Mid-Year Report

Draft

Diversified activity in expanding areas of animal welfare and control in the City, marked the Department operation during the first half of the fiscal year, 1970-1971.

Progress and achievements are noted at mid-year in the following categories:

1. Expansion of District Animal Shelter facilities with the opening of the West Valley Animal Shelter in Chatsworth.

2. Implementation of Senate Bill No. 648 (spaying and neutering of cats) by City Ordinance.

3. Expansion of public low-cost anti-rabies vaccination clinics for dogs.

4. Increase in dog licenses issued.

5. Request for feasability study on Los Angeles based Federal Quarantine and Animal Care Center.

6. Total animals preocessed.

7. Continuance of wildlife conservation program through Animal Airlift.

8. Animal Rescue and control in times of emergency.

9. Public Relations.

DISTRICT ANIMAL SHELTER FACILITIES:

The new West Valley Animal Shelter was dedicated August 5, 1970 and placed in immediate operation. The Shelter, with a processing capability of 36,000 animals per year, is located at 20655 Plummer Street, Chatsworth, and is the sixth

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Shelter in the Department's facility network.

The West Valley Shelter is manned by __personnel, including a District Supervisor, ____Animal Control Officers and _____Kennelmen.

The Shelter, occupying 22,235 square feet on a 3.3 acre plot, services 11 San Fernando Valley communities west of the San Diego Freeway, with a combined population of approximately 453,700. The Shelter services an area of 122 square miles, bounded on the east by the San Diego Freeway; south, Mulholland Drive; and west and north, the County Line.

Valley communities (11) east of the San Diego Freeway, are serviced by the East Valley Animal Shelter, which, previous to the opening of the West Valley Shelter, carried the full animal control work-load in the entire Valley.

SENATE BILL NO. 648:

A State Senate Bill (No. 648), introduced by Senator _____Nejedly, became a State Law November 23, 1970, and in essence, prohibited the Los Angeles City Department of Animal Regulation (or any other State governmental animal control agency or humane society) from selling or giving away cats under six months of age that had not been neutered or spayed.

The legislation placed a temporary embargo on cat sales from the standpoint of this Department.

To make possible the resumption of cat sales in conformance to the provisions of State Law, re: neutering and spaying, the creation of a Veterinary Medical Trust Fund, administered by the City, was necessary to process spaying and neutering deposit fees of cat purchasers.

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An ordinance establishing the Trust Fund, passed by the City Council, was signed by Mayor Yorty December 16, 1970.

Construction work on a City-owned and and operated Spaying and Neutering Clinic at the Ann Street Animal Shelter, 215 W. Ann Street, was begun in November, 1970. Completion of the pilot facility is expected by February 1, 1971.

In the meantime, spaying and neutering procedures are handled by private veterinarians, recompensed through the City Trust Fund.

PUBLIC LOW-COST ANTI-RABIES VACCINATION CLINICS FOR DOGS:

Public demand for service at public low-cost anti-rabies vaccination clinics prompted program expansion.

The usual August clinic, in operation since 1955, was supplemented with a November clinic. (These two programs had been preceeded in 1970 with a February clinic).

In August and November, 18,665 dogs were vaccinated against rabies at 31 clinics conducted by at public parks and recreation centers.

The clinics are supervised by the Department of Animal Regulation in cooperation with the Southern California Veterinary Medical Association and the Los Angeles County Health Department.

Although Los Angeles is considered a rabies endemic area, because of rabies in some wildlife, the City (and County) enjoys a clean bill of health regarding domestic animals.

In 1971, the escalated public low-cost ($2 per dog) anti-rabies vaccination program will be conducted city-wide in February, May, August and November.

ISSUANCE OF DOG LICENSES:

Dog licenses and applications issued during the six months of 1970, July 1--December 31, totaled _____. Constrasted to a similar period in 1969 when _____licenses and applications were issued, the 1970 figure represents an increase for the six months period of ____% .

A total of 7333 licenses was issued at the anti-rabies clinics in August and November. House to house canvassing of dog owners, and the mail-in license application program was continued.

The 1970-71 dog license tag represented an innovation in City dog identification. The tag is cast as a trim miniature replica of Los Angeles City Hall in hard anodized red aluminum. Color of the tag will be changed each year.

FEDERAL QUARANTINE FACILITY AND ANIMAL CARE CENTER:

Need for a Federal Quarantine and Animal Care Center, based in the City, was strongly defined by the Department General Manager to Federal, State and Local governmental officials.

In communications to the proper authorities at the various governmental levels, the General Manager cited a massive flow of animal traffic (import and export) at Los Angeles International Airport.

Documented figures show that 16,472,971 animals, including exotic fish, birds and reptiles, were imported (at the Airport, alone) in 1969. There is no present facility existent for holding and caring of transient animals at the Airport, or any other port of entry to the City.

The welfare of animals and the health of humans,

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related to animal association, is a prime responsibility of the City Department of Animal Regulation. To properly discharge this responsibility, the Department requested a feasability study from the Federal Government on the practicability of a locally based Quarantine ~~xxx~~ Facility and Animal Care Center.

Request for the study was strongly endorsed by the State Legislature, County Board of Supervisors, Mayor Sam Yorty and the Los Angeles City Council.

Federal action on the request is pending.

CITY ANIMALS PROCESSED:

A total of _____animals was processed by the Department July 1-December 31, 1970. This figure represents a ___% increase in animals handled as compared with a similar period in 1969.

(Add breakdown figures on animals processed in this category as necessary)

ANIMAL AIRLIFT:

During the ~~xxx~~ six months period, July 1-December 31, 1970, a total of _____wild animals, humanely trapped in the City, was relocated in Angeles National Forest by helicopter. Weekly cargos included raccoons, ~~xxx~~ opossums, foxes, predatory birds and non-poisonous reptiles.

The program, launched in September, 1969, is dedicated to wildlife conservation. Since its inception, the Animal Airlift has relocated _____specimens of wildlife.

The program has attracted widespread attention in other cities.

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ANIMAL RESCUE:

Department personnel ~~assisted~~ supervised the control and rescue of 250-300 animals in the September, 1970 Chatsworth fire disaster.

Among rescued animals transported to the West Valley Animal Shelter were 28 horses, 40 dogs, 10 cats, 26 head of livestock and assorted smaller animals and fowl. Several hundred horses were convoyed out of danger areas to places of safety.

Personnel from the six Department Animal Shelters were involved during various stages of the three-day fire.

PUBLIC RELATIONS:

The major Public Relations effort constantly is directed toward the instruction of the public on the needs of animal control and the social importance of animal welfare.

In special projects relative to this period report, Department Public Relations accented the positive role of the Animal Control Officer as a community asset; the many facets of the animal bite problem in the City; the importance of the public low-cost anti-rabies vaccination clinics for dogs; the dog licensing program; and the availability of pets at District Animal Shelters.

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