MINUTES OF COMMISSION

JANUARY 1990

TO

~~DECEMBER 1990~~

DECEMBER 1991

MINUTES

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

BOARD OF ANIMAL REGULATION

Monday, December 16, 1991

1:00 p.m.

The Board of Animal Regulation Commissioners convened in regular session on Monday, December 16, 1991, in Room 1200, 419 South Spring Street, Los Angeles, California 90013.

Members Present: President Huntington and Commissioners Ehrlich, Hoisch, Robins and Velasco.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The Minutes of November 18, 1991 were unanimously approved. (Commissioner Velasco was not present at time of vote.)

Consideration of Update on Activities of Productivity Commission - George Parks, Vice President

Commissioner Parks, Productivity Commission, spoke before the Board regarding role of the Productivity Commission. The Productivity Commission is a pro-active group which is three years old. This concept of productivity in the municipality is a growing virus. The Productivity Commission is dividing members to cover each Department in City government and they are looking at every move of every City employee to see how productive they are. The Commission is meeting with every member of Council staff to let them know they are serious about Department being productive. One area they are presently looking at is Council Offices. They are reviewing how a complaint received by a Council Office is followed up by a respective Department and the follow-through of Departments handling Council complaints. They are looking at Council Files to reduce the number Council Complaints where City Departments can follow up. Commissioner Parks suggested that City Departments cooperate with one another to avoid unnecessary delay, and paperwork, and duplication of efforts. He asked that they think of better, cheaper, more expeditious ways to do things.

Commissioner Ehrlich asked Robert Andrade, CAO liaison to the Productivity Commission, for written material and information regarding the goals and policies and directives of the Productivity Commission. Commissioner Velasco asked Commissioner Parks if he had looked at the Department to know where the Department is not productive. He asked that the Productivity Commission report directly to the Board of Animal Regulation and not to the Department regarding any areas the Department may not be productive. Commissioner Parks indicated the Commission is looking at the City Computer regarding Council Complaints and where they are made and who is handling it. President Huntington thanked Commissioner Parks for coming to speak before the Board of Animal Regulation.

Consideration of Barking Dog and Dangerous Animal Ordinances

Linda Gordon, Management Analyst, advised the Board that the Department sent a response to a letter from E. Ronald Zipper regarding a protest of Administrative Hearing Case Number 91082NC. Mrs. Gordon asked the Board if they wished the same response from the Department be sent on behalf of the Board. The Board indicated that the Department's response would also be appropriate for the Board.

Commissioner Hoisch inquired about a second animal of dog owner being penalized because first dog's license is revoked. She feels that when one dog in a family may have a license revoked, that the other dogs should not be unjustly penalized. President Huntington asked the Department to write a procedure which would exempt a second dog from automatically having its license revoked because another dog owned by same owner has had its license revoked. He asked the Department look into this and report back to the Board.

Consideration of Task Force Committee Report

Linda Gordon, Management Analyst advised the Board she made revisions to the Administrative Hearing Guide flyer as requested at the meeting of December 2, 1991.

Consideration of Department of Animal Regulation Budget

Elza A. Lee, Assistant General Manager, discussed the status of the 1991-92 Budget and 1992-93 Proposed Budget. She indicated that the Department is $390,000+ short in the Salaries Account for 1991-92. The Department is preparing and reviewing all fees and analyzing the Department's costs to provide certain services for 1992-93. President Huntington asked if the Department had heard about employees staying home one day a month beginning in July. Ms. Lee indicated if that happens, the Department would have to gear down to emergency services. The Department is down to bare bone minimum now.

The Department has been asked by the CAO what positions can be left vacant for next year. Ms. Lee indicated that 13 positions would be affected, some taken from Administration and others from the Spay and Neuter Clinics. Commissioner Velasco stated he talked to a head person in L.A. County about the Spay and Neuter Program and was informed that they are self-supporting. President Huntington asked that the Department look into the County's secret. Commissioner Velasco indicated that the Veterinarians should do surgery and field work. There should be one Veterinarian at each shelter who also provides surgical skills, if they are not doing sick and injured animals. The Chief Veterinarian can also assist. He asked that the Department look at the County's self-supporting Spay and Neuter program.

Consideration of Volunteer Staffing at Shelters

Ms. Lee indicated that instructions have been given to Administrative staff doing background work for volunteer staffing at the shelters. She discussed a proposed application form to be used for consideration of hiring volunteers. President Huntington indicated that district shelters are not public relations oriented and not geared to solicit volunteers. We may need another approach. Commissioner Velasco indicated that high school students work four hours a day for high school credit. Ms. Lee advised the Board that the City and Department have student workers, retirement workers, and youth services academy workers who are hired to help part time.

Commissioner Ehrlich asked Ms. Lee if the Department was going to use Public Service Announcements regarding Volunteer needs. Elza Lee indicated at present the District Supervisors are going to look for volunteers. Commissioner Ehrlich suggested use of News Release rather than use of Public Services Announcements.

Consideration of Canine Voucher Program - Status Report

Elza Lee advised the Board that out of the 4,000 free vouchers to be distributed for spaying and neutering, only 400 remain undistributed in the hands of humane organizations. The intent of the program is to sterilize as many pets as possible within the City. She stated it is important that all representatives from the various organizations understand this program should be for residents in the City of Los Angeles only. The last day for surgery is March 31, 1992.

STATUS REPORT ON NEWS ITEMS

Dyer Huston, Public Relations Specialist II, gave a status report on news items.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

February 3, 1992
ATTEST

L. D. Huntzinger
PRESIDENT

Giselle Hauser
COMMISSION SECRETARY

MINUTES

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

BOARD OF ANIMAL REGULATION

Monday, December 2, 1991

1:00 p.m.

The Board of Animal Regulation Commissioners convened in regular session on Monday, December 2, 1991, in Room 1200, 419 South Spring Street, Los Angeles, California 90013.

Members Present: President Huntington and Commissioners Ehrlich, Hoisch and Velasco.

Members Absent: Commissioner Robins.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The Minutes of November 4, 1991 were unanimously approved (Commissioner Robins was absent).

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Consideration of Barking Dog and Dangerous Animal Ordinances
There was no report on this item.

Consideration of Department of Animal Regulation Budget

The General Manager indicated that this fiscal year the Department will be short of money due to attrition rate being lower than anticipated. On July 1, 1992, we will lose 13 positions. The Department has given a list of those positions to the CAO that would be eliminated. This list is not locked in and could change. Currently staffing for the Department is 195 positions. We now have authority for 201 positions. President Huntington asked the General Manager if we could get another reduction in July. Mr. Rush replied we could if necessary. The news is doom and gloom. Commissioner Hoisch asked if the Department would contract for spaying and neutering when the City's Spay and Neuter Clinics are gone. Mr. Rush indicated we would try to.

Commissioner Velasco asked the General Manager if the Veterinarians would be reassigned when the Spay and Neuter Clinics go. The General Manager indicated the Department will be left with two Veterinarians and one Chief Veterinarian. President Huntington asked about the feasibility of privatizing spay and neuter clinics and asked for an internal feasibility study to determine the feasibility of privatizing the spay and neuter clinics.

The General Manager advised the Board that the Department may lose the South Central Animal Care and Control Center because it is a hazard. If Council does not fund replacement, it could close. The Department has been cited for it being a hazard. Use of a temporary facility would be much too costly. The General Manager indicated our priorities have to change drastically. It will take the City much longer to get things done because of the impact of reduced budgets throughout City service.

Consideration of Breeders License

The General Manager discussed letter dated December 2, 1991 to the Board regarding Dog or Cat Breeders License - Status Report. One of the proposals stated in the letter is to request the Municipal Court Bail Review Committee for permission to make the Breeders License under Section 53.15.2(A) and (d), a citable offense with appropriate fine and penalty assessment. In other words, the Department is requesting authorization to cite persons for offering dogs or cats for sale if such person does not have a valid Animal Breeders License issued by the Department. Also mentioned in the letter was the proposal that humane organizations or individuals volunteer to contact by telephone those persons advertising so that a Notice To Secure Breeders License can be mailed. Without volunteers to provide support and service in this phase of the program, the program will not reach the desire level of compliance. Much has been said about how important it is to enforce the Breeders License. The Department does not disagree with this position, but given the restricted resources, the Department cannot sanction the utilization of scarce resources for programs in lower work priorities, particular when the Department has a 27 percent vacancy factor in the class of Animal Control Officer. Mr. Rush advised the Board that he would bring the Board information regarding the moratorium on the Breeders License at a later time.

Commissioner Hoisch asked the General Manager about use of Dr. Bell's interns being used as volunteers. Mr. Rush indicated those volunteers would work mostly in the district offices. Commissioner Ehrlich asked where information is posted regarding Breeders License. The General Manager indicated advertisements are run in the classified section where dogs and cats are for sale. Ad rates would cost about $10,000 per year to be placed in the L.A. time, Daily News, and Santa Monica Outlet.

President Huntington asked what the Department's follow up recommendation is on this issue. Mr. Rush indicated he has to follow up with the moratorium recommendations. President Huntington asked if the Department is going forward with Proposal No. 1 of the letter. The General Manager said, "yes," and that the moratorium material will be given to the Board by the beginning of January.

Consideration of Volunteer Staffing at Shelters

Mr. Rush advised the Board that volunteer applications are being put together now and that the forms regarding rules and regulations are also being put together. Commissioner Ehrlich asked that the Board see these forms when they are complete.

Consideration of Task Force Committee Report

Linda Gordon, Management Analyst, distributed the revised Administrative Hearing Guide to the Board. She indicated that this brochure reflects the changes that the Commission wanted to see. Some of the areas discussed by the Board were: "Discovery" section; "May Participants be Represented by Legal Counsel?" section; "Are Interpreters Provided at the Hearing"; and "Can Hearings be Withdrawn." President Huntington asked Linda Gordon if it is permissible to have someone represent them. Linda said, "no." She indicated that for the Department or City to allow someone, other than an attorney, to represent them would be against the law. President Huntington brought up a hypothetical case whereby an elderly woman shows up for an administrative hearing and wants a humane organization to represent her. He stated the Department needs a policy that would address this type of situation. Commission Ehrlich asked about the possibility of interpreters giving advise. Linda Gordon indicated that interpreters take an oath. Under the "Discovery" section of the brochure, there was confusion regarding the following question: What types of Evidence Will be Considered by the Hearing Examiner? After further discussion the Board decided to change the answer from: The Hearing Examiner will receive any evidence that is relevant. The Types of evidence that are commonly accepted include: To: The types of 'HERESAY" evidence that are commonly accepted include: President Huntington asked if the Department has ever dismissed cases. Linda Gordon said, "yes, about 30 percent." Commission Ehrlich asked about the length of hearings and can the hearings be cut shorter. The General Manager indicated that the Department is now meeting with Districts and the City Attorney regarding this.

Commissioner Hoisch made a Motion as follows: "To accept the report as corrected." Commissioner Velasco seconded the Motion. (Unanimous approval; Commissioner Robins was absent.)

Lois Newman spoke before the Board regarding Administrative Hearing Guide. She felt the brochure is far more restrictive than our civil courts and the City could be open to a suit by someone. She said the Hearing Examiners should take courses given by the Court.

