



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

Monday, September 22, 2008  
10:00 AM  
Los Angeles City Hall  
200 N. Spring St., Rm. 1060  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

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

**ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL HEARING**

Meeting called to order at 10:10 AM. Present were Commissioners Brown, Quincey, and Riordan.

1. Appeal of the General Manager's Decision in Barking Dog Revocation Case - **BR08513WL**

Appellant: Daniel and Chantly Geoulla  
Complaining Witness: Michael Cianfrani  
District Manager, West Los Angeles Shelter, Louis Dedeaux, Captain  
Hearing Coordinator, Department of Animal Services, Ross Pool, Management Analyst

Commissioner Quincey made a motion to uphold the General Manager's decision and Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The motion failed with a 2-1 vote due to lack of a quorum. The General Manager's decision stands and the appeal will be heard again at the meeting on October 27, 2008.

**Determination: General Manager's Decision Upheld. Appeal to be heard again on October 27, 2008.**

2. Appeal of the General Manager's Decision in Dangerous Animal Case - **DA 08536 WV**

Appellant: Ruth Martin.  
Complaining Witness: Byron Wright  
District Manager, West Valley Shelter, Keith Kramer, Captain  
Hearing Coordinator, Department of Animal Services, Ross Pool, Management Analyst

Commissioner Quincey made a motion to amend the General Manager's decision and reinstate the dog's license with the condition that the dog be required to wear a muzzle or electronic collar when off of the owner's property. Commissioner Riordan seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 3-0.

**Determination: General Manager's Decision Reversed with Conditions.**

## COMMISSION MEETING

Commission President Brown called the Commission meeting to order at 10:55 AM. Commissioner Ponce joined the meeting at 11:12 AM.

### 1. PRESENTATION OF AN AWARD TO A STAFF MEMBER RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MOST ADOPTIONS IN AUGUST 2008.

Postponed until the October 14, 2008 meeting.

### 2. PRESENTATION BY THE ANIMAL CRUELTY TASK FORCE ON THE GROWTH AND PROGRESS OF THE FIGHT AGAINST ANIMAL CRUELTY.

Power Point presentation by Officer Gretchen Schultz and Officer Lynette Ramirez.

#### Public Comment:

Phyllis Daugherty- She commended the work of the ACTF. In terms of hoarding cases, she hoped that they are differentiating between mental health cases and obvious neglect.

### 3. ORAL REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

- Introduce Dr. Jeremy Prupas, new Chief Veterinarian. Dr. Prupas hit the ground running and has already visited each of the Centers and is working with his medical team. He also attended the September 15<sup>th</sup> Humane LA Public Workshop on Adoption Programs, along with Commissioners Brown and Quincy.
- After one year of bureaucratic challenges, the Department has successfully hired a new Volunteer Program Manager who will be starting in October.
- The Pet Care Foundation recently hosted the Roxbury Park adoption event with Joanne Worley on September 13<sup>th</sup>. The Foundation placed another full page ad in the LA Times featuring SLA and WLA animals up for adoption. The ad also prominently featured the spay/neuter ordinance that becomes enforceable October 1<sup>st</sup>.
- We are working diligently internally to make sure that the Department is well prepared to enforce the spay/neuter ordinance.
- Thanks to an ad-hoc Marketing Committee that has agreed to meet weekly for 2 hours each week until October 1<sup>st</sup> on marketing strategies to help get the word out about the new ordinance. The group has hired a PR firm to assist with media exposure and have created flyers in English, Spanish and Korean to be distributed throughout Los Angeles.
- With the help of Channel 35 and HSUS we have produced over a dozen radio and television Public Service Announcements (PSAs) to inform the public that spay/neuter is now the law and people need to comply. The Tony LaRussa PSA is now being played on dozens of movie screens at Mann Theaters during the previews. These PSAs have the potential to reach thousands of Angelinos every day.

- There is a Press Conference regarding the enforcement of the spay/neuter ordinance planned for October 2<sup>nd</sup> in Hollywood with the Mayor and celebrities, and we would like to invite the Commissioners to attend.
- We are working on an event called Spay Day LA on October 25 and 26, 2008. We are working with volunteers, veterinarians and organizations throughout the City on the event. The goal is to sterilize 300 animals over the 2-day weekend. Celebrities and KIIS-FM will attend the event and help to publicize it.
- First meeting of the S/N Committee, consisting of a representative from each Council District, in compliance with the new S/N law, will meet take place at the East Valley Center on September 22, 2008 at 6:30 p.m.
- LA Times' Blog LA Unleashed, now regularly features adoptable animals from all of the LA Animal Services Care Centers.
- The fee study, which the Commission approved in December 2007, has been released from the CAO's office and should be winding its way to City Council soon. Our budget was built on projections in that fee study and we are anxious to have it go before the City Council for approval.
- As an update on a report made to the Commission during the last meeting regarding the status of No Kill goal and where the Department stands. I stated that the Department was over 95% on its way to achieving Phase 1 of No-Kill. This is what our statistical reports showed. However, since making that report, different members of the public and some of our own volunteers came to me with specific allegations that some of our employees were evaluating non-aggressive dogs as aggressive so that they could be euthanized for aggression instead of for time/space. These allegations were investigated and, I am sorry to report, confirmed.

