

BOARD OF
ANIMAL SERVICES
COMMISSIONERS

PAUL JOLLY
PRESIDENT

KATHLEEN RIORDAN
VICE PRESIDENT

HELEN ANN JOHNSON

City of Los Angeles

CALIFORNIA



JAMES K. HAHN
MAYOR

DEPARTMENT OF
ANIMAL SERVICES
419 South Spring Street
14th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90013
(213) 473-8253
FAX (213) 473-7511

E. JERRY GREENWALT
GENERAL MANAGER

Date of Commission Meeting: September 9, 2002

Date of Report: September 4, 2002

Report of the General Manager

E. Jerry Greenwalt

Subject: **GUARD DOGS**

3

Recommendation:

That the Board of Animal Services Commission recommend to the City Council, the following revisions to the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) regarding Guard Dogs.

Summary:

The current guard dog ordinance does not reflect the current recommendations of the Commission for shelter, food, water, and tethering of non-guard dogs. This recommended revision will bring the guard dog ordinance into agreement with the Commission's previously recommended ordinance changes for proper care for all dogs. In addition, it has come to the attention of the Department that there appears to be a "loophole" in the current ordinance which allows "guard dogs" to be licensed at \$50.00, whether altered or unaltered. The current pet overpopulation ordinance provides license fees for unaltered dogs to be \$100.00 and \$10.00 for altered dogs. The Pet Overpopulation Program (POP) officers have become aware of an increase in the number of dogs licensed as guard dogs, even though they may not be kept on commercial property. It is suspected that this is being done in an effort to avoid paying the \$100.00 license fee for unaltered dogs. The proposed revision would establish a guard dog license of \$150.00 for an unaltered dog and \$50.00 for an altered dog. Hopefully, this will also encourage spaying and neutering of guard dogs.

Proposed Changes:

LOS ANGELES MUNICIPAL CODE (LAMC) SECTION 53.66 - GUARD DOGS.

(Added by Ordinance No. 159,914, Effective 7/5/85.)

Purpose of Section – In order to safeguard the health and safety of the General Public from the danger of guard dogs used by industrial or commercial establishments and to insure the humane treatment of such guard dogs, it is the purpose of the City of Los Angeles in enacting this ordinance to make appropriate provisions for the regulation of guard dogs.

A. Definitions.

- (1) "Guard Dog" means any dog kept, used or maintained on any commercial or industrial premises or any dog kept, used or maintained on any industrial or commercial premises to guard, protect, patrol or defend any property or person other than a sentry dog licensed under Section 53.64 of this Code.
- (2) "Premises" means any industrial or commercial property, building, structure, business, firm, facility, or enterprise.

B. Required Signs and Information.

No person shall keep, use or maintain any guard dog on any premises governed by this section unless the premises are posted to warn of a guard dog on the premises. Said warning shall consist of a sign placed at each entrance and exit to the premises and in a position to be legible from the sidewalk or ground level adjacent to the sign. If the premise is not enclosed by a wall or fence, a sign shall be placed at every entrance and exit to each structure on the premises. Each sign shall measure at least 10" x 14" and shall contain block lettering on a white background stating "Warning Guard Dog on Duty". **In addition, the sign shall have a universal depiction of a silhouette of a dog with its mouth open and baring its teeth.** In addition, the sign shall set forth the name, address, and phone number of the person or persons to be notified during any hour of the day or night who will proceed immediately to the location to permit entry to the premises by any authorized representative of the Department. This section shall not apply to signs required by Section 53.33(b) governing sentry dogs.

C. Immunization.

- (1) No person shall keep, use or maintain any guard dog on any premises unless each dog has been vaccinated against rabies as required by Section 53.51 of this code and each dog has a current and valid certificate of rabies vaccination issued by a licensed veterinarian, nor shall any person keep, use or maintain any guard dog unless each dog has been immunized against distemper, hepatitis, leptospirosis, and parvovirus and each dog has a current and valid certificate of such immunization issued by a licensed veterinarian.
- (2) The current and valid certificate of rabies immunization and immunization against the common diseases required by Section C(1) must be issued by a licensed veterinarian and shall be kept on the premises and shown upon the request or demand of any authorized representative of the Department.

D. Veterinary Examination.

No person shall keep, use or maintain any guard dog on any premises unless each guard dog has a complete physical examination including blood, fecal, and urine analysis by a licensed veterinarian who shall certify each dog to be free of any infections or disease process. Such examination and certification for the health of each guard dog shall be renewed each calendar year. Every dog currently used as a guard dog shall be examined and certified for health, prior to January 1, 1986.