Sharon Gregg, Animal Alliance, spoke before the Board asking about her suggestion about complainant putting up a deposit. President Huntington advised her it is at the preliminary level, and he has not forgotten about it.

Lynne Exe, Mercy Crusade, spoke before the Board regarding a hypothetical question: i.e., if someone came into your house and the dog attacked that person, would the Department have the dog removed. Linda Gordon indicated that trespassing would certainly be considered. Ms. Exe spoke regarding budget reductions and the cost involved for the Department to take an injured animal to a private veterinarian.

Consideration of Feral Cats

Elza Lee, Assistant General Manager, spoke before the Board regarding Feral Cat Committee meeting held on November 22, 1991 at North Central Animal Care and Control Center. Mrs. Lee discussed Minutes from that meeting. The next meeting will be held on December 6, 1991.

Consideration of Voucher Program - Status Report

The General Manager advised the Board that the Program is not complete as yet and he will give an update at the next Commission meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Lois Newman indicated that she has a low cost spay and neuter clinic list of 10 clinics all over the City. They do both dogs and cats for less than what the City can do.

Sharon Gregg, Animal Alliance, spoke before the Board and asked that the Board address the following issues for future agendas: owner relinquishes pets; breeding fines; uping price of breeders fee; breeders license; and animals that are injured must be taken to veterinarians.

STATUS REPORT ON NEWS ITEMS

Dyer Huston, Public Relations Specialist II, spoke before the Board regarding status report on news items.

The General Manager presented St. Francis of Assisi Award Certificate to Susan Bernstein for Award Year 1989. He indicated that she was absent during the awards, and that the Mayor and Department wished her to have it.

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

January 21, 1992
ATTEST

PRESIDENT

COMMISSION SECRETARY

a:12-2-91

MINUTES

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

BOARD OF ANIMAL REGULATION

Monday, November 18, 1991

1:26 p.m.

The Board of Animal Regulation Commissioners convened in regular session on Monday, November 18, 1991, in Room 1200, 419 South Spring Street, Los Angeles, California 90013.

Members Present: President Huntington and Commissioners Robins, and Velasco.

Members Absent: Commissioners Ehrilich and Hoisch.

Approval of Minutes: The Minutes of October 21, 1991 were unanimously approved.

Unfinished Business:

Consideration of Barking Dog and Dangerous Animal Ordinances
There was no comment on this item.

Consideration of Department of Animal Regulation Budget
The General Manager indicated the Department would be submitting its budget request today, November 18, 1991. He advised the Commission that according to the City Administrative Officer's report, the City's budget is "off" $57.2 million. The significance results in a "hard freeze" in hiring and the return of all requests for filling positions to the Finance Committee for reconsideration, according to Mr. Rush. He further stated the Council and Mayor have a public policy not to layoff City employees. The procedure of City departments is the reduction of staff through attrition, according to Mr. Rush.

President Huntington then asked, "How many people have we lost since July." Mr. Rush stated the Department has lost seven, which equates to about 10% in a year. However, the target was thirteen, according to Mr. Rush. Mr. Rush explained to the Commission the impact that budget reductions pose on emergency field operations. With two field officers in a district and four to five emergency calls a day, Mr. Rush said the last called received could not be handled in less than four to five hours. Possibly resulting in the death of a sick or injured animal.

Consideration of Expending Monies from the Animal Welfare Trust Fund to Finance Purchase of Storage Containers Required for Storage of Emergency Disaster Supplies for Animals in Six Animal Care and Control Centers.

Senior Animal Control Officer II Fred Michaels gave an overview of the contents of a typical emergency storage container. The Commission received the specifications of these containers prior to this meeting. Officer Michaels and the General Manager explained to the Commission the Department's responsibilities in the event of an actual emergency. Commissioner Robins moved, seconded my Commissioner Velasco to support the purchase of the emergency containers from the Animal Welfare Trust Fund in the amount of $15,326 plus tax. The motion was carried by unanimous approval.

Consideration of Internship Program:

Nobody was available to speak on this item. However, President Huntington requested a status report on this item for the next meeting. President Huntington also asked about the status of the Breeders Moratorium Committee. Mr. Rush told President Huntington the Committee has not yet met. Regarding volunteer staffing, President Huntington told Mr. Rush that the Feral Cat Committee is in need of volunteers for public schools.

Consideration of Microchip Program

Mr. Rush stated that the City Attorney is currently working on the ordinance for this program. He also stated that the City Council adopted the proposal to provide for the implantation of the microchips into dogs and cats in the City. He also said that City Council expanded the program so that the Department could provide implementation for any animal owner in the City who so requests. Mr. Rush told President Huntington that the City is prohibited from making money with this program. The City Council also said that the monies received from the redemption fees will be placed in the general fund. Mr. Rush stated that the difficulty with this program being budgeted through the general fund is that it decreases the Department's budget for next year by 10%. Mr. Rush stated that the media and other agencies have expressed their support for the program. Mr. Rush stated the target date is February, 1992. Mr. Rush stated that no company has been pre-selected for this program.

Consideration of Task Force Committee Report

There was no comment on this item.

Consideration of Feral Cats

Assistant General Manager Elza Lee updated the Commission on the initial Feral Cat meeting held on November 8, 1991. She stated the Committees goals at the initial meeting were to define a feral cat, address the problems of feral cats, discuss the best way to trap a cat, discuss the proposed school program, review all City ordinances and assign tasks.

President Huntington distributed and discussed the "Time Line" chart for the Feral Cat Committee. Commissioner Robins commended the members of the Committee for their efforts. Elza Lee stated that meetings are held every Friday until further notice.

Public Comments

Sharon Gregg of Animal Alliance asked the Commission about a status report on the Breeders License Program. President Huntington told her that the Department would be providing this report at the next Commission meeting. Mr. Rush told the Commission that he thought the Breeders License Program is going to be addressed through the moratorium on breeders.

Joyce Piper of Mercy Crusade expressed her concurrence with Sharon Gregg's concern.

Louis Newman commented on the voucher program. Her feeling was that it is "totally inadequate for dogs." President Huntington asked Ms. Newman to submit a written proposal to address her concerns.

Joan Peck of Neighborhood Animal Group asked if there was anything on the voucher form that says "one per customer." Mr. Rush said that there is nothing on the form which states this. He also said it is a judgment decision to be made by the humane organizations. President Huntington asked that Ms. Peck channel her concerns to the Department in writing.

Status Report on News Items

Dyer Huston, Senior Public Relations Representative, gave a status report on news items.

The meeting adjourned at 2:16 p.m.

January 6, 1992
ATTEST

PRESIDENT

ACTING COMMISSION SECRETARY

11-18-91

MINUTES

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

BOARD OF ANIMAL REGULATION

Monday, November 4, 1991

1:30 p.m.

The Board of Animal Regulation Commissioners convened in regular session on Monday, November 4, 1991, in Room 1200, 419 South Spring Street, Los Angeles, California 90013.

Members Present: President Huntington and Commissioners Ehrlich, Hoisch, and Robins.

Members Absent: Commissioner Velasco.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The Minutes of October 7, 1991 were approved as amended. (Unanimous approval, Commissioner Velasaco was absent.)

BARKING DOG AND DANGEROUS ANIMAL ORDINANCES

Linda Gordon, Management Analyst, advised the Board there would be two appeal cases heard on November 18, 1991.

President Huntington indicated he has received several letters regarding several issues that were not addressed by the Task Force Committee. One of the issues is the amount of time the administrative hearings take once they meet. He asked why some meetings take three to five hours. The General Manager indicated everyone is given an opportunity to speak, and that the Department is looking at the area of stipulation. President Huntington said we must put a time limit on the cases. The Board and Department discussed ways to possibly reduce these meetings. Some of the recommendations made was to limit the time a complainant, dog owner and witness speak. Commissioner Hoisch indicated she had mixed feelings about limiting the time because some citizens have never attended an administrative hearing and it is a time to release emotions. Placing a time limitation on administrative hearings could make it more difficult and may not be giving proper service to the public.

President Huntington stated with a four-hour administrative hearing, you have a tremendous written report. President Huntington asked Linda Gordon to come back to the next Commission Meeting with a time limit on this process. Commissioner Robins asked Linda Gordon to review former administrative hearings to see how many took five hours, and to get an average of how long administrative hearings usually take.

Consideration of Task Force Committee Report

Linda Gordon, Management Analyst, indicated the Administrative Hearing Guide is being revised, which will be discussed with the Board at the next Commission meeting.

Consideration of Department of Animal Regulation Budget

The General Manager asked that the Budget Committee of the Board meet at the end of the Commission meeting.

Consideration of Microchip Program

The General Manager indicated that this item will be before City Council on November 8, 1991. He asked that President Huntington also attend the meeting. The Board and General Manager discussed the Public Safety Committee's concerns and action on this item.

Consideration of Feral Cats

President Huntington advised the Board that the Committee was to meet on this subject at North Central Animal Care and Control at 1:30 on Friday, November 8.

Consideration of Electronic Bark Collar

Sharon Gregg, Animal Alliance, spoke against the use of electronic bark collars. She questioned its safety. She indicated that Gerry Gerstell, a licensed animal trainer, will be writing a letter to the Board regarding his stance on the electronic collar.

Lynn Exe, Mercy Crusade, spoke against the use of the electronic bark collars. She stated that she had viewed a tape from Fred McNabb, where a dog died after use of the electronic collar. Research is needed to show the collar is humane, and then standards should be established.

Lois Newman spoke before the Board regarding two types of collars: one which gives a shock and the other which emits noise. She suggested use of the collar that emits noise, which is much safer.

Michael Chill, Animal Services, 8503 Washington Boulevard, Culver City, California 90232, spoke before the Board against use of the electronic bark collar. He indicated it acts as a distraction and heightens an animal's aggression. The animal makes the wrong decisions and becomes more aggressive.

Joan Peck spoke before the Board against use of the electronic bark collar. She indicated she tested the collar and it hurts, and she wouldn't use it on anything.

Consideration of Internship Program

The General Manager advised the Board that the Department was visited recently by members of the Productivity Improvement Award Committee. He was told that the Department might be restricted to one Award only. The General Manager stated he was most disappointed with limitation of one award for the Department, and that he would take this matter up with Dan McGowan, City Administrative Office.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sharon Gregg, Animal Alliance, advised the Board that she has located three animal trainers to carry out training programs in the East Valley, Harbor, West Los Angeles and West Valley Animal Care and Control Centers in regards to terms and conditions of the Barking Dog and Dangerous Animal Ordinances. Ms. Gregg also asked the Board to reconsider public comments from three minutes each person to three minutes for each topic. She also made comments regarding the Department's choice of trainer for North Central.

Jeff Drescher spoke before the Board about an administrative hearing held regarding his dog. He was concerned about the outcome of the meeting. He felt the hearing officer's mind was already made up and felt his civil rights were violated. President Huntington advised him he has the right to an appeal if he is not satisfied with the Department's recommendations. The General manager assured Mr. Drescher that the Department would contact the District Supervisor involved to make sure his dog is not destroyed. The Assistant General Manager assisted Mr. Drescher and informed him of his rights and what procedure to follow regarding his dog.

