

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

At the meetings of August 13, 2007, and August 27, 2007, the General Manager or his designee provided the following updates, summary of activities, and information about events.

**Announcements:** The partnership between the Department and the local television station KTLA has proven to be a successful one in promoting and encouraging shelter adoptions. Over the past two months, KTLA has filmed pet adoption segments and aired those segments every Friday as part of their morning news show. Through the efforts of staff member Kristi Navarro, KTLA field correspondent Brandon Williams, and others, 30 of the 35 animals featured on the news broadcasts have been adopted.

The Department's pilot transfer program, **Save a Life Transport**, has been directly responsible for saving the lives of 50 dogs since the program was first tried out on July 13, 2007. The dogs saved were taken from the New Hope Green Alert and Red Alert lists. These were animals that no one had adopted and that none of the New Hope partners were volunteering to take. There are over 20 different agencies throughout the state wanting to participate in this program. So far, the Department has been working closely with five of these agencies.

The Department is in the process of initiating their **Humane Animal Review Team Program (HART)** at North Central as our first location. Four care center team members already have been meeting daily to discuss, review, and evaluate euthanasia decisions, and the possible alternatives to euthanasia that might be feasible, for a selected group of animals each day. This program will become a tool at all of our animal care centers.

**Department Training:** The University of Missouri's Law Enforcement Training Institute conducted a 40-hour training course on national cruelty investigations for 30 participants: 19 Department employees, including all members of the Animal Cruelty Task Force, two LAPD Officers, and six LA County and Orange County Animal Control Officers.

Five Animal Care Technician Supervisors completed the American Humane Association's Shelter Operations School. The 16-hour school session was conducted in Pasadena.

The Department has begun its new Animal Control Officer Academy. Twenty Animal Control Officers will undergo the three-month training course.

The New Hope Program Coordinators recently received additional training in marketing and how to better promote animals in need.

**Department Personnel:** Captain Helen Brakemeier succeeded Captain Nancy Moriarty as the new Acting Director of Shelter Operations. Captain Moriarty will serve in Training or as one of the Center Managers. Captain Wendell Bowers succeeded Captain Karen Knipscheer as the new Acting Director of Field Operations. Captain Knipscheer will oversee Training or an animal care center, along with emergency planning.

The Department is working with the CAO and the Mayor's Office to re-establish the District Supervisor positions. The absence of these critical mid-level management positions, removed from the Budget a decade ago, has created a huge chasm of skill sets and salary levels between the frontline supervisors/managers and the executive team. This gap has contributed to many of the problems the Department has experienced over the years. With seven District Supervisor positions likely to be brought back, the Department will soon recruit for full-time appointment to the Director of Shelter Operations and the Director of Field Operations.

After completing a 32-hour management-training program, four employees were promoted to serve as Lieutenants. All six Animal Care Centers now have a Lieutenant to oversee their assigned Animal Control Officers.

A candidate, recently interviewed for a Department veterinarian position, was extended an offer, and the Department is awaiting a response. Currently, the Department has four veterinarians on staff.

**Final Dog and Cat Statistics for August 2007:** Dog and cat adoptions are up 8.75% compared to August 2006 (1,602 from 1,473). Dog adoptions are stable (949 from 948) and cat adoptions are up 24% (653 from 525).

New Hope Placements for dogs and cats are up, 11% (558 from 503). New Hope placements for dogs are up 21% (343 from 284), while stable for cats (215 from 219).

Dog and cat euthanasia in August 2007 is down nearly 29% (2,072) compared to August 2006 (2,912). Dog euthanasia is down 8.32% (804 from 877), while cat euthanasia is down 38% (1,268 from 2,035).

Of the 1,268 cats euthanized in August 2007, 29.5% (375) were orphaned neonate kittens. However, 375 represents a 61% decrease in orphaned neonate kitten euthanasia compared to August 2006 (981). Of the 804 dogs euthanized in August 2007, 34.5% (278) were pit bull/pit bull mixes. 278 represents a 22% decrease in pit bull/ pit bull mix euthanasia compared to August 2006 (356).

**Department Events:** On Tuesday, August 21, the Mayor awarded the Department with a commendation for being the highest volume pet adoption agency in the nation for 2007. On Sunday, August 26, the Department participated in the National Dog Day Adoption Event in Malibu, CA. Fifty animals were featured for this event held at Calimigos Ranch.