- (1) Any guard dog found not to be free of infections or disease process by the veterinarian shall be removed from the premises immediately.

- (2) A copy of the veterinarian's annual certification of health shall be kept on the premises and shown upon the request or demand of any authorized representative of the Department.
- (3) A copy of the veterinarian's annual certification of health shall be filed with the Department within 15 days of its issuance.
- (4) If an authorized representative of the Department has reasonable cause to believe that a guard dog is injured, sick, diseased, unwell, or malnourished or constitutes a danger to the public health and safety, said representative may order the guard dog to be removed from the premises until a new certification of health is issued by a licensed veterinarian. The Department representative shall be notified prior to returning the dog to the premises.

E. Tags.

Notwithstanding Section 53.21, no person shall keep, use or maintain any guard dog on any premises unless each guard dog has its license tag securely affixed to its collar, harness or other device.

F. Tether Requirements.

No person shall keep, use, or maintain any guard dog controlled by a rope, chain or similar material on any premises unless:

- (1) the tether length shall be at least 12 feet;
- (2) Any metal tether shall weigh no more than 5 lbs., be no more than 2-1/2 inches in circumference for each link, be no more than 1/2-inch outside diameter for any chain link or other similar tether, and all links shall be a smooth oval link;
- (3) Any rope type tether shall not exceed one-half inch in diameter;
- (4) The dog shall have a collar or non-choke type chain around its neck;
- (5) The tether shall be secured to the collar and attached to a swivel or similar device at the end opposite from the collar.

THE BELOW SECTION SHALL REPLACE THE ABOVE SECTION

F. Confinement Requirements. It shall be unlawful for any person to tether, fasten, chain, tie, restrain, or cause a dog to be fastened, chained, tied, or restrained, to houses, trees, fences, garages or other stationary objects, by means of a rope, chain, strap, or other physical restraint method, for the purpose of confinement on real property. "Confinement," for purposes of this section, shall mean the dog's physical restraint to real property for more time than it is necessary for the dog owner to complete a task which requires that the dog be temporarily physically restrained to real property. When confined to real property, the dog must be tethered by a non choke type collar or a body harness to a tether at least three times the body length of the dog, which allows the dog access to food, water, and shelter as described above, and be free from entanglement. This section shall not affect a person's ability to use appropriate electronic means of confinement.

G. Shelter Requirements.

No person shall keep, use, or maintain a guard dog on any premises unless each guard dog is provided full access to an enclosed building, dog house, or similar shelter. Said shelter shall:

- (1) Be constructed in a manner to assure protection of each dog from the elements (wind, rain, heat, cold);
- (2) Have a floor off the ground, free of cracks, depressions and rough areas where insects, rodents or eggs from internal parasites may lodge;
- (3) Be cleaned and maintained in a manner to insure the best possible sanitary condition; and
- (4) Be of adequate size to accommodate the number and size of dogs required to utilize the prescribed housing.

THE BELOW SECTION SHALL REPLACE THE ABOVE SECTION

G. Shelter Requirements. No person shall keep, use, or maintain a dog on any premises unless the dog is provided full access to an enclosed building, dog house, or similar shelter at all times. Said shelter shall:

- (1) Be five sided. Including a top, bottom, and three sides.
- (2) Have a floor raised off the ground, free of cracks, depressions and rough areas where insects, rodents or eggs from internal parasites may lodge. An effective program for the control of insects, ectoparasites, and other pests shall be established and maintained.
- (3) Be cleaned and maintained in a manner *designed* to insure the best possible sanitary conditions. Excreta shall be removed from the shelter as often as necessary, at least daily, to prevent contamination of the dog contained therein and to reduce disease hazards and odors. When a hosing or flushing method is used for cleaning, any dog contained in the enclosure shall be protected during the cleaning process. Rugs, blankets, or other bedding material shall be kept clean and dry.
- (4) Be of adequate size to allow the dog to stand up and turn about freely, stand easily, sit and lie in a comfortable normal position.
- (5) Have a floor constructed so as to protect the dog's feet and legs from injury.
- (6) Allow dogs kept outdoors to remain dry during rain.
- (7) Have sufficient clean bedding material or other means of protection from the weather elements provided when the ambient temperature falls below that temperature to which the dog is acclimated.