Lynn Exe, Mercy Crusade, spoke before the Board regarding due process; dogs being held in shelters for months and months; the length of administrative hearings; owners of dogs not being allowed to give their whole story, and the complainant given more time. She said the Barking Dog and Dangerous Animal Ordinances are good, but the implementation of the Ordinance is terrible. The Task Force did not deal with it. The issue is civil rights, not whether or not an animal did or didn't bite.

Joan Peck spoke before the Board regarding cat trapping and asked that an article she brought in from L.A. Times entitled "To the Rescue" be distributed to the Board. This article is regarding a stray cat rescuer named Barbara Szul.

Lois Newman spoke before the Board regarding Barbara Szul. She indicated that Mr. Rush wrote a letter to Ms. Szul and told her to cease and desist her activities in Los Angeles. In reference to the Administrative Hearing process, Ms. Newman indicated she would like to see a humane organization being allowed to represent the dog if a defendant wishes--it would be strictly voluntary. She said she would be willing to do this.

STATUS REPORT ON NEW ITEMS

Dyer Huston, Public Relations Specialist II, gave a status report on news items.

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

January 6, 1992
ATTEST

PRESIDENT

COMMISSION SECRETARY

a:11-4-91

MINUTES

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

BOARD OF ANIMAL REGULATION

Monday, October 21, 1991

1:00 p.m.

The Board of Animal Regulation Commissioners convened in regular session on Monday, October 21, 1991, in Room 1200, 419 South Spring Street, Los Angeles, California 90013.

Members Present: President Huntington and Commissioners Ehrlich, Hoisch, Robins and Velasco.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Consideration of Department of Animal Regulation Budget

The General Manager indicated he met with the Budget Committee at the North Central Animal Care and Control Center regarding alternate budget proposals to be discussed with the CAO. He stated after verbal discussions with CAO staff to see that we are in agreement, our proposal will be submitted to Keith Comrie, City Administrative Officer. Mr. Rush indicated he will again meet with the Budget Committee and give the Board a status report before the next regular Commission meeting.

Consideration of Microchip Program

Mr. Rush advised the Board that he and President Huntington, representatives from the SCVMA, as well as representatives from out of State attended the Public Safety Committee to discuss the Microchip Program. However, because the Public Safety Committee had to go into closed session, the Microchip item was continued until the following Monday, October 28, 1991. They were unable to give a demonstration and discuss the Microchip Program in any detail. President Huntington indicated that the meeting was not a friendly one, and he asked other Commissioners, as well as, anyone in the audience to who wished to support this program to attend the next Public Safety Committee on October 28.

Consideration of Barking Dog and Dangerous Animal Ordinances
Linda Gordon, Management Analyst, advised the Board that there would be two appeal cases heard on November 18, 1991.

Commissioner Robins inquired about news release dated October 15, 1991 regarding the City offering a new dog training program for residents. She asked if other trainers were bidding for the pilot program. She indicated she had a problem with other dog trainers not bidding for the program. Some of the other items discussed by the Board regarding this subject were: starting an RFP procedure and having classes at all shelters; cost of seminars being too high; by having dogs trained only by Matthew Margolis' National Institute of Dog Training it could imply that the Margolis course is considered the official training course; the problem of one person being affiliated with the Department; consideration of training of dogs being done for free by trainers; and that the press release should have come before the Board before being released. The General Manager indicated the Board brought up this subject of having a dog trainer at the shelters at a previous Board meeting and he had asked Mike Burns to secure a trainer for a "pilot program." He stated this is only a pilot program, which may or may not be successful. This is not the official training program.

Sharon Gregg, Animal Alliance, spoke before the Board opposing the Department using the Matthew Margolis's National Institute of Dog Training as a pilot program aimed at helping new dog owners and owners of dogs with problems.

Consideration of Internship Program - Breeders License
The Board and Department discussed legislation that restricts indiscriminate breeding through permit systems, licenses, breeding moratoriums, fines and/or low-cost spay and neuter programs. The General Manager indicated there is a need and necessity for a moratorium on a Citywide basis against breeding of dogs and cats in the City of Los Angeles. Also discussed were: having a public hearing on this to obtain input and direction; the administrative process for controlling this moratorium; how to advertise this program; public education; and expanding the Breeders License. President Huntington asked the General Manager for a write up on a proposal for a Breeders License. The General Manager suggested a Committee of Commissioner Hoisch, himself, and Meyer Levine to work on this proposal.

The meeting recessed at 2:05 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 2:22 p.m.

Volunteer Staffing at Shelters

Per President Huntington's request, copies of notes for the General Manager's talk for the RACO Dinner on October 19, 1991 on the Queen Mary were distributed to the Board. President Huntington highlighted points made in the speech as follows:

The General Manager called for a revision to the way the volunteers interface with the Department and the volunteer program. Basically it calls for a Department Volunteer Coordinator to help recruit and develop responsibilities. A Volunteer Coordinator will be assigned to each Division and district Animal Care and Control Center. By 1993, we will need to have volunteers in place to visit the various schools, both public and private, not to mention care centers for humans, to assist in Humane Education efforts. Volunteers will be needed to help groom impounded animals on site to facilitate placement of pets. Community Volunteers are needed now in our free spay/neuter voucher distribution system which starts in November. We will also need volunteers to help conduct dog training classes in all Animal Care and Control Centers that we are starting at the North Central District. We should provide assistance about the equestrians with the use of volunteers in the field. On December 28, 1991 will initiate our first free all day equestrian training clinic with the volunteer help of the California Horsemen's Association. We will need volunteers to staff the projected South Central Animal Care and Control Center's Pet Food and Pet Products sales room. Volunteers will also be required to direct and present a new television show on the City View Channel 35, which could fall under the masthead of "Angels For Animals." We now have a fund raising organization called "Angels for Animals" which is going to do great things for the Department and the animals. They are established and are now putting into play fund raising efforts.

President Huntington indicated that we need volunteers with Feral Cat experience to help provide their expertise to the Shelters. A group has been set up, and President Huntington will Chair that group.

Consideration of Task Force Committee Report

Linda Gordon, Management Analyst, advised the Board about a Symposium to be given at the UCLA School of Law on November 1, 1991 regarding contemporary issues in administrative adjudication. She distributed brochures to the Board regarding this.

Commissioner Huntington advised the Board that he has received a lot of telephone calls from people from the West Los Angeles and Valley area regarding their concern about Feral Cats. He talked to the General Manager about this. President Huntington stated there is a lack of information at the shelters about Feral Cats, and there is a significant difference in their definition at the shelters. He stated he was in Granada Hills and the Feral Cats look like house cats. He suggested there should be a group of volunteers to give some expertise and eliminate the number of Feral Cats put down.

He promised to get expertise in the shelters which would result in volunteer people coming together to help eliminate a significant number of cats put down.

Commission Hoisch inquired about groups being contacted to see if Feral Cats can be domesticated. President Huntington stated no one is interested in trying to domesticate these cats. He stated the program of Feral Cats is to spay and neuter them and return them to the community through a group in the program. Commission Hoisch asked if the groups have the time and energy and desire to modify behavior. She thought we would spay and neuter the cats and let them live their life out. The General Manager stated that the program is to move the Feral Cats to responsible private organizations. The Department can hold the cats for 72 hours. He stated the private organizations can make sure the cats are socialized and immunized. The Department can provide medicine and assistance with those organizations that would participate in the program. President Huntington stated there is a group who will go to WLA on Tuesday and sit and talk and see how an alliance can be brought to bear. Hopefully we can have some impact. The General Manager indicated the Department handles 20 to 30 Feral Cats a day. Commissioner Velasco indicated he would offer his help if needed and educate the people.

President Huntington also indicated that several cities are not adopting black cats during the Halloween season. The General Manager indicated it depends on who desires and wants to adopt a cat. Commissioner Hoisch indicted she was told that the SPCA and County are not adopting Black Cats. Commissioner Robins indicated it would be a good idea for the Los Angeles Department of Animal Regulation to follow other shelters. The General Manager indicated that staff would take extra precautions for people adopting black cats.

Commissioner Robins recommended the General Manager make a policy for one week not to allow black cats to be adopted. The General Manager stated he would consider the Commission's advice and guidance. However, if a good home is offered, the Department will give a cat up.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Lynn Exe, Mercy Crusade, spoke before the Board regarding dog trainers. She recommended courses given by dog trainers should charge $15 and that they include some who cannot afford to pay for dog training. She indicated that Mercy Crusade would be against any dog trainers who use or subscribe to electronic dog collars.

Sharon Gregg, Animal Alliance, spoke before the Board regarding proposed moratorium on dog and cat breeders. She recommended amendments to the existing breeders license when the moratorium ends. Ms. Gregg distributed to the Board a Proposal to Amend the Existing Breeders Ordinance. She also recommended that black cats not be released from the shelters for one week, during the Halloween holiday.

Joyce Pieper distributed a Resolution regarding breeding of dogs and cats, and gave an update on legislation.

STATUS REPORT ON NEWS ITEMS

Dyer Huston, Public Relations Specialist II, gave a status report on news items.

The meeting adjourned at 3:07 p.m.

December 2, 1991

ATTEST

E. O. Huntington

PRESIDENT

Giselle Hauser

COMMISSION SECRETARY

a:LO-2L-9L

MINUTES

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

BOARD OF ANIMAL REGULATION

Monday, October 7, 1991

1:30 p.m.

The Board of Animal Regulation Commissioners convened in regular session on Monday, October 7, 1991, in Room 1400, 419 South Spring Street, Los Angeles, California 90013.

Members Present: President Huntington and Commissioners Ehrlich, Hoisch, and Velasco.

Member Absent: Commissioner Robins.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The Minutes of September 3, 1991 and September 16, 1991 were unanimously approved. (Commissioner Robins was absent.)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Consideration of Volunteer Services to Animals - State Charter Changes

President Huntington asked Pat Bercel, VSA President, to tell the Board about the new VSA organization. Ms. Bercel stated she didn't know why President Huntington called VSA the new VSA organization. She stated they do the same thing today as they did 19 years ago. President Huntington indicated VSA has a new Charter and Articles of Incorporation. Allan Goodman, Attorney, spoke to the Board indicating when he was approached by his client, Pat Bercel, with an audit that was requested by the Department, he noticed that the organization's articles had not been touched since 1973 when they were enacted and that in the intervening 17 or 18 years, there had been adopted a major change in non-profit corporation law, under which VSA operates. He recommended to VSA that it modify its articles so that it would comply with the new statute. This was within the last year. He took what he thought was a modest step and suggested that his client, VSA, modernize their articles, and that is what his client did.

Mr. Goodman referred to Article III of the "Restated Articles of Incorporation" (A403555 filed in the Office of the Secretary of State of the State of California dated May 29, 1991). Article II - Nonprofit Corporation Law reads: "This corporation elects to be governed by all of the provisions of the California Nonprofit Corporation Law effective January 1, 1980, not otherwise applicable to it under Part 5 thereof." He said, "to say that there is a change is correct, but to say that this change is material or not, I say the change is not material." He stated if the Board had any questions regarding the change, he would be pleased to respond.

