

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

At the meetings of June 11, 2007, and June 25, 2007, the General Manager or his designee provided the following updates, summary of activities, and information about events.

Announcements: The Department's push to reduce the kill rates in the City shelters involves a matrix of components, including increasing spay/neuter, finding new avenues to promote adoptions, working closely with rescuers, and maximizing the use of the kennel facilities to give animals more opportunities to be rescued or adopted. There are limits, both practical and medical, to retaining animals in the shelters for prolonged periods of time. While we look forward to making use of the expanded capacity offered by the new Animal Care Centers that will be opening this year, we understand that merely holding animals for longer periods of time is not a solution. The Department will continue to seek new outlets for adoption, and ways to increase the frequency and the number of opportunities to partner with retailers, community events, and members of the humane community to stage mobile adoptions.

The Department has been approached by the local television show *Pets on Parade* for a 30-minute segment to promote the adoption of the shelter animals.

The Department is working to revitalize an aggressive program with LAPD to prevent the unauthorized sale or relinquishing of puppies and kittens on the Venice Boardwalk.

The Department has been collaborating with a number of City departments to develop synergistic approaches to promoting adoption, spay/neuter, and other humane values throughout Los Angeles. In the coming months, the Department expects to announce a plan that reflects this work. The Program is called **Humane LA**.

Los Angeles Animal Services will soon be announcing a bold new program called, **Pit Bull Academy**. This program is designed to further help reduce the number of pit bulls dying in the City shelters by developing a training academy at the South Los Angeles Annex, in partnership with a non-profit organization.

Expanding spay/neuter remains a priority as a means of reducing the flow of homeless animals into our system over time. The Department is working with the City Attorney to respond promptly to the recent Alarcon/Cardenas/Hahn motion calling for a citywide mandatory spay/neuter ordinance. Additionally, AB 1634, the California Healthy Pets Bill authored by Assembly Member Lloyd Levine, recently passed in the State Assembly. The Department urges state senators to vote YES on AB 1634 as it moves into the legislature's upper house.

Two veterinarians accepted an offer from the Department. One has started working, and the other will begin working soon. Three interviews have been since been scheduled.

Assistant General Manager Deborah Knaan worked her last day for the Department on Friday, June 22. The recruiting process for a new AGM has begun. Several applications have already been received.

In May 2007, the Department successfully convinced the CAO's Office and the City Council to reinstate the **License Canvassing Program**, as ten License Canvasser positions were restored with funding. The Department is in the process of bolstering the program to be ready to be implemented by early July. Dramatic results in license compliance are expected.

The Seniors 4 Seniors Program finally made its way thru both the Public Safety Committee and the Finance Committee, and will now be reviewed by the City Attorney. The City Attorney will also review the **Best Buddies Program**, which has been approved by City Council.

In the Last 12 Months 18,108 dogs and cats were euthanized (June 1, 2006 through May 31, 2007). That represents a 7.2% decrease from the previous 12 months, in which 19,524 cats and dogs were killed. Earlier this year Los Angeles Animal Services broke through the 19,000 barrier for the number of animals killed in a twelve-month period for the first time ever. It is the hope of the Department to break through the 18,000 barrier in the very near future. Five years ago, over 35,000 dogs and cats were dying in the Los Angeles centers.

The 18,108 number represents 4.5 deaths per 1000 Los Angeles City residents per year. This means Los Angeles has decidedly broken through the somewhat arbitrary threshold of 5.0, a goal established of by some in the animal welfare movement many years ago to signify a theoretical "No Kill" point. New York City established a 2.5 kill rate during my tenure there and San Francisco has been recorded at 2.1. So clearly, the 5.0 threshold needs to be re-evaluated in light of the successes in these three cities and lingering concern over the actual numbers of kills the rates represent.

Of the total number of dogs and cats killed in the last 12 months, 64% were cats (11,567) and 36% were dogs (6,541). Of the 6,541 dogs, 39% (2,574) were pit bulls or pit bull mixes.

Of the 11,567 cats that were killed in the last 12 months, 43% were orphaned neonate kittens. This represents nearly one third (28%) of dogs and cats killed. 318 neonates were saved through our Baby Bottle Foster Program during this time, mostly in the month of May, and these numbers highlight the need for more spay/neuter programs and more foster care givers. Los Angeles Animal Services has recruited and trained 60 volunteer foster caregivers so far this kitten season.

Dog and Cat Statistics for 2007 Calendar Year to Date: The 2007 Year to Date comparison is a bit more encouraging. From January 1 to May 31, 2007, 21.5% fewer dogs and cats were killed compared to the same five months in 2006 (5,242 to 4,114).

Dogs killed Year to Date (1,908) decreased 17.6% compared to last year at this time (2,316). 787 or 34% were pit bull or pit bull mixes, despite a 24% decrease in the number of pit bull/mixes killed compared to this same period last year (1,038).

Cats killed year to date (2,926), this represents 24.6% fewer cats killed in the same time period in 2006 (2,206). 22% of the cats killed (328) were orphaned neonate kittens. 41.7% fewer neonates were killed (658) Year to Date compared to last year (1,229), thanks to our Bottle Baby Program.

Department Events: The Department recently partnered with Miller Toyota of Culver City to promote adoptions at the West Los Angeles shelter via cable television advertisements, and the dealership hosted a mobile adoption on Saturday, June 9. On Wednesday, June 20, the General Manager made a presentation to City Council on the goal of making Los Angeles the first major metropolis with a "No Kill" policy. The transcript of the presentation and the PowerPoint slideshow will be made available to view online. The Department, with In Defense of Animals, co-hosted an all-day "No Kill" seminar on June 30 to come up with ideas and programs to accelerate the progress in reducing the number of animals dying in the City shelters. Commissioner Atake participated in the program.