

**GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT
TO THE
BOARD OF ANIMAL SERVICES COMMISSIONERS
FOR THE MONTH OF
FEBRUARY 2007**

At the meetings of February 12, 2007, and February 22, 2007, the General Manager or his designee provided the following updates, summary of activities, and information about events.

February Highlights: The Department continued to focus efforts on enhancing the programs and services offered to the public. Consultant Ms. Erika Meadows began conducting a full review of the Department's Volunteer Program, identifying areas of weakness needing attention, and making recommendations for improvement; negotiations moved forward with Western University to develop an intern program that would provide each shelter with three 4th-year veterinary students, working in 4-week rotations; the Amanda Foundation and Best Friend Cat Nippers agreed to provide additional spay/neuter services at North Central; and the Dog Walking Program was implemented at the shelters.

Announcements: Dr. Eric Jones, DVM will begin working for the Department at the South Los Angeles Spay and Neuter Clinic soon, even as early as the first week in March. The Department is also in negotiations to hire another veterinarian, and hopes to make an offer soon.

The Department had a positive preliminary Budget Hearing with the CAO. The Department will continue working with the CAO on identifying additional program needs.

With the help of Ms. Phyllis Daugherty and Actors and Others For Animals, the Department is working on changes to the Municipal Code to address loopholes in the transfer, transport, and selling of animals within the City.

The Baby Bottle Feeding Program is now under the leadership of Ms. Leslie Dorticos.

Assembly Bill 1634: the California Healthy Pets Bill has received the support from the Office of the Mayor, and we hope that the Bill gains the support of City Council and that it is ultimately passed by the State. The Bill requires mandatory spay/neuter of dogs and cats in California with the goal of eliminating euthanasia as a tool for controlling pet overpopulation. It also addresses the the \$120 million the state government has had to pay local agencies to fund the extra days of animal care required by the "Hayden Bill," which continues to grow annually at a rate of \$30 million. Combined with public awareness education and outreach and increased spay/neuter services, AB 1634 will help our agency and others to lower the euthanasia rates and decrease the number of animals in animal care centers.

Humane LA is a response to a mayoral call to action to all General Managers and City Department Heads to work together to coordinate and improve various service delivery points, with a focus on existing services and programs in the community. The first step in the citywide initiative would be putting together a task force made up of carefully selected representatives from over 20 different City Departments.

Department Events: The "Paw-fect Match" event of February 10-11 presented by the Rescue and Humane Alliance-Los Angeles in partnership with the Department and SALA (Shelter Animals of Los Angeles Foundation) was a huge success. The event drew great media attention over the weekend, and resulted in 322 adoptions, with only 14 animals returned to the shelters. The Department recently celebrated the National Puppy Spay Day in San Pedro on February 24, 2007. With a coordinated effort, 125 animals were successfully sterilized. On the morning of February 26, members of the media and the community were able to preview the new East Valley Animal Care and Control facility with Councilmember Tony Cardenas.