President Huntington asked Mr. Goodman why the Articles of Incorporation was changed from "Articles of Incorporation of Volunteer Services to Animals for the City of Los Angeles Department of Animal Regultion" to "Restated Articles of Incorporation". Mr. Goodman indicated that the former name is a little bit long and complicated. President Huntington stated there appears to be a change in mission. The original November 9 1973 Articles of Incorporation "purposes for which VSA corporation was formed" included working with the City shelters to raise funds required to finance special needs and requirements of the Department of Animal Regulation, not provided for through regular budgetary funding by the City of Los Angeles and to assist the Department of Animal Regulation in promoting the Spay and Neuter Program. President Huntington indicated it appears most of that has been eliminated in the new articles. Mr. Goodman indicated what was substituted for the original Article II (b) is Article II B.2. which reads "to do any other act or thing and engage in and carry on any other activity in any manner connected with or incidental to, or calculated to promote, assist, aid or accomplish any of the aforesaid purposes." He stated in modernizing the articles, the modern trend is to shorten the statement of purpose. President Huntington indicated it was shortened to the extent to delete any reference to an association with the City of Los Angeles Department of Animal Regulation. Mr. Goodman stated it is not expressly stated, but it is not prohibited. He referenced a letter dated January 8, 1991 to Allan J. Goodman, Esq. from James M. Cordi, Supervising Deputy Attorney General regarding Volunteer Services to Animals proposed Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation.
President Huntington asked the Board be provided a copy of said letter.

President Huntington asked the General Manager if the new modification to VSA's Articles of Incorporation had been reviewed by the City Attorney. The General Manager said, "no," that they had no knowledge of it.

The General Manager indicated there had not been any Bylaw changes over the years, and that he never approved any Bylaw changes to the VSA Organization. He stated in the original written By-Laws the City had extended exclusive control over the title "VSA" and it was also described that the City could draw on support from the organization's cause and the Department would be advised of any By-Law changes in the VSA Organization's structure. The Department was not notified of any changes in the Articles of Incorporation that were proposed and submitted. When the Department received the new Articles from the Secretary of State, we were then advised that they were already enacted and had become a matter after the fact.

Commissioner Hoisch asked Pat Bercel whether or not VSA in the past had fulfilled all of the general purposes. Ms. Bercel said, "yes." She stated that VSA has never refused any request from the General Manager for any item directly related to the animals in our City animal shelters. Commissioner Hoisch asked Ms. Bercel, "how do you see these changes as changing the day-to-day operations." Ms. Bercel indicated VSA's dedication has always been to the animals in our City animal shelters--their welfare, their health, and their treatment. She said, "VSA wanted to obtain items in the archives before they were removed on September 30, 1991 to show the Commission what went on before VSA was formed and why VSA was formed--because of the atrocities and the horrible things that went on. VSA was formed as a watchdog group to see that these things did not go on. Where our purpose has since gone on to--we've raised funds for the Department--cat cages, I can't think of how many other things. We've a whole pile of thank you notes from the General Manager. Also, recently our Vice-President sent a letter to him asking what would he like from us. He does not respond to our letters." Commissioner Hoisch, asked Ms. Bercel if she sees any substantive changes in the day-to-day operations of VSA. Ms. Bercel said, "no." She indicated they are still trying to help people with their lost pets and they are still trying to promote shelter animals. That's why we are there because of our care and concern for shelter animals.

Commissioner Ehrlich asked Ms. Bercel if her understanding is correct that VSA's relationship with the City would be ended, and that they would then anticipate providing their services to any and all jurisdictions that they feel need help, other than the City of Los Angeles. Ms. Bercel said, "no." Commissioner Ehrlich stated she is trying to understand the purpose of VSA. She asked if the relationship between VSA and the City comes to an end, and VSA is an independent body, would VSA then anticipate providing the services they provide to the City to other jurisdictions (i.e., Culver City, etc.)? Ms. Bercel stated VSA would not because their volunteers are basically dedicated to the shelters in which they work.

President Huntington asked Ms. Bercel if it was correct that there is nothing in the new Bylaws that prohibits VSA from doing the same thing they do in Los Angeles for Burbank, or Culver City, or somewhere else. Ms. Bercel said, "we have no desire to, but I guess not. None of us lives in Burbank, and remember the size of Los Angeles City. Volunteers are not going to travel 50 miles to do this kind of work in another shelter. They are dedicated to the shelter that is closest to them. Why would a volunteer travel 50 miles to do this kind of work. It's hard enough traveling 5 or 10 miles to do the kind of work we do. We are working at the bottom of the barrel."

President Huntington asked Ms. Bercel what her organizational structure is. Article VI indicates there are nine directors and no members. Ms. Bercel said, "this is a better way to run an organization. Once you have members and you need a vote of the members, you have to get over 50 percent of the membership vote." President Huntington stated he didn't understand why they just have 9 directors. He asked Ms. Bercel what are your volunteers. Ms. Bercel said, "exactly that, volunteers." President Huntington asked Ms. Bercel what the relationship of the volunteers is to VSA. If there is no membership, what are they? Mr. Goodman indicated it is common that volunteers have no membership to an organization. He used the example of belonging to several of the museums in Exhibition Park. He said, "you are a contributor, you are not a member of a museum. You may contribute money you make, or volunteer your time once or twice a year. So you have an affiliation based on your own interest and purposes of that organization, in this case people care a great about dogs and cats."

If indeed volunteers have the freedom to volunteer their time to many different organizations including the Department of Animal Regulation, President Huntington asked Mr. Goodman whether or not there would be a conflict of interest for VSA members to act as volunteers to the Department of Animal Regulation. Ms. Bercel said, "VSA volunteers are dedicated to the aims and purposes of the dedication to pound animals. That's why they are working in the shelters doing what they do." President Huntington asked Ms. Bercel, if there were no VSA workers in the shelters, would they still be dedicated to the shelters? Ms. Bercel said, "if there were no VSA workers in the shelters, then they could not do what they are doing." President Huntington said, "they could volunteer at the shelter." Ms. Bercel said, "look our volunteers are all free, white, and 21; they can volunteer wherever they want to." President Huntington said, "white." Ms. Bercel said, "forgive me, forgive me." President Huntington said, "I just couldn't pass it up, no problem." Ms. Bercel said, "forgive me, please."

Commissioner Ehrlich inquired about the legality regarding VSA's new title and VSA's previous title which was formerly connected to the City of Los Angeles. She asked if VSA is no longer connected to the City of Los Angeles in title, would VSA and the City then become separate entities which would require some kind of contract between VSA and the City of Los Angeles. She stated that when VSA had a title that included the City of Los Angeles, she assumed there was a legal connection of some sort. Since the VSA organization is no longer connected in title with the City of Los Angeles, would the legal connection change, and would they require some kind of contract. Commissioner Ehrlich asked if the City could be sued due to allegations by the public against a current VSA member. The General Manager said, "up until May 29, 1991, the Department had legal responsibility for the conduct of volunteers in our facilities--that means the volunteers associated with VSA, City of Los Angeles, Department of Animal Regulation. When VSA became a different organization, under the Articles of Incorporation, I could not assume that responsibility, because I have no jurisdiction over the organization at all."

President Huntington asked the General Manager if he had been specifically relieved of responsibility by the City Attorney. He said, "we had a relationship with VSA, and he does not understand why we keep saying if they become independent, because VSA is now independent. Mr. Goodman stated they were always independent. They were always a California non-profit organization. He indicated it does not matter what the name of the organization is, and he asked to see in writing from the City Attorney a statement that effective with the amendment of these articles, it ceases to have any responsibility, or any liability. He stated in one sense that is better for the department. It may not be so good for the volunteers, but it would be better for the department. President Huntington asked Commissioner Ehrlich if, in effect, her question is: Is the City and the General Manager still liable for VSA as a volunteer. Commissioner Ehrlich said, "yes" and if they are going to work there as a whole, is it going to be done as a contract with them. Commissioner Huntington asked the General Manager if it is possible to give VSA volunteers a waiver. The General Manager indicated it is not possible to do that. Pat Bercel indicated there are at least two shelters that require signatures in waiving rights. She couldn't say which shelters did this. Mr. Rush indicated he was not aware of this. Mr. Rush indicated that under the old VSA Articles of Incorporation it is his understanding that the City is liable for VSA workers.

Commissioner Hoisch commented about the invaluable help the VSA organization has given to the City. She stated the legal questions should be given to the City Attorney to be worked out. What VSA does is something than cannot be replaced by our staff. She said it is very important that we work out these changes.

President Huntington brought up the question: Is it fair for VSA to have exclusive entre to the shelters, or should the shelters be open to any volunteer group in the City. He stated if it is open to VSA, and if there are any other volunteer groups in the City, then we have an obligation to provide access, either on an hourly basis, or per shelter basis. He stated, he didn't think there should be limitation to any one group. He thought the Department could be open to a lawsuit. Ms. Bercel asked President Huntington if he thought there was any other organization that had the background, knowledge, the know how, or the dedication to do all that VSA does. President Huntington stated he didn't know, but if another group wants to come into a shelter as a volunteer, I don't think we can turn them down.

Mr. Goodman asked the General Manager if he could turn them down before the City had its own volunteer group. He said nothing has changed with the Bylaws of VSA. President Huntington asked the Board if they felt that nothing had changed and that VSA was the exactly the same before the Articles of Incorporation were changed --that it is exactly the same organization with the same responsibilities to the City. The Board felt there was some change. Mr. Goodman stated if the Board is concerned with the words, periods, and commas, there is a change. However the substance of the VSA organization has not changed. Mr. Goodman said, "You, I think, are making more out of what was done in an effort to modernize the organization's Articles, not its Bylaws, than deserves.

President Huntington asked with the words "City of Los Angeles Department of Animal Regulation taken out of the Articles of Incorporation, what precludes any other animal volunteer from petitioning to come into the shelter.

President Huntington made the following two-part Motion and Commissioner Hoisch seconded the Motion:

A. "That the General Manager be directed to petition the City Attorney for answers concerning the status of VSA and the City's liability to VSA under VSA's new State Charter Articles of Incorporation; and

B. Based on the above answer, is it necessary to enter into contractual agreement with VSA or its individual olunteers?"

Sharon Gregg spoke before the Board regarding VSA and indicated that it would be good to open up shelters to other volunteers and groups, and that VSA should be welcomed in the shelters.

Carol Ellis spoke on behalf of the VSA organization.

Cathy Singleton, Actors and Others, spoke on behalf of the VSA organization.

Lois Newman spoke on behalf of the VSA organization.

Commissioner Velasco spoke on behalf of the VSA organization.

After further discussion by the Board and Department, the Motion was unanimously approved. (Commissioner Robins was absent.)

Consideration of Department of Animal Regulation Budget

The General Manager discussed his concern about the $370,000 deficit he anticipates towards the end of the fiscal year. President Huntington asked the General Manager what would happen if we do not obtain the money needed. The General Manager indicated there would possibly be a modification in the Department's programs, or there could be layoffs. Mr. Rush stated the Department will be fully funded until around mid-May. The Department has had no substantial turnover to offset the deficit. He mentioned that the West Los Angeles Center has a Clerk Typist vacancy. The Department has asked for an exemption from hiring, however, the CAO has indicated because of insufficient money, the Department can pull another Clerk Typist from another area in the Department, or just not fill the position. The General Manager indicated the Department needs help. If there are any further reductions it is possible it will be necessary to reduce the hours shelters are open. We have minimum staffing of Animal Care Technicians, as well as Clerk Typists. We are at a point of no return, which takes its toll in the service levels. He suggested the Budget Committee meet to discuss this matter.