What we discovered is that beginning in 2008, our East Valley Center has experienced a 135% increase in the number of aggressive dogs euthanized compared to the same time last year. South LA reports over a 50% increase. This anomaly appears to be isolated to just these two locations. As a result of these findings, we have implemented a moratorium on euthanizing any aggressive dogs without the approval of AGM Davis, Captain Dedeaux, or myself. During this moratorium, we have identified additional cases that confirmed this practice. Another situation was brought to my attention over the weekend. We will continue to monitor this situation and keep you apprised of our steps to correct this practice so that we can all rely on the numbers that are being reported.

Commissioner Brown requested a report on the investigation into the behavioral assessment issue, as a matter of oversight.

#### **4. COMMISSION BUSINESS**

##### A. Approval of the Commission Meeting Minutes for August 11 & 25, 2008

Held over to the next meeting on October 14, 2008.

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

Commissioner Brown sat in on the Animal Cruelty Task Force meeting on the morning of August 28, 2008. He also attended the Humane LA Public Workshop on Adoption Programs at Councilmember Wesson's Field Office on September 15, 2008.

Commissioner Riordan attended the "Furball at the Skirball" fundraiser for Kitten Rescue.

Commissioner Quincy attended the Moorpark Mobile Adoption on September 21, 2008. He also attended the Humane LA Public Workshop on Adoption Programs at Councilmember Wesson's Field Office on September 15, 2008. In addition, Commissioner Quincy spoke with John Forland about licensing and canvassing.

Commissioner Ponce had nothing to report.

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

**A. Three-Year Agreements for the Operation of the East Valley and Northeast Valley Spay/Neuter Clinics; Modified Request for Proposals for the Operation of the North Central and West Valley Spay/Neuter Clinics**

AGM Barth offered a synopsis of the last Commission meeting at which the Board awarded contracts to Clinico for the S/N clinic at Harbor and to Value Vet for the S/N Clinic at West LA. As an interim, stop-gap measure to provide more services for the people of the City, the Board awarded Clinico a one-year contract at East Valley for the S/N Clinic, with up to 3 years of extension. Since this award differed from the RFP, the Department initiated conversations with the General Services Department which turned into lengthy meetings involving the Chief Legislative Analyst, the City Administrative Officer, the City Attorneys for LA Animal Services and General Services, General Services staff, and Councilmember Cardenas.

The City Attorney advised that since we did not receive any fully responsive proposals for East Valley, North Central, Northeast or West Valley and because there is an urgent need in the City, that the Department could make an award to the proposer that we did receive (Clinico). It would be legally defensible under the law because we had done an appropriate RFP process, but we had not received any proposals. We discussed with Clinico awarding to them a 3-year agreement with a 3-year extension that mirrored the Harbor and West LA agreements. Clinico also said they would be willing to move into the Northeast Valley on a 3 + 3 contract.

Therefore, the Department is asking the Board to direct Staff to transmit the proposed Agreements concurrently to the Office of the Mayor, and the Office of the City Attorney for approval as to form, and subsequently to the City Council, and authorize the General Manager of the Department of Animal Services to execute the subject Agreements upon receipt of necessary approvals; Direct Staff to modify the Request for Proposals (RFP) approved on August 25, 2008, to include only the operation of the Spay/Neuter Clinics at the West Valley and North Central Animal Care Centers, as described in the body of this Report, subject to review by the City Attorney as to form, and direct Staff to release the modified RFP.

Commissioner Riordan asked if Clinico had satisfied the Department that they can operate three clinics. AGM Barth stated that Clinico has already alerted the Department that they will have to have a "ramp up" program. Following approval of the contract, Clinico would move into Harbor, followed by East Valley a few months later and then Northeast Valley a few months after that. This is still faster than the Department doing another RFP process which would not be completed until April or May, 2009.

