



**MINUTES**  
**BOARD OF ANIMAL SERVICES COMMISSIONERS**  
**CITY OF LOS ANGELES**

Monday April 28, 2008  
10:00 A.M.  
CITY HALL  
200 N. Spring Street  
Room 1060  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

---

Commissioners: Tariq Khero, President  
Kathleen Riordan, Vice-President  
Glenn Brown  
Irene Ponce  
Archie Quincey, Jr.

**ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL HEARING**

Commission President Khero called the Administrative Appeal Hearing to order at 10:10 A.M. Present were Commissioners Khero, Riordan, Brown, and Quincey. Commissioner Ponce was absent.

**1. Appeal of the General Manager's Decision in Barking Dog Revocation Case – BR 07580 WV**

Appellant: Mr. Philip Minton

Complaining Witness: Mr. Najib Saadeh

District Manager, West Valley Animal Care Center, Keith Kramer, Captain

Hearing Coordinator, Department of Animal Services, Ross Pool, Management Analyst II

Commissioner Quincey motioned to uphold the General Manager's original decision and reissue the license for **"Tino", License Number L08-214243**. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Riordan and passed on a vote of 3-1.

**Determination: General Manager's Decision Upheld, License Reissued with Terms and Conditions.**

**2. Appeal of the General Manager's Decision in Barking Dog Case – BD 07389 WL**

Appellant: Mr. Shui Hang Tam

Complaining Witness: Mr. Jack Chludzinski

District Manager, West Los Angeles Shelter, Louis Dadeaux, Captain

Hearing Coordinator, Department of Animal Services, Ross Pool, Management Analyst II

Commissioner Quincey motioned to uphold the General Manager's original decision to reissue **License Number L08-070475** for **"Oreo,"** and **License Number L08-070476** for **"Knock Knock."** The motion was seconded by Commissioner Riordan and passed on a vote of 4-0.

**Determination: General Manager's Decision Upheld, License Reissued with Terms and Conditions.**

## COMMISSION MEETING

Commission President Khero called the Commission Meeting to order at 11:10 A.M. Present were Commissioners Khero, Riordan, Brown, and Quincey. Commissioner Ponce was absent.

### 3. GENERAL MANAGER RECOMMENDS FOR BOARD ACTION (Taken out of order.)

#### B. Memorandum of Understanding with the City Of Beverly Hills to Provide Animal Care and Control Services

In June 2005, the Department received a letter from the City Manager for the City of Beverly Hills, California, expressing interest in entering into an agreement with the Department to provide for animal regulation enforcement, animal care center services including taking strays and adopting out animals, dog licensing, and dead animal pick-up services. Mr. George Chavez, Assistant Director of Community Development for the City of Beverly Hills commented that currently, the Los Angeles County, Department of Animal Care and Control provides these services, dispatched through their shelter in Carson, California. The City of Beverly Hills has been interested in providing to their community a shelter location that is in closer proximity than the County shelter in Carson. The City of Beverly Hills has made it clear that they are willing to fully pay for a formal relationship with the City of Los Angeles, and various donors have offered to direct planned donations to the Department, at least to the amount of \$50,000.00 per year. Ms. Paula Kent Meehan added that the West Los Angeles Animal Care Center already intakes, cares for, and adopts out, animals for Beverly Hills residents, because of the proximity of the West LA location. Mr. Bill Crowe of Pets 90210 commented that the City of Beverly Hills has never had a history of cases of animal cruelty or neglect cases.

The proposed arrangement with Beverly Hills benefits both parties. The City of Beverly Hills is largely surrounded by the City of Los Angeles, and currently the Department crosses through this 5.7 square mile grid frequently while coming and going elsewhere in the City. With the contract, Beverly Hills receives more immediate and high-quality services, and the Department receives some revenue. Further, this visible agreement will give opportunity for citizens in Beverly Hills and surrounding areas to see the quality of care and control provided by the Department, which will bring positive attention and could result in increased donations and positive public support.