Consideration of Feral Cats

President Huntington indicated he had received several complaints regarding West Los Angeles Animal Care and Control because WLA indicated they had no cats available which were located in the front of the shelter. Also WLA indicated it is their policy not to release Feral cats. The General Manager indicated it depends on who and at what facility a cat is adopted from. The Feral cat must be socialized before it can be released. He stated he would speak to legal counsel and find out about the liability of cats that are Feral.

President Huntington stated he had visited what were considered "wild cats" which appeared to be ok. The General Manager said he would review this issue. Commissioner Velasco indicated the issue of Feral cats is a fine line. There should be more than one person who determines whether or not a cat is feral. Possibly a veterinarian should also be used to determine if a cat is feral. He stated he can give a cat a tranquilizer and in one or two days, the cat calms down. The General Manager stated he would check with field Veterinarians and see if that would work out. Mr. Rush stated it is important that a facility has the ability to care for Feral cats. Commissioner Velasco indicated Feral cats that go out of the shelters should be spayed and neutered by the Department.

Consideration of Barking Dog and Dangerous Animal Ordinances

Linda Gordon, Management Analyst, indicated there would be one Appeal case for the next Commission meeting.

Consideration of Task Force Committee Report:

Administrative Hearing Training Program

Linda Gordon, Management Analyst, indicated that Dr. Foraker Smith would be conducting a training program regarding Administrative Hearings, Rules of Evidence, and Conflict of Interest classes. A video tape of the training will also be made for future use. Dr. Foraker Smith asked Linda Gordon to invited the Board to attend the Communication Seminar and Conflict Resolution classes.

President Huntington brought up issue of electronic bark collars. He stated he is not at all happy with these collars being included in the "terms and conditions". Commissioner Hoisch questioned why this issue was being addressed now, when the Commission had already taken a position on it.

Lynn Exe, Mercy Crusade, spoke before the Board regarding the electronic bark collars. She indicated that Mercy Crusade is against the use of the electronic collar and asked that this issue be placed on the next agenda. She also indicated that the administrative hearings process take too long. Ms. Exe stated Mercy Crusade is concerned about the budget reduction problems and that they would like to see the humane community come together and do something to help the animals.

President Huntington commended Mr. Rush on the speech he gave a in Washington D.C. on September 20, 1991 regarding "Animals and Municipal Funding Programs." Mr. Rush indicated the presentation was a favorable one, and that there was not a better program in the United States better than the City of Los Angeles.

Consideration of Microchip Program

The General Manager advised the Board that the Public Safety Committee would meet on October 21 regarding the Microchip Program. He stated that notices were sent to all the principal manufacturers. He advised the Board that the CAO stated they would not argue against application of the Microchip Program, but that they want the money to be given to the General Fund. Commissioner Hoisch asked Mr. Rush if the trust fund for microchips would be used only for microchips. Mr. Rush indicated those funds must not be co-mingled with another fund. The General Manager asked that the Commission also attend the Public Safety Committee meeting on October 21.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Sharon Gregg spoke before the Board regarding the Breeders Ordinance and demanded the Department put in a breeding control program ordinance.

The meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

December 2, 1991
ATTEST

E. C. Huntington
PRESIDENT

Giselle Haupt
COMMISSION SECRETARY

a:10-7-91

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

BOARD OF ANIMAL REGULATION

Monday, September 16, 1991

1:00 p.m.

The Board of Animal Regulation Commissioners convened in regular session on Monday, September 16, 1991, in Room 1400, 419 South Spring Street, Los Angeles, California 90013.

Members Present: President Huntington and Commissioners Ehrlich, Hoisch, Huntington, Robins and Velasco.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The Minutes of August 19, 1991 were unanimously approved. (Commissioner Ehrlich abstained.)

President Huntington introduced Commissioner Norma Ehrlich who was confirmed by Council on September 13, 1991. He asked if she would like to say a few words. Commissioner Ehrlich stated, "I am looking forward to working with you and the business of the Department, and will probably be making constructive decisions and judgments." President Huntington stated, "we are a hard working Commission and I am sure you will enjoy your tenure."

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Consideration of Barking Dog and Dangerous Animal Ordinances

President Huntington indicated he received a complaint by an animal owner regarding the conduct of administrative hearing meetings. He stated on-going training needs to be given top priority. The General Manager advised the Board the Department is in process of running statistics for each District Shelter meeting area where administrative hearings are conducted. Linda Gordon, Management Analyst, advised the Board she spoke with Dr. Foraker Smith and a tentative date to conduct Resolution Training is scheduled in October.

CONSIDERATION OF INTERNSHIP PROGRAM:

Consideration of Breeder's License

The General Manager indicated the proposal is to increase the Breeder's License fee to $125. Linda Gordon advised the Board the present Ordinance will be amended in such a manner as there is a prima facie case for enforcement of Breeder's License. Possession of a litter will be sufficient to enforce the Breeder's License requirement.

President Huntington questioned if there would have to be a public hearing regarding this. The General Manager advised the Board if this item is considered as part of a budget package, a public hearing would not be necessary. However, if this were considered a separate issue, then a separate public hearing would be held. The Department's intent is to put it in a budget package. President Huntington asked to see an outline regarding proposed Breeder's License and the scope of changes. He asked what would happen if we have a new Breeder's License and do not have the staff to enforce it. The General Manager indicated there would be a fee to fund the program. The General Manager indicated he will be submitting a package to the Board by the end of October regarding this.

Consideration of Volunteer Staffing at Shelters

Mrs. Gordon advised the Board that the Department's report regarding revisions to the volunteer staffing is going forward to the Mayor's Office. Mrs. Gordon indicated that the proposal regarding volunteer staffing at shelters will enhance the present program to fit more people in where volunteers are needed and want to be.

President Huntington asked Mrs. Gordon if under this proposed program, the Department could bring Volunteer Services to Animal volunteers into the program. And if so, would there be a conflict between VSA and the new Volunteer Program. Mrs. Gordon indicated with the new program there could be assistance in varied areas, i.e., clerical, Animal Care Technician, and computer applications, etc.

The General Manager advised the Board that this program is an important one because there has been a change in the VSA organization from one that works with and for the Department to one that is now an independent organization. There has been a substantial change in the duties of the VSA organization. They are doing their own thing as compared to what it was originally intended to be with the Mayor and Council. The City is not represented by VSA--only in name. The General Manager indicated he would send copies of the VSA State Charter changes showing what it was and what it has become.

The General Manager requested that this item be placed on the next Commission Agenda for discussion.

Pat Bercel, President, Volunteer Services to Animals, spoke before the Board. She stated, "VSA is still doing now what it has been doing for the last 19 years--working for the animals--all animals in the City Shelters. VSA has never been attacked as it has for the past year. VSA is trying to protect itself. VSA has groups all over the Country."

Consideration of Task Force Committee Report

Linda Gordon, Management Analyst, gave an overview and explained the work accomplished by the Task Force Committee regarding the Barking Dog and Dangerous Animal Ordinances. She then discussed the proposed "Accusation" and "Notice of Hearing" forms to be used regarding Barking Dog and Dangerous Animal cases. President Huntington predicted that if these forms are used, it would be the beginning of overturning the Barking Dog and Dangerous Animal Ordinances. He stated, "what you are doing with these legal forms is almost inviting the dog owner be represented by Counsel. You will have a large number of people showing up with attorneys, and Hearing Examiners will be in trouble. The format of the forms would scare anyone who receives them. Within one year of using the form, the Ordinances would be in trouble." He indicated that this is his own personal feeling.

After further discussion by the Board, the General Manager suggested that the Department get together with the Task Force Committee and come back to the Board regarding the proposed Notice of Hearing and Accusation forms. President Huntington stated it is important to guard and nurture the present ordinances. Commissioner Ehrlich suggested revising the form of the proposed Accusation and Notice of Hearing form. Commissioner Robins stated the body of the proposed forms are clear and concise, but the present form looks like a subpoena. This item will be brought back to the Board for further review and discussion.

Consideration of Department of Animal Regulation Budget

The General Manager indicated the Budget Committee met regarding the 1992-93 Proposed Budget. Because of the serious budget situation, we are looking at a possible 5 - 10 percent reduction for next year. Mr. Rush stated the Budget Committee will meet again to discuss the budget situation and keep the Board informed. He stated that all City services are in deep trouble.

Consideration of Feral Cats

The General Manager discussed memo dated September 11, 1991 to the Board regarding Feral Cats - Eligibility for Voucher Program (Sterilization). He indicated that all parties involved with the Voucher Program have been notified about Feral cats being eligible for the Voucher Program sterilization. Mr. Rush distributed to the Board the form used for trapping cats. Commissioner Ehrlich suggested "Intent: Humane Treatment of Animals" be added to the form.

Consideration of Microchip Program

Mr. Rush advised the Board the report to enhance our existing animals identification program by implementing a microchip implant identification system will be before the Public Safety Committee in October. President Huntington inquired about new Reserve Animal Control Officers assisting in the Breeders' License Program. The General Manager stated he would request two Reserve Animal Control Officers work in the South Central area and go from store to store.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Sharon Gregg, Animal Alliance and Humane Civics Organization, spoke before the Board regarding the Voucher Program. She inquired about the deadline date of September 15, 1991 and asked if an extension could be given for those who unable to meet deadline. Mr. Rush assured Ms. Gregg a grace period would be given.

STATUS REPORT ON NEWS ITEMS

Dyer Huston, Public Relations Specialist II, gave a status report on news items.

The meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

October 21, 1991
ATTEST

PRESIDENT

COMMISSION SECRETARY
a:9-16-91

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

BOARD OF ANIMAL REGULATION

Tuesday, September 3, 1991

1:30 p.m.

The Board of Animal Regulation Commissioners convened in regular session on Tuesday, September 3, 1991, in Room 1200, 419 South Spring Street, Los Angeles, California 90013.

Members Present: President Huntington and Commissioners Hochman, Hoisch, Velasco and Robins.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

President Huntington advised the Board that the Mayor's Office has appointed Norma Ehrlich to fill the vacancy which will be created when Commissioner Hochman leaves his position.

Consideration of Barking Dog and Dangerous Animal Ordinances
Linda Gordon, Management Analyst, advised the Board there are two appeal cases scheduled for the next Commission meeting. Mrs. Gordon also gave an update on the status of barking dog and dangerous animal appeal cases heard by the Board. In fiscal year 1988-89 there were a total of 54 cases heard; 1989-90 there were a total of 35 cases heard; and in 1990-91 there were a total of 17 cases heard.

Consideration of Department of Animal Regulation Budget
The Board and Department discussed serious budget problems that face the City and Department. The Budget Committee will meet to discuss various strategies to handle the serious budget situation that faces the Department and City.

