



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

Monday, June 30, 2008  
3: 00 PM  
CITY HALL  
200 N. Spring St., Room 1070  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

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

**ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL HEARING**

Meeting called to order at 3:31 PM. Present were Commissioners Riordan, Quincey, and Brown. Commissioner Khero and Ponce joined the meeting at 4:05 PM.

**1. Appeal of the General Manager's Decision in Barking Dog Case- BD 07582 WL**

Appellant: Michael Dekhtyar

Complaining Witness: Nadine Berman

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

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

Commissioner Brown made a motion to uphold the manager's decision in Barking Dog Case – BD 07582 WL. Commissioner Quincey seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 2-1.

**Determination:   General Manager's Decision Upheld.**

**COMMISSION MEETING**

Commission President Khero called the Commission meeting to order at 4:05 PM.

**1. ORAL REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER**

- New Veterinarian starts this week.
- Two 4th-year Western University veterinary students start their four-week rotation today.

**Shelter Operations**

- The First Annual "Go Wild at the Zoo" Adoptathon was held on June 29, 2008. 25 adoptions (including 4 rabbits) were transacted. We hope this will become a regular event.
- LAAS Volunteers also held an adoption event in Moorpark on June 29<sup>th</sup>. 18 adoptions took place.
- Customer Service complaints have been reduced at the Animal Care Centers. – Posters have been placed at all customer point of service areas that encourage people to contact the GM with any complaints or compliments.
- The Harbor Animal Care Center Grand Opening celebration took place on June 21, 2008. Commissioner Quincy was in attendance. The heat wave made it apparent that the Department needs to install misters in the kennel areas. Canopies have recently been installed.

- Record Retention Update:
  - Harbor, East Valley, SLA, WLA, W Valley: up to date, all records are accounted for and are safely in retention or appropriately disposed.
  - North Central: focus for housing records for much of the organization is still moving forward in complying with record retention requirements. More than 500 boxes of records have been processed.

### **Field Operations**

- 12 new vans that are easier to navigate, more attractive and service oriented will replace older "dog trucks".
- Animal Rescue Team finalizing protocols and obtaining necessary equipment.
- The Department is in the initial stages of developing a Task Force to deal with inflow of animals at LAX, Port and Mexican Border. Future reports will be given as this develops.
- Ringling Bros. Circus is coming to town and the Department's Permit Officers are working with circus officials to make sure that they are in compliance.
- The LA Zoo is providing our Permit Officers with large animal handling training.

### **Administration**

- Ad hoc marketing committee made up of several PR firms in LA will be working with the Department on several initiatives. The first is LAAS' Centennial Celebration in 2009. They also are helping develop some marketing materials to educate the community about the new s/n ordinance and the importance of licensing. We also have an opportunity for a weekly pet adoption feature on Telemundo.
- The Department is working with Disney Studios regarding the upcoming release of "Beverly Hills Chihuahua." We are trying to include an educational piece, so that there is not a flood of Chihuahua's being breed following the excitement about the movie.
- The Animal Control Summit was held on June 10<sup>th</sup>. There were 20 participants from Southern CA animal control agencies in attendance. The Summit was so successful that we are already planning another one and hope to have quarterly meetings.
- Public Workshops: July 22 - A commissioner assigned
- June 12th Press Conference to promote AB 1634 and our local s/n ordinance. On June 25, Ed testified on the amended AB 1634 in Sacramento. AB 1634 has passed out of the Senate Local Government Committee and is on track for a full vote in the Senate.
- Meeting with animal advocates and receiving input from industry concerns regarding permitting for circus and exhibitors at the direction of the Commission.
- There was a meeting on June 13<sup>th</sup> with interested parties in respect to animals in films. The Department is working on recommendations for the Commission to consider regarding the handling of animals in the film industry.
- The California for Humane Farms act has received Commission and Council support and the initiative will be named Proposition 2 on the ballot.

## **2. COMMISSION BUSINESS**

A. Approval of the Commission Meeting Minutes of June 9, 2008

**Action Item: Approval of the June 9, 2008 minutes to return as an agenda item for the Commission Meeting on July 14, 2008.**

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- B. Oral Report by the Commission on Meetings and Events attended.

**Item skipped.**

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

- A. Revised New Hope Policy and Procedure Manual, Partnership Agreement, information Forms, Reporting Requirements and Reinstatement of Spay/Neuter Fees (Held from Meeting of June 9, 2008).

AGM Linda Barth informed the Commission that the Department sent a memorandum to the Commission explaining the results of a meeting that was held two weeks ago with representatives of New Hope Partners. The New Hope Partners also provided a minority report that recounted some of the proposals that they would still like the Board to consider. AGM Barth highlighted the areas in which the Department and the New Hope Partners were still not in agreement:

Commissioner Khero requested that AGM Barth further explain why the Department is not agreeable to the counter proposals, if any, as part of her summary. Laura Beth Heisen presented the New Hope committee's rebuttal report point-by-point.

There are three principal areas of disagreement:

1. New Hope Adoptions of Owner Surrendered Animals:

The spay/neuter deposit or fee which was once free to New Hope Partners, now due to the City's current budgetary situation, will be charged back to New Hope Partners. While this issue is not welcome to anyone, it is understood to be the financial situation that we are all in at this time and it has been accepted.

The question is about animals that are not on a red/green alert list and when they should become available for New Hope adoption. These animals are still available to New Hope Partners at a discount (spay/neuter deposit or fee, license tax, and microchip fee.) An agreement was reached in regards to stray animals-review date + 1 day.