*more
maintain
conditions*

- (8) Provide sufficient shade to allow the dogs kept outdoors to protect themselves from the direct rays of the sun, when sunlight is likely to cause overheating or discomfort. Starting on the first day of June and ending on the last day of October, a shaded, heat-resistant area must be provided during daylight hours.
- (9) Contain a suitable means for the prompt elimination of excess liquid.
- (10) Be structurally sound and maintained in good repair to protect the dog from injury.
- (11) Have all open windows and doors covered by a flap, starting in the month of November and continuing until the end of May. This flap shall allow the dog easy access in and out of the shelter, but at the same time allowing the dog to retain body heat.
- (12) Be constructed and maintained so that the dog contained therein has convenient access to clean food and water.

H. Water Requirements.

No person shall keep, use, or maintain any guard dog on any premises unless each guard dog has access to water at all times, and:

- (1) If the water is kept in a container or pail, it must be kept in an area to prevent contamination and spillage and replaced with fresh water at least once each calendar day; or
- (2) If the water is provided by an automatic or demand device, the water supply to the device must be on 24 hours each day.

THE BELOW SECTION WILL REPLACE THE ABOVE SECTION

H. Water Requirements. No person shall keep, use, or maintain any dog on any premises unless the dog has access to clean and fresh water at all times. Clean potable water shall be available to the dog unless restricted for veterinary care, and:

- (1) If the water is kept in a container, this container shall be designed sufficient to prevent tipping and spilling of the water contained therein. If necessary to accomplish this, the container shall be secured to a solid structure or secured in the ground. Watering containers shall be kept clean and shall be sanitized at least once every two weeks; must be kept out of the sun and must be emptied and refilled with fresh water at least once each calendar day; or
- (2) If the water is provided by an automatic or demand device, the water supply connected to the device must function 24 hours a day.

I. Feeding Requirements.

No person shall keep, use, or maintain any guard dog on any premises unless each guard dog is provided sufficient food to maintain proper body weight and good general health. The food shall be kept in a suitable container and kept in an area to prevent contamination and spillage. Fresh food shall be placed in a clean container at least once each calendar day. Spoiled or contaminated food shall be disposed of in a proper manner.

THE BELOW SECTION SHALL REPLACE THE ABOVE SECTION

I. Feeding Requirements. No person shall keep, use, or maintain any dog on any premises unless the dog is provided sufficient food daily to maintain proper body weight and good general health.

(a) The dog shall be provided food which shall be free from contamination, wholesome, palatable, and of sufficient quantity and nutritive value to meet the normal daily requirements for the condition and size of the animal.

(b) Food receptacles shall be accessible to the dog and shall be located so as to minimize contamination by excreta and/or insects. Feeding pans shall be durable and kept clean. The food receptacles shall be sanitized at least once every two weeks. Disposable food receptacles may be used but must be discarded after each feeding. Self feeders may be used for the feeding of dry food, and they shall be sanitized regularly to prevent molding, deterioration or caking of feed. Spoiled or contaminated food shall be disposed of in a sanitary manner.

J. Licensing. (Added by Ordinance No. 164,747, Effective 5/21/89.)

No person shall own, keep, use, or maintain a guard dog unless the person has obtained a guard dog license and tag from the Department. The fee for each guard dog license and tag shall be **\$150.00 per year for an unaltered guard dog and \$50.00 per year for an altered guard dog.** Each license issued hereunder shall expire one (1) year from the date of its issuance and on the same day of each year thereafter. The license fee shall be paid annually to the Department and shall be due and payable on or before the expiration of the previous license. The payment of the annual guard dog license fee shall be in lieu of the dog license tax imposed by Section 53.15 and the dog license fee imposed by Section 53.15.3 of this article.

Fiscal Impact: These proposed changes will have minimal, if any, impact.

Board Action Required

Passed ✓ 3-0 *[Signature]* 9-9-02

Passed with noted modifications

Disapproved Tabled New Date

Empire

- 1) Carcassens
 - 2) License Data Base
 - 3) Offer first Report - Special Open
 - 4) Congrats from the Gov. Public & from
human
one.
 - 5) P.E. Program
- ~~A Page~~

No. shortage of citizens.

Guard Dog
Licenses 9-20-03

616 current
943 delinquent

1,559

Proposed Community Outreach Strategies For New Guard Dog Guidelines in the City of Los Angeles

The strategies listed below consist of three elements: selling the message through the media; selling the message directly to pet owners through neighborhood grassroots activities; and selling the message through paid advertising. Also listed are key points to define the campaign.