Consideration of Microchip Program

The General Manager advised the Board that the tentative date the Public Safety Committee will meet on this item is October 14, 1991. He stated that this is the program of the future. Mr. Rush discussed production costs and indicated he hoped during the five-year period equipment for microchip program is purchased that the cost by the supplier would be at the third year rate. He stated that redemption fees will pay for the program. There will be no cost to the General Fund or taxpayers of the City. President Huntington asked if surrounding cities will also be a part of the Microchip Program. He asked that Department staff draft a concept paper to show how the program works and the financial benefits to the City, and how other surrounding cities can be involved in the Microchip Program.

Consideration of Task Force Committee Report

Linda Gordon, Management Analyst, distributed and discussed proposed "Non-Compliance Notices". The Board had reservations about using the proposed Notice which would be sent to a complainant. They felt it could encourage further complaints against a respondent, rather than bringing the problem to a close. Since complainants receive copies of the "final" Appeal Board's decisions, it was believed unnecessary to send any further paperwork regarding what a complainant's further recourse might be. President Huntington requested any letter sent by the Department to a respondent or complainant be "normal" size printing rather than using large, neon-type print.

Mrs. Gordon also distributed to the Board suggested guidelines for establishing definitions for dog noise; definitions for excessive dog noise; and excessive dog noise criteria and standards. She stated that these are simply guidelines and each case should be decided on an individual basis. Some areas discussed were the possibility of measuring barking dog noise by measuring decibels heard; President Huntington was concerned that a dog could bark for 15 minutes and never have barked before or after a complaint is made; day-time barking criteria is difficult. President Huntington asked that the above-mentioned items be redrafted by the Department and be brought back to the Board for their review.

Consideration of Feral Cats

The General Manager discussed the Feral Cat problem and suggested a different approach be taken to help solve the problem. He proposed the Department acquire additional traps to help bring in Feral Cats to the shelters to be sterilized. Once the cat is sterilized, it can then be returned to the private party who brought the Feral Cat in, or the Cat can then be returned to where it came from. He indicated that the Department cannot keep stray Feral Cats too long.

Commissioner Velasco commended the General Manager for his proposal and suggested the Department notch the ears of those Feral Cats brought in for sterilization to prevent continued sterilization of the same cat over and over again. President Huntington suggested the Department declare a state of emergency and have other humane societies join us.

The meeting recessed at 2:45 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 2:57 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Lois Newman spoke before the Board and suggested that a $50 cat trap deposit be imposed because there are some people who will take traps and use them for other reasons. People who don't like cats take traps and use them for what may not be proper. Care has to be given about who will use the traps. She also suggested the Department use self-absorbing stitches on female Feral Cats. She indicated that Cat and Dog Rescue uses one-half of their vouchers for Feral Cats.

Pat Bercel, Volunteer Services to Animals, distributed and read letter dated August 29, 1991 to Robert Rush from Pat Bercel, President, Volunteer Services to Animals, Inc. The letter addressed Minutes of July 17, 1991 which discussed the Volunteer Services to Animals organization, and its viability and effectiveness at the animal care and control centers in the Department.

Sharon Gregg spoke before the Board regarding the following items: (1) Microchip Program and concern for causing cancer; (2) Feral Cat problem and use of vouchers in only certain parts of the City; (3) Budget concerns; and (4) Breeder's License problem and getting a Breeders Ordinance in place as soon as possible.

Joyce Pieper, Mercy Crusade, spoke before the Board regarding Feral Cats and the need for someone responsible to sterilize these cats, as well as the need to feed these cats during their recuperation from surgery.

STATUS REPORT ON NEWS ITEMS

Dyer Huston, Public Relations Specialist II, spoke before the Board regarding Status Report on News Items.

IDENTIFICATION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS
It was requested that Feral Cats be added to future agendas.

Commissioner Robins thanked Commissioner Hochman for his help and assistance as a Commissioner during the past seven years. The General Manager commended Commissioner Hochman for a great job done on the Barking Dog and Dangerous Animals Ordinance. Commissioner Hochman really helped the City tremendously.

The meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

October 21, 1991
ATTEST

PRESIDENT

Giselle Hauptl
COMMISSION SECRETARY

a:9-3-91

MINUTES

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

BOARD OF ANIMAL REGULATION

Monday, August 19, 1991

1:30 p.m.

The Board of Animal Regulation Commissioners convened in regular session on Monday, August 19, 1991, in Room 1200, 419 South Spring Street, Los Angeles, California 90013.

Members Present: President Huntington and Commissioners Hoisch, Robins and Velasco.

Members Absent: Commissioner Hochman.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The Minutes of August 5, 1991 were approved as corrected. (Unanimous approval; Commissioner Hochman was absent.)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Consideration of Proposal to Implement Program to Sterilize Approximately 4,000 Dogs and Cats Commencing November 1, 1991 (All Dogs to be funded from the Animal Sterilization Trust Fund

The General Manager indicated, as recommended by the Board at the former Commissioner meeting, letters to organizations and individuals were sent asking for their comments and level of participation in the program. He stated the Department is having vouchers printed in sets of three. It is a simplified program--no money is involved--just vouchers. It is requested that these organizations provide a detailed outline of their plan of action to include (1) name and address of organization; (2) name of organization coordinator; (3) names and addresses of volunteers; (4) names, addresses, and fees of veterinarians participating in this program; (5) a system to monitor the distribution of vouchers; and (6) a plan of action to provide transportation of pets to and from veterinarians for those persons unable to arrange transportation. This last item is only desired, not required. The program is scheduled to begin on or about November 4, 1991, if there are no delays.

Some questions and items of concern brought up by the Board were: Veterinary fees; limit on amount of vouchers; determination of which humane organizations were contacted; can other organizations become involved in program; are organizations limited to a certain area in Los Angeles; type of advertising to be done regarding this program; and objective of 4,000 voucher program. The General Manager indicated that this program is to raise the level of concern in the community, and in particular in those areas where the percentage of animals sterilized are the lowest. He stated on a City-wide basis Council Districts 14 and 15 have the lowest figures for spaying and neutering of animals. Those Council Districts will be the Department's major target area.

President Huntington stated he is concerned about the Backyard Breeders License issue and those people who do not advertise. It appears it is those persons who do not advertise, but place ads at grocery stores and on buildings and lamp posts, which the Department cannot target regarding the Breeders License. President Huntington stated the computers are not geared to handle Backyard Breeders. He would like to incorporate the collection of data regarding breeders, and advertising on phone polls and shopping centers, and include a survey of those people to see if the Spay and Neuter Program has an impact on this Program. He would like to gather this information and present it to Council for matching funds in order to keep the program going. President Huntington indicated he would help design an approach for this dual program.

Commissioner Robins made a Motion to: "Accept the Voucher Program as written with recommendations of the Breeders License to be included in the Program." Commissioner Hoisch seconded the Motion. (Unanimous approval; Commissioner Hochman was absent.)

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Sharon Gregg, Animal Alliance, spoke before the Board and indicated that veterinarians can charge for inoculations for animals brought in for spaying and neutering. She recommended those animals be taken to low-cost rabies vaccination clinics before they are taken to veterinarians for sterilization.

Jane Bronson, VSA, spoke before the Board regarding inoculation of animals, and transportation by humane organizations of animals to be sterilized and the possibility of liability if they do so.

Lois Newman spoke before the Board and stated that the program is ill-conceived and not properly supervised. She stated that insurance to transport animals is impossible.

Joyce Pieper, Mercy Crusade, spoke before the Board and indicated she has had no difficulty with liability problems when transporting animals from the Shelters, or for private individuals.

The General Manager indicated there is not a problem with transportation of pets for the humane groups. In the proposal one of the items requested was that "private humane organizations provide a plan of action to provide transportation of pets to and from veterinarians for those persons unable to arrange transportation. This last item is only desired, not required." Because it is not mandatory, it can be left up to the discretion of the private humane organization whether or not they provide transportation of pets.

Consideration of Barking Dog and Dangerous Animal Ordinances

Linda Gordon, Management Analyst, spoke before the Board and indicated there is one appeal pending, which the Department is now trying to resolve within the General Manager's purview.

Consideration of Department of Animal Regulation Budget

The General Manager advised the Board that the Department submitted a request to the Mayor and the Chair of Finance Committee which discussed some of the problems in the Department. He asked President Huntington to join him to meet with Councilman Braude regarding the budget and the Department's serious problem with staffing and care for animals. He indicated Councilman Braude will not be in town during September. In the meantime, he suggested President Huntington and he meet with Councilman Braude's Chief Deputy, and at a later date meet with the Councilman. The General Manager indicated he would be meeting with Councilman Ridley-Thomas regarding servicing his area.

Consideration of Internship Program

Dr. Justine Bell, Internship Coordinator, spoke before the Board regarding volunteer staffing at the shelters. She indicated that Ms. Rosalinda Jacobs, Intern, is working on the development of a public and internal handbook that will be easily accessible and comprehensible by the reader. Specific duties involve researching the Administrative Procedure Act, reviewing the act, writing summary statement of statutes, developing graphics and flow charts, and presentation of a handbook to departmental administrators.

Linda Gordon, Management Analyst, spoke before the Board regarding memo dated August 19, 1991 to the Board from the General Manager regarding Expansion of the Reserve Corp. The Department proposes to request amendments to the Administrative Code which would enable volunteers to assist in areas other than Field Enforcement as uniformed Reserve Animal Control Officers. The Department proposes to create four levels of reserve volunteers with appropriate training hours.

The four levels of Reserve Volunteers would be from Level I to Level IV. Each level would have a different degree of hours of training, depending upon the particular expertise required. Modification would allow the Department to take full advantage of all persons wishing to volunteer time to the care and control of animals. The Board asked about the types of uniforms to be used by the different levels of volunteers. Mrs. Gordon indicated rather than actual uniforms, some of the other levels of volunteers might use T-Shirts or Jump Suits. These details will be worked out. President Huntington asked Dr. Bell about her paper on the Volunteer Program. Dr. Bell indicated she is looking at new and different ways to approach volunteers. She has attended other universities, and finds other professors also see the need to place students in the public sector. Dr. Bell indicated she will be attending other colleges in the area in an effort to recruit volunteers. Some of the other colleges considered are Long Beach, Cal State, Loyola, Pepperdine and possibly Occidental. The General Manager praised Dr. Bell for being able to recruit more interns in the Department than has been accomplished Citywide. President Huntington stated this program exceeds his original hope for the program.

Consideration of Microchip Program

The General Manager advised the Board that the Microchip proposal is going to be considered by the Public Safety Committee around October 1. It is important there is support for the Program and to have general discussion with the public regarding the standards for scanners and transposers and have that incorporated into the State Code.

Consideration of Task Force Committee Report

Linda Gordon, Management Analyst, spoke before the Board regarding "draft" Information Brochure. Some areas of concern to the Board was "May participants be Represented by Legal Counsel?" and "Who May Attend These Hearings." President Huntington recommended the information be spelled out in the brochure that "the City will not pay or provide attorney fees." Another matter of concern was respondent's possible need for assistance by another person at administrative hearings. (i.e. for another person to act on the respondent's behalf or act as assistant to the respondent when necessary if there is a language barrier, or area of disability where assistance is needed). President Huntington indicated the step before the Administrative Hearing process needs to be reviewed.

