually intact cats. A 2009 peer-reviewed scientific study published in the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association found that while most pet cats are altered, the S/N rate is significantly lower for cats living in households earning $35,000 or less annually. For the lower-income owners of intact cats interviewed in the study, high cost was the most commonly cited reason for not altering their cats.

Some California jurisdictions have adopted laws that require mandatory alteration of dogs and/or cats. While these laws are well-meaning, they tend to have unintended consequences for some lower income households. The cost of alteration, which can be in the hundreds of dollars, may result in the relinquishment of a beloved pet. Research indicates that relinquishment of pets to shelters and intake into shelters are greatest from areas where human poverty levels are high.

These unfortunate outcomes could be avoided by making pro bono services more readily available to lower income households. Allowing veterinarians to obtain continuing education credit by performing qualified S/N surgeries is likely to increase the number of veterinarians willing to provide such services. By incentivizing veterinarians to perform volunteer S/N services, shelter intakes and euthanasia, and thus, shelter costs, could be reduced.

Both New Jersey and New York have successfully implemented similar state laws. (New Jersey Statutes Title 45:16-9.4a; (New York Education Code Section 6704-a). These programs have shown that while veterinarians are incentivized by the opportunity to earn continuing education credits, they also gain multiple educational benefits from participation. Veterinarians engaged in the program are provided the opportunity to gain the latest knowledge in pen-operative procedures, effective anesthesia protocols and more efficient surgical techniques. And, new scientific perspectives on sterilization are still emerging and that information is typically shared among veterinary professionals participating in spay/neuter programs.

EXISTING LAW

Existing law requires all active veterinarians to complete 36 hours of continuing education every two years in order to maintain their license. As part of their continuing education obligations, a veterinarian may complete up to 6 hours of self-study coursework. Self-study coursework may include reading journals, viewing video recordings, or listening to audio recordings. (Business and Professions Code Section 4846.5).

THE PROPOSAL

The proposed legislation would authorize veterinarians the option to fulfill all or part of their self-study continuing education coursework associated with pro bono S/N services. Allowing veterinarians to voluntarily utilize their continuing education activities to perform community service would reduce the animal shelter overcrowding that leads to euthanasia as well as the economic burden for jurisdictions experiencing budget limitations.

SUPPORT

ASPCA (Sponsor)
**THE ISSUE**

Despite recent reductions in intake and euthanasia, cats that are admitted into public shelters continue to experience poor outcomes. A compilation of public shelter data found that more cats entered public shelters in 2010, an estimated 393,000, compared with 368,000 in 1998. In 2010, public agencies euthanized an estimated 71% of cats that entered the shelter system.

Kittens, in particular, are at a high risk of euthanasia in many public animal shelters. One reason for this is that kittens are highly vulnerable to contagious disease due to their immature immune systems. It is not uncommon for numerous communicable diseases to be present in public shelters. And the longer that a kitten is in a shelter, the higher the probability that they will become ill. Current law requires all cats to be held for three days for owner redemption, when evidence demonstrates that very few, if any, kittens are owned. In fact, one study found that owners claim only two percent of all cats entering shelters. During this three day period, kittens can easily contract an upper respiratory tract infection, panleukopenia, ringworm, or calicivirus. In addition, in general, cats are more likely than dogs to suffer from stress-related illness when in a shelter. A sick kitten will take additional time, attention, and resources to care for, becoming a drain on already tight resources at the shelter. As a result, kittens are even more likely to be euthanized than other cats. This is especially true because current law allows for the immediate euthanasia of unweaned kittens that enter a shelter without their mother.

If kittens can be removed from a shelter environment to a rescue organization or foster with greater capacity to manage the higher maintenance needs, they have a much greater chance of a positive outcome. A slight change in law would facilitate this change by clarifying the ability of rescues to immediately pull kittens from shelters, forgoing the three day waiting period.

**EXISTING LAW**

Existing law requires that a stray cat be held for owner redemption for three days before making them available for adoption or euthanasia (Food and Ag § 31752). Existing law requires that any stray cat that is impounded pursuant to this division shall, prior to the euthanasia of that animal, be released to specified nonprofit organizations at their request (Food and Ag § 31752(b)). Existing law also allows the immediate euthanasia of any unweaned kitten that is impounded in a public shelter without its mother (Food and Ag § 17006).

**THE PROPOSAL**

This bill would allow kittens to be made immediately available to specified nonprofit rescue groups to pull from a shelter, waiving the three day hold period. Specifically, kittens under the age of 8 weeks that are reasonably believed to be unowned and are impounded in a public or private shelter may be immediately available for release to a nonprofit, as defined in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, animal rescue or adoption organization if requested by the organization.