Media Utilization:

News Conference Capture the attention of the General and Hispanic media with a Program kick-off news conference to announce new Guard Dog Guidelines in the City of Los Angeles. Media attention garnered from a news conference can result in thousands of dollars of free print and broadcast publicity and is crucial in notifying all Los Angeles residents of the new Guard Dog Guidelines. Cost: \$0

City Channel / Channel 35 Use an in-depth news piece and Public Service Announcements on the City Channel to notify residents of the program. Cost: \$0

Local Cable access stations Use smaller, local cable access channels that are more eager to accommodate requests to provide information and capture geographic target audiences. Cost: \$0

Local Publications Use local publications, including local papers, newsletters and trade publications to disseminate information. Cost: \$0

Grass Roots Marketing:

Marketing Material A Bi-lingual Flyer should be utilized to notify guard dog owners that new guidelines are in place. This flyer will include the following:

1. Old Guidelines vs. New Guidelines;
 2. Legal Ramifications of non-compliance;
 3. Contact telephone numbers and Departmental website information.
- Cost: \$0.05/flyer

Information Dissemination Disseminate information through the following key material distribution points as well as venues:

1. Six City Shelters;
2. L.A. Animal Services Officers in field;
3. City Council Offices
4. City Libraries *CHAMBERS*
5. Neighborhood Councils
6. Civic and Community Groups & Venues
7. Pet-Related Businesses: Grooming Parlors, Pet Supply Stores, and Veterinarians.
8. Animal Welfare Groups and Rescue Organizations
9. L.A. Animal Services Pet Fairs

10. L.A. Animal Services Speaker's Bureau. The Speaker's Bureau provides outreach and school presentations for the Department as staff time allows.
11. Special outreach venues.

Advertising: Purchase Bilingual advertising quarterly to keep the message "fresh. A budget is required to pay for advertising.

Local Advertising This could consist of any of the following:

1. Advertising in local area papers. Cost: \$300/ad per publication (estimate)
2. Advertising on a local cable television access station. Cost: \$Unknown.

Citywide Advertising This could consist of advertising as follows:
(Cost: \$500 on up per advertisement)

1. L.A. Times and/or Daily News; and
2. Radio Advertising

Note: The amount of advertising purchased depends highly on budget allocated for advertising. The following advertising media can be utilized given the budget for them: televisions ads, bus posters, movie slides, radio traffic ads, etc.

Defining the Campaign:

- Give action-oriented specific messages.
Short, specific "do's and don'ts" are favored because they are unambiguous, can be implemented and point to tangible practices that can be adopted or changed.
- Emphasize personal responsibility and empowerment.
Messages that indicate an individual can make a difference are generally motivating and well received. This type of message is uplifting and diminishes the feeling of powerlessness.
- Build on safety concerns, especially for children.
The need to protect children by recognizing that licenses provide crucial rabies information should a dog bite occur can effectuate behavior change.
- Emphasize legal ramifications.
Messages that communicate the legal ramifications of non-compliance enhance personal responsibility. They are also strong motivators, especially when translated into budgetary ramifications.
- Make information easily available for those who want it.
Ease and convenience are key to getting people to change behavior. Those individuals who are interested in L.A. Animal Service programs and issues should be able to obtain information in an easily accessible manner.

Submitted by: Jackie David
Public Information Director, L.A. Animal Services

10. L.A. Animal Services Director's Bureau. The speaker's Bureau
in writing orders and general instructions for the Department as
well as other
11. Special instructions

Administrative Bureau. Bureau of animal control to keep the message "Real A Budget is
needed for a better

- Local Advertising. The county consists of one of the following:
- 1. Advertising in local newspapers (cost \$2000 per publication (estimate))
 - 2. Advertising on a local cable television system station (cost \$10000)
- (These figures are for advertising as follows)
- 1. L.A. Times and Daily News and
 - 2. K-Hi Advertising

Note the amount of advertising purchased depends largely on budget allocated for
advertising. The following advertising units can be ordered given the budget for them:
television and radio spots, newspaper ads, etc.

Reducing the Budget

- Give advertising greater priority
- Shift advertising to TV and radio, as limited budgets they are transparent, can be
monitored and paid in specific installments that can be adopted or changed.
- Limit advertising expenditures and generally negotiating and
limiting the type of message is shifting and changing the timing of
the advertising.
- Limit advertising expenditures by negotiating for license provide critical radio
information about a dog bite occur can otherwise be changed.
- Limit advertising expenditures by negotiating for license provide critical radio
information about a dog bite occur can otherwise be changed.
- Limit advertising expenditures by negotiating for license provide critical radio
information about a dog bite occur can otherwise be changed.
- Limit advertising expenditures by negotiating for license provide critical radio
information about a dog bite occur can otherwise be changed.

*Approved
TP program*

Submitted by: [Name]
Public Information Director: L.A. Animal Services