Commissioner Ponce asked that the Department offer an RFP workshop for the next RFP process. AGM Barth informed the Commission that the Department already offers such a workshop as part of the current RFP process and we will continue to make staff available. Commissioner Ponce also questioned whether Western University students could assist us with S/N. GM Boks told the Commission that the Department already has a program with Western University students, however having them assist in the clinics would not be feasible.

Commissioner Riordan would like to see about streamlining RFP paperwork for future proposals requests. She also expressed concern about the S/N clinic at North Central space issues. AGM Barth explained that a future RFP workshop for proposers will be held at North Central so that the proposers can view the space in advance and ask questions before going to bid so that we can all work together to see what accommodations can be made to make the space useable.

Commissioner Brown asked for further clarification on the 3 + 3 vs. the 5-year contract.

Commissioner Riordan asked that future S/N Clinic RFPs be written in clearer language and better address the Bond measure. Commissioner Brown asked AGM Barth if the contracts and RFPs had been reviewed for language and clarity by the City Attorney and she confirmed that they had.

#### Public Comment

Phyllis Daugherty- She expressed her support of the opening of the S/N clinics for 3 years. She also suggested that the clinic have evening hours and that the dogs and cats be separated in the waiting rooms for the clinic.

Commissioner Riordan made a motion to accept the Departments recommendation for three-year agreements for the operation of the East Valley and Northeast Valley Spay/Neuter clinics and modify the request for proposals for the operation of the North Central and West Valley Spay/Neuter clinics. Commissioner Quincey seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

#### **B. Requests for Recognition for Dog and Cat Registries and Associations, Second Round September**

The second round of recognition for dog and cat registries and associations was presented and asked to be approved. The Department received applications from five new registrations after sending out a second request for applications. Staff also received the follow-up information requested from the Board at the last Commission meeting regarding the American Rare Breed Association and the American Kennel Club.

Commissioner Riordan asked for clarification whether this is a permit and therefore does the Department have to investigate each group. AGM Barth clarified that this is not a permit, but a criteria under the S/N Ordinance. City Attorney Lessel stated that the Department is accepting on face value the information submitted in the application and that the Department has done their due diligence regarding the groups to make sure that there is nothing that they are aware of that speaks to the contrary. If future problems arise, the Department will investigate them and take appropriate action if it is warranted.

Commissioner Riordan said that some people are confused if a person seeking an exemption using one of these registries and/or associations would still have to pay for an intact license and permit. The City Attorney confirmed they would still have to pay the \$100 intact dog license and the \$100 breeder permit (if they also intend to breed the animal).

Public Comment

Phyllis Daugherty- She made a suggestion that the ACTF finds intact animals that are confirmed members of one of the approved registries, that they contact the registry and have the person removed and their intact dog license revoked.

Commissioner Ponce made a motion to approve the applications for the American Rare Breed Association, American Cat Fanciers Association, Inc, Continental Kennel Club, Australian Shepherd Club of America, the American Dog Breeders Association and Dog Registry of America, Inc. Commissioner Quincey seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

Commission took a break at 12:45 pm and the meeting resumed at 12:50 pm.

**6. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

A. Presentation of an Executive Preview of the Licensing Study

GM Boks explained that the Department would like to present a report on licensing that has been in the works for many months under the oversight of Senior Management Analyst II, John Forland. The report challenges some of the assumptions that we have been making in the City of Los Angeles and delves into the facts of what our challenges are in regards to licensing.

Power Point presentation on licensing, including history and recommendations, made by John Forland.

Public Comment

Phyllis Daugherty- Calgary conducts a dog census for disaster management purposes. She believes that Los Angeles should do the same. She fears that if we change our current fees, we could lose the \$100 intact dog license fee. She thinks ACOs should be licensing dogs during their downtime.

Commissioner Quincey commented that in the County, they do have a census, but they have gone door to door over a period of many years to obtain a count of dogs and licenses, but this is very time consuming and labor intensive.

**7. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Phyllis Daugherty- She is concerned that the "Adopt-a-Pet" ads infer that people can adopt an unaltered animal. She thinks the shelters are packed with aggressive animals that should be euthanized. She wants management to reconsider how they are managing the shelter population. She made a suggestion for a Wall of Recognition where people can buy tiles in memory of their animals and use the money for Spay/Neuter.

**8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Commissioner Riordan would like a report about the D300s issued to the public and how the Department is tracking them. She also would like a report on any complaints made against the SLA S/N Clinic.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Riordan made a motion to adjourn, Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4-0. Meeting ended at 1:50 pm

Next Commission Meeting is scheduled for 10:00 A.M., October 14, 2008, Los Angeles City Hall, 200 North Spring Street, Room 1060, Los Angeles, California 90012