#### Public Comments

Elizabeth Oreck: Supports the proposed contract because it would offer better and more efficient services to the residents of Beverly Hills. Most residents are oblivious that the County shelter in Carson currently provides animal services to the City of Beverly Hills.

Phyllis Daugherty: Concerned about the commitment the Department would be making to provide services to City of Beverly Hills. The animals would receive far better care at the West Los Angeles Animal Care Center. Assured the Commission that animal cruelty did exist in Beverly Hills. There needs to be a training in animal cruelty and neglect.

George Chavez: The Beverly Hills Police Department has said they are committed to working with the Department in identifying and enforcing laws against animal cruelty.

Commissioner Riordan motioned to that the Board approve Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the City of Beverly Hills to provide animal care and control services within Beverly Hills, for one year with annual renewals up to two additional years, substantially as on file in the Board Office, subject to approval of the Mayor in accordance with Executive Directive No. 3, and of the City Council, and approval of the City Attorney as to form; direct the Board staff to transmit the proposed MOU to the Mayor and the City Attorney; and, authorize the General Manager to execute the MOU subsequent to necessary approvals. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Quincey and passed on a vote of 4-0.

**2. COMMISSION BUSINESS** (Taken out of order.)

A. Approval of the Commission Meeting Minutes of April 14, 2008

Commissioner Riordan motioned to table the approval of the minutes for the April 14, 2008 Commission Meeting over to the May 12, 2008 Commission Meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Quincey and passed on a vote of 4-0.

B. Oral Report by the Commission on Meetings and Events Attended

Commissioners Khero, Riordan, Brown and Quincey all had nothing to report.

**3. GENERAL MANAGER RECOMMENDS FOR BOARD ACTION**

A. Bequest from the Emerson Family Trust

Assistant General Manager Linda Barth reported that the Emerson Family Trust was established on December 19, 1990. Upon the death of Robert L. Emerson, the Trust assets consisted of securities valued, after expenses, at \$1,040,716. The Trust documents name the Department as a beneficiary with a percentage of the residual trust of fifteen percent (15%), or \$156,107. The final amount is contingent upon interest fluctuations between now and final distribution of the bequest. The Trust requires any funds received to be placed into the Animal Welfare Trust Fund (Fund 859). The Trust also requires a \$10,000 reserve from the Trust assets be retained by the Trustee for three (3) years to cover any administrative expenses that might occur. The balance, if any, will be distributed at the end of that time period.

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

Commissioner Riordan motioned that the Board accept an initial gift of \$156,107, and all subsequent payments, from the Emerson Family Trust (Trust) on behalf of the Department of Animal Services, subject to approval of the gift by the Mayor and City Council. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Quincey and passed on a vote of 4-0.

C. Program of Animal Care Center Sponsorship for Individuals

The General Manager reported that individuals are often interested in seeing their donation go directly to help with the costs of caring for animals at their local animal care center. To meet that interest, the Department proposes a pilot program for individual sponsorship donations to a specific animal care center.

This program would launch at the soon-to-open Harbor Animal Care Center.

For a sponsorship donation of \$500 (about the cost to care for two dogs, or for a cat and a rabbit), the sponsor/donor will receive an engraved laminated plaque with his or her name, listed as a Proud Sponsor, and placed over a dog kennel or cat cage of choice, for one year. The sponsor/donor will also be listed on the Department website as a Proud Sponsor of that animal care center, for the year. This program offers the public and local businesses the opportunity to contribute to the Department and to show other members of the community how much the sponsor/donor values the efforts of the animal care staff and animal control officers in their local neighborhoods.

Commissioner Brown that the Board approve the program of solicitation and acknowledgement for \$500 sponsorship donations to a specific animal care center. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Quincey and passed on a vote of 4-0.