Commissioner Robins made a Motion to "accept the draft administrative hearing brochure with recommendations for clarifying it." Commissioner Velasco seconded the Motion. (Unanimous approval; Commissioner Hochman was absent.)

Lois Newman spoke before the Board and stated there should be a pool of animal humane groups who can help these people through the administrative hearing process.

The information sheet entitled "Training Your Dog Not to Bark Excessively" was reviewed by the Board. Commissioner Robins made a Motion to "incorporate this information sheet into the informal hearing process and send it out with the first letter. Commissioner Hoisch seconded the Motion. (Unanimous approval; Commissioner Hochman was absent.)

President Huntington and Commissioner Robins discussed their concern about preliminary meetings of complainant and dog owner. They believe the meeting should be brought to a closure if there is not a problem. If a problem continues to exist, then a new complaint should be made. President Huntington indicated he is upset with preliminary hearings and would like to see a change.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sharon Gregg, Animal Alliance, spoke before the Board regarding following issues: (1) Need for additional Animal Health Technician at South Central Animal Care & Control; (2) Department is shuffling its fee on the Breeding Control Ordinance; and (3) Staff Terrier at East Valley; and (4) fining of complainants when they do not win an Appeal Case.

Lynn Exe, Mercy Crusade, spoke before the Board regarding the condition of animals kept by the Homeless People.

Lois Newman spoke before the Board and indicated her organization will assist the homeless with their animals in their licensing, shots, care and spaying and neutering needs.

STATUS REPORT ON NEWS ITEMS

Dyer Huston, Public Relations Specialist II, gave a status report on news items.

IDENTIFICATION OF NEWS ITEMS

Commissioner Hoisch inquired about Hybrid Wolf problem. Asked that this item be investigated and discussed at future meeting. The General Manager indicated that the Department is working with Fish and Game Department regarding this matter.

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

October 7, 1991
ATTEST

C. L. Huntington
PRESIDENT

Estelle Haupt
COMMISSION SECRETARY

a:8-19-91

MINUTES

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

BOARD OF ANIMAL REGULATION

Monday, August 5, 1991

1:00 p.m.

The Board of Animal Regulation Commissioners convened in regular session on Monday, August 5, 1991, in Room 1200, 419 South Spring Street, Los Angeles, California 90013.

Members Present: President Huntington and Commissioners Hoisch, Velasco and Robins.

Members Absent: Commissioner Hochman.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The Minutes of July 1, 1991 were approved as corrected. The Minutes of July 15, 1991 were unanimously approved. (Commissioner Hochman was absent.)

Consideration of Task Force Committee Report

Linda Gordon, Management Analyst, introduced members of the Task Force Committee: Commissioner Rita Hoisch, Dr. Foraker Smith, Mr. Ron Marks, Mrs. Lynn Exe, and Mr. Richard Karl (who was not in attendance). Mrs. Gordon expressed her appreciation to all members of the Committee for the dedication and hard work which they had performed as members of the Task Force. Mrs. Gordon stated that the Task force met on a bi-monthly basis from September to June to examine possible problems with the Administrative Hearing Program and to recommend solution to those problems. The results of those meetings are presented in the Task Force Report along with attachments. Mrs. Gordon further stated that there is also a Minority Report which was prepared by Mrs. Lynn Exe and invited her to present that report to the Commission. Mrs. Gordon advised and apologized to the Commission that the training and workbook for the Functional Administrative Process (Attachment 9) is unavailable at this time, but it is being worked on.

Commissioner Robins asked if the Task Force Committee addressed the "single party complaint" issue. Mrs. Gordon stated that the Task Force did address that issue and submitted a recommended criteria for determining what is excessive noise to be used with sound judgment on a case-by-case basis. Commissioner Robins also questioned if the Task Force addressed the perception that a dog owner is "presumed guilty" throughout the administrative process. Mrs. Gordon suggested that the issue has been addressed by the Department in the conduct of the Dispute Resolution Seminars as well as in the Communication Seminars which have been conducted. Commissioner Robins further stated that the letter which is initially sent to the dog owner in a barking dog complaint presumes guilt and the Department may wish to examine that letter also.

President Huntington and Commissioner Robins inquired if the Task Force had examined the situation where the Department is used to facilitate a complaint which is not necessarily valid. Mrs. Gordon stated that the Department does have a policy concerning how many times the Department will process the same complaint from the same person. President Huntington asked if it is a written policy, to which Mrs. Gordon replied that it is not.

Mrs. Exe was called upon to present the Minority Report which is a joint effort by her and Mercy Crusade, a humane organization which she represented as a member of the Task Force. Mrs. Exe stated that she had raised the issue of harassment complaints many times to the Task Force. This type of complaint is often related to other complaints not related to an excessively barking dog. Mrs. Exe also expressed her concerns regarding the holding of dogs for extended periods of time, and respondents being considered guilty and not listened to.

Mrs. Exe further stated that she thought the work of the Task Force is an excellent first step, but does not wish this to be the end of the solution. She stated that eventually there will be many lawsuits. That it is not the Hearing Examiners' problem because they are under a great deal of stress, that the ordinances themselves are not too bad, but the implementation is where there is a serious problem, and she does not see anything being done to absolve that. She stated that dog owners should be treated with respect. Many dog owners do not understand the appeal process, particularly if they are a minority and do not have a full comprehension of the English language.

Commissioner Hoisch questioned Mrs. Exe on the account made in the report which states that neither the Task Force, nor the Commission were agreeable to a presentation of evidence on the use of the high-tech collar. Commissioner Hoisch pointed out that Commission meetings are public and anyone may attend.

Mrs. Exe stated that she asked if a dog trainer could make a presentation and a tape could be presented. She stated that she was never told that this testimony/evidence could be presented. Commissioner Hoisch reiterated that Commission meetings are public meetings.

Commissioner Hoisch commended the Hearing Examiners and the Department for doing a good job as is evidenced by the fact that appeals are almost non-existent now. She further stated that the brochure which has been prepared has been a giant step to help people understand the process.

President Huntington requested that at subsequent meetings the attachments of the Task Force Committee Report be reviewed.

After further discussion by the Board, it was requested that item(s) discussed in the Task Force Committee Report be placed on an Agenda for each meeting. The Board and Department can then discuss in more detail each item and make recommendations as to how to resolve concerns brought up during the Board meetings when discussing the Task Force Committee Report. It was also requested that whenever possible, Hearing Examiners also attend those Board meetings in order to assist in the resolution process.

Lois Newman spoke before the Board and indicated that the implementation of the Barking Dog and Dangerous Animal Ordinance can be used as grudge laws, which is against the constitution in the State of California.

President Huntington thanked the General Manager and Commission for an outstanding job done on the Task Force Committee. On behalf of the General Manager and The Board, he made a presentation of Awards to the following Task Force Committee members: Commissioner Hoisch, Dr. Foraker Smith, Ron Marks, and Lynn Exe.

Commissioner Robins made a Motion and Commissioner Velasco seconded the Motion that "The Board accept both the Task Force Committee Report and the Minority Report as presented." (Unanimous approval; Commissioner Hochman was absent.)

President Huntington asked that the Hearing Examiners introduce themselves to the Board, and give their thoughts regarding the Task Force Committee Report. Nancy Moriarity, Hearing Examiner for North Central Animal Care and Control, introduced herself and indicated she agreed with the consensus of the Task Force Committee. Jim Connelly, Hearing Examiner for East Valley Animal Care and Control, indicated he had not had an opportunity to review the Task Force Committee Report. He stated that he strongly disagreed with comments made at the meeting which implied that due process procedures were not being observed at the Administrative Hearings and that dog owners were not being treated courteously. Willie McDaniel, Hearing Examiner for West Los Angeles, South Central, and Harbor Animal Care and Control indicated he objected to the Minority report and that he bends over backwards for the dog owners. Theodore Berquist, Hearing Examiner for East Valley Animal Care and Control, indicated he is presently in training, however from his 18 years of field enforcement and what he has observed and from his experience, the Department leans to the Animal Owner.

Mike Burns, District Supervisor, North Central Animal Care and Control, asked the Board to consider some of the problems Districts go through. He indicated that the Hearing Examiners are a separate entity unto themselves.

Consideration of Department of Animal Regulation Budget

The Assistant General Manager spoke before the Board and indicated that the Department is working on Alteration and Improvement Requests, Communications Requests and Budget Requests for fiscal year 1992-93. She advised the Board that the City lost a big lawsuit which may result in more budget cuts. The Department anticipates that by mid-year we will have a better idea on the status of the Salary Account. She indicated we do not have sufficient Kennel Workers on staff. We expect more budget cutbacks--possibly three percent--in the Salary Account.

Consideration of Microchip Program

The Assistant General Manager advised the Board that Kenneth Williams, Supervisor, West Los Angeles and Harbor District Animal Care and Control Centers, went to Germany and Amsterdam regarding the proposed Microchip Program. The major manufacturer of microchips paid expenses for Mr. Williams to look over their facility and determine its capacity for handling a microchip program for the City of Los Angeles, as well as a possible nation-wide microchip program. The Department will be contacting other companies that manufacture microchips and inform them of our interest in the use of microchips.

Consideration of Period Report

The Assistant General Manager reviewed and discussed memo dated August 2, 1991 from the General Manager to the Board regarding "Analysis of Department Revenue Generation; Fiscal Year 1990-91. Ms. Lee discussed Mid-Valley Manpower Consortium's performance during the past year and explained the reduction in revenue. She indicated that Meyer Levine, Senior Management Analyst, and Doug Shaw, Mid-Valley Manpower, are now working on increasing the number of collectors used to collect license and penalty fees. Ms. Lee also indicated that the reduction in the number of dog licenses in fiscal year 1990-91 may be directly attributed to the general decline in the national and local economy which, according to the City Controller, mirrors the reduction in revenues from licenses, fines and permits in all other City departments.

Consideration of Status Report on Early Spay and Neuter Program

Dr. Ziegler, Chief Veterinarian, updated the Commission regarding the new work schedule and locations the Animal Regulation Veterinarians will be working at the Animal Care and Control Centers. The Board questioned Dr. Ziegler regarding the status of how many early spay and neuter of animals are being done at the shelters. Dr. Ziegler indicated that Department staff have reservations about early spaying and neutering, and it must be considered and done on an individual basis. He stated the Department is not doing early spaying and neutering unless a specific case warrants it. It is up to the particular Veterinarian to determine whether or not it is to be done. Commissioner Velasco asked for a follow up on the new schedule for Veterinarians. He indicated that he desires that dogs be sterilized before they are adopted.

NEW BUSINESS

Consideration of Proposal to Implement Program to Sterilize Approximately 4,000 Dogs and Cats Commencing November 1, 1991 (All to be funded from the Animal Sterilization Trust Fund)

Dr. Ziegler, Chief Veterinarian, spoke before the Board regarding letter dated July 25, 1991 to the Board from the General Manager regarding above subject. The Department is proposing to augment its animal population control program in the City of Los Angeles by implementing a program of free spaying and neutering for dogs and cats in selected target areas. The Department is proposing to request the participation of various private humane organizations to distribute 4,000 Department vouchers to pet owners for free spaying and neutering of dogs and cats. The Department will utilize funds from the Animal Sterilization Fund to finance this program. Private humane organizations will be contacted by the Department to advise them of this program and to obtain an indication of the level of participation. The Program is to begin on or about November 4, 1991.