**SUPPORT**

ASPCA (Sponsor)
THE ISSUE
Housing costs are a barrier for crime victims in California and additional costs that are not covered can serve as a deterrent for victims seeking new and safer housing. Many emergency housing alternatives cannot accommodate pets and there are a dwindling number of pet-friendly housing options in the market. In the case of housing that can accommodate pets, landlords often charge an additional fee or “pet deposit” in order to allow pets. For many crime victims, pets are sources of comfort and provide strong emotional support. 95% of American pet owners consider their pets to be members of the family.

The connection between domestic violence and animal cruelty is so significant that it is commonly referred to simply as “the Link.” Perpetrators of domestic violence often threaten harm or bring actual harm to their victims’ pets in order to control their victims or keep them from leaving.

Concern over the safety of pets often delays domestic violence victims from seeking help, causes them to return to their abuser, or prevents them from seeking assistance entirely. A recent study found that more than a quarter of domestic violence victims stay in abusive relationships for a median time of two years to avoid leaving their pets behind. And, a staggering percentage of domestic violence victims report returning to an abusive partner out of concern for their pets’ safety. A compilation of twelve studies on domestic violence and pets found that between 18 and 48-percent of domestic violence victims either delayed leaving an abusive situation or returned to the abuser “out of fear” for the welfare of their pets.

In many cases, domestic violence victims have limited financial means. Along with the many other up-front costs associated with relocating, the financial barrier of a pet deposit may result in a victim to choosing to stay in their unsafe housing situation.

EXISTING LAW
The California Victim Compensation Board (CalVCB) (Gov. Code, § 13950 et. seq.) provides compensation for victims of violent crime who are injured or threatened with injury, including those in domestic violence situations. If a person meets eligibility criteria, CalVCB will compensate many types of services when the costs are not covered by other sources. The Program will compensate a victim for the costs associated with finding alternative housing, if the expenses are determined by law enforcement to be necessary for the personal safety of the victim or by a mental health treatment provider to be necessary for the emotional well-being of the victim. The law explicitly allows for payment of a security deposit.

THE SOLUTION
Existing law allows a victim of a violent crime to be compensated for the costs associated with finding alternative housing, if the expenses are determined by law enforcement to be necessary for the personal safety of the victim or by a mental health treatment provider to be necessary for the emotional well-being of the victim. This bill would clarify existing law to specify that a pet deposit is an eligible relocation cost.

SUPPORT
ASPCA (Co-Sponsor)
California Partnership to End Domestic Violence (Co-Sponsor)
Red Rover
Next Door Solutions
THE ISSUE

Animals, including our pets, can carry dangerous disease. Some of these diseases can be communicable to humans. When an outbreak occurs, it is important to act quickly in order to avoid a public health crisis.

As described below, existing law vests in the Department of Public Health (Department) the authority to take specified actions to contain these outbreaks when they occur within the state. However, as the prevalence of online pet sales grows, the opportunity for interstate outbreaks may increase.

As reported by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), a recent example of such an outbreak is a Campylobacter bacterial infection that affected people in 17 states. The outbreak has been linked to puppies sourced from the national retail pet store, Petland. As of January 30th, the CDC reported 113 cases of the infection in humans, with 23 people requiring hospitalization. This outbreak has been particularly dangerous due to the fact that the strain is resistant to numerous common antibiotics typically used to treat the infection.

While the outbreak has spread to 17 states over the course of months, the existing scope of the Department’s authority does not enable it to impose protections to ensure that pets linked to the outbreak are not brought into the state. Given the growing prevalence of multistate pet sales transactions and the dangerous nature of animal-borne disease, this bill proposes to expand the Department’s authority to better protect public health and safety.

EXISTING LAW

The Health and Safety Code vests in the Department of Public Health the authority to take specified actions in order to protect the public from rabies and other communicable diseases that can be transferred from animals to humans (HSC §§121575 - 122388). Pursuant to this law, the Department is authorized to conduct an investigation, issue a quarantine or other “regulations as may be deemed adequate for the control of the disease” in each affected areas and for specified animals. These actions are currently confined to areas within the state. Existing law provides that persons found in violation of an order issued under the code are guilty of an infraction.

Existing law requires a person seeking to import a dog into this state for the purpose of resale or a change of ownership to obtain a health certificate for the dog that has been completed by a licensed veterinarian and is dated within 10 days prior to the date on which the dog is brought into the state. Existing law prohibits a breeder from knowingly selling a diseased dog. (HSC §§ 121720 - 121723.)

Existing law provides the Department with the authority to adopt additional regulations when the Department finds that psittacosis, or any other diseases transmissible to man from pet birds, have become a public health hazard. (HSC §§ 121745 – 121765.)

THE PROPOSAL

The bill would expand the authority of the Department to allow it to investigate an outbreak of animal-borne communicable disease and, if needed to protect public health and safety, issue an order prohibiting the importation of dogs or cats for the purpose of resale or change of ownership.

SUPPORT

ASPCA (Sponsor)