#### **4. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

##### **A. Potential Revisions to the Inherently Dangerous Wild Animal Permit Requirement**

In January 2008, the Board approved a report establishing clear and firm requirements to be met by any person or organization applying for any type of animal exhibition permit for an inherently dangerous wild animal. The goal of the requirements is to insure that animals are treated safely and humanely, and that handlers and spectators are safe. From recent incidents, it has become clear that some refinement of the initial Requirements will assist in more accurately defining animal handlers with serious or repetitive problems in animal treatment, and provide criteria for safety expectations that is more precise. Adding other wild species, which clearly need specialized handling and care even if not inherently dangerous to the public, is another change that will yield a Requirements policy. With summer approaching, the number of other circuses and animal exhibitions applying for permits is on the rise. For assistance in developing modifications to the Requirements, Staff has consulted extensively with USDA staff to understand their practices, regulations, and standards, as well as discussing potential changes with other local subject-matter experts. Staff will also be meeting with the California Department of Fish and Game, which permits wild and exotic animals in the State, prior to finalizing the recommended amendments to the policy.

#### **2. ORAL REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER – EDWARD BOKS**

(Taken out of order.)

- The Mayor's proposed Budget will be considered by the City Council on April 28. General Managers and members of the Mayor's Policy and Budget team will be participating in these hearings before the City Council's Budget and Finance Committee.
- The Department has received two proposals in response to the Pet Insurance RFP that the Commission had approved. The applications from the two proposers, Veterinary Pet Insurance and Pets Press, are currently under review.
- Proposals for the Spay/Neuter Clinic RFP are due to the Department on May 6.
- The Department was recently served a lawsuit by Concerned Dog Owners of California, challenging the Mandatory Spay/Neuter Ordinance.
- The Department continues to move forward with the Strategic Planning Process to assist in identifying the necessary changes for the ensuing Budget Year.
- The General Manager has sent the Commissioners a report on new data from Animal People Magazine regarding the numbers at the Long Beach Animal Control Center.

- The staff at the South Los Angeles Annex will soon have the capacity to perform sterilization surgeries. Recently, Chief Veterinarian Steve Feldman and Dr. Monique Di Santo attended the Feline Medicine Seminar in Glendale on April 13 to learn more on how to treat URI. Dr. Theresa Lee is working with Fix Nation to perform cat surgeries on the weekends at the North Central Spay/Neuter Clinic. The medical team is trying to organize feline maternity wards at all of the Department's centers during the kitten season.
- The Department received its largest STAR Program donation to help provide orthopedic surgery for an injured stray named Rollie that was brought to the East Valley Center after being found roaming the streets of Van Nuys. Since being treated by the medical staff, Rollie has been adopted out by a New Hope Partner.
- The Department is looking into alternative ways of euthanizing injured wildlife animals in the field.
- The Department's center managers, animal care technicians, and members of the medical staff met for a one-day training session on the Department's "Plus One, Minus One Program," which helps staff manage their shelter population while limiting the rate of euthanasia.
- On April 25 the Department participated in the "Earth Day Adoption Event." The Department also participated in the April 27 "Best Friends LA Super Adoption Festival" in North Hollywood.
- The Department continues to work on improving its records retention system. Boxes of old records have been sent to the City's records retention facility to make room for more current records.
- Several public relations professionals have approached the Department about forming ad hoc committee of professional marketers and public relations specialists to assist the Department in developing marketing strategies and plans.

## **5. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Phyllis Daugherty: Concerned about the Department spending so much money on an animal that gets adopted out by a New Hope partner. The Department needs to better monitor the care that is provided for these animals. Has received several calls about animals adopted by rescue groups that have been kept in small cages that limit movement for long periods of time. The Department needs to investigate. Asked about where the Department was regarding the endorsement California Assembly Bill (AB) 2296 that was discussed at the April 28 Commission Meeting. Recommended a book on domestic violence in affluent areas and suggested that the City of Beverly Hills be provided with information on identifying and handling domestic violence issues.

## **6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

There are no new requests from Commissioners for Future Agenda Items.

## **7. ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Riordan motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Quincey and passed on a vote of 4-0. The Commission Meeting was at 12:25 P.M.

**The next Commission Meeting will be held Monday May 12, 2008 at 10:00 A.M., at CITY HALL, 200 N. Spring Street, Room 1060, Los Angeles, CA 90012.**