

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

At the meetings of March 12, 2007, and March 27, 2007, the General Manager or his designee provided the following updates, summary of activities, and information about events.

**Strategic Thinking for 2007**, the Department is focusing on three key issues facing the Department in respect to achieving No Kill.

Orphan Neonate Kittens: Of the 19,263 dogs and cats euthanized during the past year, 5,624 were orphan neonate kittens. With the Bottle Baby Program and the Spay/Neuter Program in place, the Department hopes to reduce the number of euthanized dogs and cats to 13,612.

Feral Cats: Cats represent 64% of the animals euthanized. Of the 12,279 cats that were euthanized during the past year, 35% or 2,329 were feral cats. If the Department could focus efforts on trapping, neutering, and returning these feral cats to responsible feral cat colonies, the number of cats euthanized could be reduced to around 11,000. The Department is reviewing the potential need for conducting an environmental impact study in regard to any official Department program adoption.

Pit Bulls and Pit Bull Mixes: Despite a 42% increase in pit bull and pit bull mix adoptions, and a nearly a 90% increase in New Hope Placements, pit bulls still account for 41% of all dogs euthanized. The key to reducing the rate at which pit bulls are euthanized is controlling the number of pit bulls that are bred in the community.

**Announcements**: The most prestigious award presented by the City of Los Angeles is the Civilian Career Service Award, presented to worthy recipients in five categories. Two of these Awards are going to LA Animal Services employees: Commander David Diliberto has been selected to receive the Acts of Heroism Award for his personal service above and beyond the duties and responsibilities of his job. Also, the staff of the West Valley Animal Care Center has been chosen to receive the Outstanding Teamwork Award in recognition of the professionalism and achievement in support of LA Animal Services' goals and objectives under the most difficult of circumstances, effectually working in a construction zone while the new addition was being built. The Awards presentation will be on held May 8<sup>th</sup> at 10am at City Hall.

On March 4, 2007, Voice for Animals recognized the Animal Cruelty Task Force, Dov Lesel, and Patty Shankhart for the role in protecting of the welfare of animals in Los

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Angeles. Additionally, Assemblyperson Lloyd Levine presented the Department with a certificate of recognition for their role in protecting the welfare of animals in the City.

The Animal Cruelty Task Force was also recognized for their commitment and service at the recent Genesis Awards held on March 24, 2007.

Since the Paw-fect Match Event held in February, only four animals have been euthanized for time and space. Currently, the No-kill moratorium is no longer in effect.

**Dog and Cat Statistics for 2007 Calendar Year to Date:** The Euthanasia rate has decreased by 29.6% when compared to March 2006. This shows a trend in reduced euthanasia in Los Angeles. By the end of last year, there was a 6.6% reduction in euthanasia rates overall. The goal of the Department is to reach an 11% reduction in euthanasia rates for dogs and cats in 2007. Achieving this goal will be a challenge for the Department with the arrival of the kitten season, when it is expected that the shelters could receive more than 1,000 neonate kittens per month.

**Department Events:** The Best Friends Adoption event held on March 18, 2007 was a huge success. All 93 animals from LAAS Animal Care Centers brought to the event were adopted. On Saturday, March 24, 2007, twenty pit bulls, which had been adopted from a shelter, and that have been training for three months, passed the exam for the Canine Good Citizenship Award at the North Central Animal Care Center.