Disagreement arose over owner surrendered animals, which become available to the public with in one hour of intake. The New Hope groups would like the owner surrenders to be available to the public only 1 day before the animal is eligible for New Hope adoption. The Department is concerned that highly adoptable dogs (ie. toy breeds and puppies) are being adopted by New Hope Partners before the public has a chance to come see the dogs and adopt them. The Department proposed that these animals become available for New Hope adoption on the review date + 1 day (review date for owner surrenders is the date the Hayden Bill states the shelter must hold the animal before euthanasia). The Department does not want to impinge New Hope groups from taking out the animals of greatest concern, therefore all owner surrendered Bully breeds and cats over 1 year old would be immediately green/red listed. A report demonstrated the 461 owner surrendered dogs went to New Hope partners within the first 4 days of availability, while only 65 dogs went to the general public during the same period in 2007. Only 4 owner surrendered dogs during this period were euthanized.

2. Providing Addresses for Licensing Purposes:

In a recent audit of the Department, the City Controller stated, regarding the need to improve the Licensing Program, that: "The estimated percentage of unlicensed dogs in the City ranges from

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70% to 85%. The Department is not taking advantage of several methods at its disposal to increase the percentage of licensed dogs.” The audit recommended some immediate steps, but the expectation of officials who will monitor the Department’s audit action plan will be that the Department will identify all avenues to increase licensing compliance. For example, we are notifying all veterinarians in the City that they are required to send rabies certificates, with owner name and address, to the Department. Veterinarians do not claim that confidentiality prevents them from forwarding the certificates as required. Animals adopted through New Hope are the most efficient set of animals to input into the Chameleon Tag system because animal records already exist.

The New Hope committee formulated a pilot program that would expand and enhance the New Hope partners’ responsibility to explain licensing requirements to dog adopters living in the City of Los Angeles and to assist them in timely completion of the licensing process, by providing rabies and spay/neuter certificates, for example. The pilot would operate for six months, and a comparison made of licensed versus unlicensed dogs among people in City zip codes who adopted a dog; if 70% of those in City zip codes showed a license, the pilot could be considered for permanent implementation.

The Department does not recommend a pilot information program in lieu of providing addresses of dog adopters by New Hope partners.

3. Adding New Adopter Name and Contact Information to Microchip Registration:

The committee suggested that New Hope Partners should not be required to add a new adopter’s name to the microchip registration, at any time; the current proposal gives them 30 days after an the adoption to add the new guardian/owner. The committee felt this was not an enforceable provision and should be a recommendation, not a requirement. From staff’s perspective, every cross-check available that helps a pet get back to his or her home must be utilized.

Additionally, the committee requested regular 24/7 access and services to New Hope at the Northeast Valley Animal Shelter. Staff explained that we are working on staffing and access, as well as protocols for which animals are transferred, and would continue to communicate to New Hope as the situation evolves. We share the committee’s goal.

Public Comment:

Phyllis Daugherty: Stated New Hope partners should have no problems with the proposed licensing requirement.

Laurence Slama: Stand Foundation. She does not want S/N fees charged for feral and old cats.

Commissioner Khero made a motion that the Board (1) reinstate payment of compensatory spay/neuter fees or deposits for adoptions by New Hope Partners of animals on the New Hope Alert, excluding rabbits (to authorized New Hope rabbit rescues) effective July 7, 2008; and (2) adopt the remainder of the revised New Hope Policy and Procedure Manual, Partnership Agreement and Information Forms, and Reporting Requirements as described in the body of this report, to be effective as of July 7, 2008, and requiring all current organizations to complete new program paperwork by September 1, 2008, with the exception of following three issues to be considered individually: (1) New Hope adoptions of owner surrendered animals, (2) providing names and addresses for licensing purposes, and (3) adding new adopter name and contact information to microchip registration. Commissioner Riordan seconded the motion. The motion

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passed with a vote of 5-0.

New Hope Adoptions of Owner Surrendered Animals:

Commissioner Riordan made a motion that owner surrender animals be made available to New Hope groups on the day of impound. The motion was not seconded.

Commissioner Ponce made a motion that owner surrender animals be made available to New Hope Partners on the day of impound plus two days. Commissioner Khero seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 4-1.

Providing Addresses for Licensing Purposes:

Commissioner Ponce made a motion that New Hope Partners will provide dog license forms to new adopters of dogs who live in the City of Los Angeles and are required to report the name and mailing addresses of adopters of dogs who live in the City of Los Angeles to LAAS for licensing follow-up purposes; otherwise, for dogs whose owners do not reside in the City of Los Angeles, and for cat adopters, just the zip code of the adopter's residence. Commissioner Quincy seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 4-1.

Adding New Adopter Name and Contact Information to Microchip Registration:

Commissioner Ponce made a motion to require both the new adopter and the New Hope organization name and contact information to be listed on the microchip registration. Commissioner Khero seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 4-1.

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

None

The Board decided to hold the agenda item over to a future Commission Meeting

#### **5. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Rex Reginald: From Star Universe Productions. He is interested in promoting pet friendly rental housing. He proposed program which involves a waiver between a landlord and the tenant. Stated the Gary Michelson will put together a fund to indemnify pet friendly landlords. Already tried to start this program in San Francisco and would like to talk with the Department about bringing it to Los Angeles.

Phyllis Daugherty: Suggested that the Department should consider a temporary "Juvenile" license for dogs aged 2 months. The Department would then send out a rabies notice at 4 months and the licensee would then receive 14 months of licensing for the price of 12 months. She stated this is successful in other jurisdictions. She also stated rent control landlords will not be open to pet friendly rentals.

#### **6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None

#### **7. ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Riordan motioned for adjournment. Commissioner Quincey seconded the motion.

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Meeting adjourned with a vote of 5-0 at 5:36 pm.

**The Next Commission Meeting will be held at City Hall on Monday, July 14, 2008.**