Commissioner Robins made a Motion to support the Department's proposal to sterilize 4,000 dogs and Cats commencing November 1, 1991 (Program to be Funded from the Animal Sterilization Trust Fund). Commissioner Velasco seconded the Motion. (Unanimous approval; Commissioner Hochman was absent.)

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Lois Newman spoke before the Board and stated that Dr. Ziegler's report regarding early spaying and neutering of animals was incomplete.

Joyce Pieper, Mercy Crusade, spoke before the Board and gave an update on a "grass roots" program at South Central Animal Care and Control. She indicated that she and others distributed literature for free spaying and neutering of animals.

Joan Peck spoke before the Board and commended Larry Morales, Animal Control Officer II, North Central Animal Care and Control Center, for his invaluable help to her in finding her dog. She stated Mr. Morales is very knowledgeable in the animal care and control field, and in particular regarding wildlife. She is most appreciative of his help in reading prints and knowing her dog's previous movements. Mr. Morales kept her working to find her dog in a fairly intelligent manner. She requested that he be commended and something be placed in his personnel file.

STATUS REPORT ON NEWS ITEMS

Dyer Huston, Public Relations Specialist II, spoke before the Board and gave a status report on news items.

IDENTIFICATION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

It was requested that Consideration of the Task Force Committee Report be placed on future agendas in order to discuss each item of the report by the Board, Department, and public.

The meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

September 2, 1991
ATTEST

PRESIDENT

COMMISSION SECRETARY
a:8-5-91

Commissioner Robins made a Motion to support the Department's proposal to sterilize 4,000 dogs and Cats commencing November 1, 1991 (Program to be Funded from the Animal Sterilization Trust Fund). Commissioner Velasco seconded the Motion. (Unanimous approval; Commissioner Hochman was absent.)

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Lois Newman spoke before the Board and stated that Dr. Ziegler's report regarding early spaying and neutering of animals was incomplete.

Joyce Pieper, Mercy Crusade, spoke before the Board and gave an update on a "grass roots" program at South Central Animal Care and Control. She indicated that she and others distributed literature for free spaying and neutering of animals.

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IDENTIFICATION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

It was requested that Consideration of the Task Force Committee Report be placed on future agendas in order to discuss each item of the report by the Board, Department, and public.

The meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

September 2, 1991
ATTEST

PRESIDENT

COMMISSION SECRETARY
a:8-5-91

MINUTES

BOARD OF ANIMAL REGULATION

Monday, July 15, 1991

1:30 p.m.

The Board of Animal Regulation Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, July 15, 1991, in Room 1200, 419 South Spring Street, Los Angeles, California 90013.

Members Present: President Huntington and Commissioners Hochman, Robins and Velasco.

Members Absent: Commissioner Hoisch.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Consideration of Barking Dog and Dangerous Animal Ordinances
Linda Gordon, Management Analyst, spoke before the Board and indicated the Administrative Task Force Committee Report would be submitted at the August 5, 1991 Commission meeting. She also indicated there would be one appeal hearing on August 5, 1991. Ms. Gordon discussed amendments to the Charter of the City of Los Angeles filed with the Secretary of State on June 17, 1991 pertaining to Article III of the Charter which is amended by adding Section 32.3 Commission and Board Actions - City Council Review. She indicated she would speak to the City Attorney's Office to see how this amendment affects the Board of Appeals.

CONSIDERATION OF DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL REGULATION BUDGET
The General Manager discussed the status of the budget for the Department of Animal Regulation for the balance of the fiscal year. He indicated that because the turnover is not what the Department anticipated, we are going to require an appropriation from the Mayor at Mid-year because there will not be enough funds to carry salaries. He stated he will be talking to the Mayor and Council. President Huntington asked what happens if we do not get funded if we do not have sufficient funding to last past mid-May. President Huntington suggested the Budget Committee meet to decide on contingency plans in the event further appropriations will not be forthcoming.

The General Manager indicated the Department is working on a draft contingency plan now which will be forwarded to the Board for later discussion.

Consideration of Internship Program

The General Manager stated that Dr. Bell, Intern Coordinator, indicated there is no new status report on this item at this time.

Consideration of Microchip Program

The General Manager indicated that the report regarding the Microchip Program has been reviewed by the CAO and was transmitted to the Mayor. It will then be forwarded to the Public Safety Committee for their review and on to City Council. Mr. Rush stated that the CAO recommended approval of a fee increase, but was against the Microchip Program until further information is received about the cost savings. The CAO is opposed to having the funds go any where other than in the General Fund. The General Manager is concerned about what will happen from here. He is opposed to the CAO's recommendation. He indicated that the Department is preparing a communication to Councilman Alatorre which will be specifically referencing the CAO's report. The Department will ask that the CAO's title of the report (Animal Regulation Department request to increase the owned-dog redemption fees) be corrected. Commissioner Hochman suggested the Board prepare a communication to the Council Committee regarding the Microchip Program.

Consideration of Period Report

The Department and Board reviewed and discussed the "General Manager's Progress Report" for period ending May 1991. It was suggested by Commissioner Hochman that the breakdown on the types of licenses issued be added to the Period Report. President Huntington indicated he would like another report to show whether or not there were increases or decreases in the Breeders Licenses. The General Manager indicated at the next Commission meeting there would be further clarification of the Period Report.

The meeting recessed at 2:20 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 2:40 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Lois Newman spoke before the Board regarding Charter amendment number 5. She stated that any decision of any Board may be appealed.

Cheryl Moore, 10419 Tennessee Avenue, Westwood, California, spoke before the Board regarding a neighbor who made a complain against her barking dog and indicated that the complain was unjustified. She recommended a fee be imposed on a complainant, and if they lose their case, they lose their fee. In that way invalid complaints

Sharon Gregg, Animal Alliance, advised the Board that she spoke to a Veterinarian who has identified those dogs that tend to bite as having a genetic pre-disposition and hormonal imbalance. The doctor can tell from a blood test whether or not an animal has a predisposition to bite, and has found that he is able to balance an animal's hormones and help prevent a vicious tendency. Ms. Gregg indicated the Veterinarian is willing to speak to the Board regarding his findings.

STATUS REPORT ON NEWS ITEMS

Dyer Huston, Public Relations Specialist II, gave a status report on news items.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

August 19, 1991
ATTEST

PRESIDENT

COMMISSION SECRETARY

a:7-15-91

MINUTES

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

BOARD OF ANIMAL REGULATION

Monday, July 1, 1991

1:00 p.m.

The Board of Animal Regulation Commissioners convened in regular session on Monday, July 1, 1991, in Room 1200, 419 South Spring Street, Los Angeles, California 90013.

Members Present: President Robins and Commissioners Hoisch, and Huntington.

Members Absent: Commissioner Hochman and Velasco.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Commissioner Huntington made a motion to approve the Minutes of June 3 and June 17, 1991. Commissioner Hoisch seconded the Motion. The Minutes were unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Consideration of Election of Officers

Commissioner Hoisch made a motion to Nominate Commissioner Huntington as President of the Board of Animal Regulation, and Commissioner Robins seconded the Motion. The Motion was unanimously approved. (Commissioners Hochman and Velasco were absent.) Commissioner Hoisch made a Motion to nominate Commissioner Velasco as Vice-President of the Board of Animal Regulation and Commissioner Robins seconded the Motion. The Motion was unanimously approved. (Commissioners Hochman and Velasco were absent.)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Consideration of Barking Dog and Dangerous Animal Ordinances

Commissioner Hoisch inquired about the Task Force Committee report and when it would be available to the Board. Linda Gordon, Management Analyst, indicated it was being printed and the Board will have a copy of the report for review before the next Commission meeting.

Consideration of AB 1443
Linda Gordon, Management Analyst, spoke before the Board (SEE LINDA FOR SUMMARY).

The General Manager asked the Board for their support in opposing AB 1443. Commissioner Robins made a Motion to support the Department in opposing AB 1443. Commissioner Hoisch seconded the Motion. (Unanimous approval; Commissioners Hochman and Velasco were absent.)

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Joyce Pieper, Mercy Crusade, indicated that Mercy Crusade considers Assembly Bill a dangerous Bill.

The General Manager indicated he would send a letter to Councilman Wachs asking that a Motion be introduced opposing this legislation.

Consideration of Spaying and Neutering of All Adopted Animals
The General Manager indicated as of today, the Department has reorganized the Spay and Neuter Teams. The South Central Spay and Neuter Team will be assigned to the East Valley Spay and Neuter Clinic to work in concert with the present spay and neuter team assigned to East Valley. The North Central Spay and Neuter Team will remain at their present location two days per week, Monday and Tuesday; then relocate to the South Central Spay and Neuter Clinic on Wednesday and Thursday. The team will continue their surgical sterilizations on Friday at the Harbor Animal Care and Control Shelter. Mr. Rush also indicated that these Spay and Neuter teams do not have a complete staff to perform the work. He indicated that he will meet with Commissioners Velasco and Huntington to discuss what to do about lack of staff and funds, and what to do regarding the Spay and Neuter Clinics. He will then come back to the Board to discuss what they come up with.

The Board and Department discussed Proposal to Veterinarians for spaying and neutering and going out for spaying and neutering by the private sector. Mr. Rush indicated in order to continue spaying and neutering by private veterinarians, using the City facilities, an RFP would be required which would need the Mayor and City Council's approval. He stated that the RFP would go before the Board before it goes to the Mayor and Council. Commissioner Huntington asked what impact it would have for surrounding cities like Long Beach and Santa Monica. Mr. Rush indicated there might be some changes in the offering that they may want to consider also.

Consideration of Department of Animal Regulation Budget
The General Manager and Board discussed budget condition and how it will affect the Department. Mr. Rush indicated at present the Department is $170,000 short to fund our Salary Account for the balance of the fiscal year. He indicated the Department will be submitting requests for budgetary adjustments, or authorization of layoffs will be necessary. Attrition is not what the Department anticipated. Commissioner Huntington suggested a study where at a certain point in time the Department can determine a crises period before it begins. In that way, the Department can have people in place prior to a crises. He asked for a study to be done in order to increase the use of volunteers to help the Department during this budget crisis, and to address the issues at shelters and other areas where volunteers are needed. There was discussion regarding the VSA Organization assisting the Department. Mr. Rush indicated the Department needs a least 100 volunteers 6 days a week from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. to assist at all Animal Care and Control Centers. Commissioner Robins asked for guidelines and information as to where and what the Department needs volunteers for. The General Manager indicated the Department needs clerical assistance. The Department would want to interview such volunteers. Commissioner Huntington asked Dr. Bell, Intern Coordinator, to develop a plan for proposals regarding volunteer groups and to work with the VSA Organization. He asked they indicate the projected needs of the Department and staffing levels necessary, and to prepare and submit a report to the Board of Animal Regulation.

The meeting recessed at 2:20 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 2:35 p.m.

President Huntington spoke before the Board and indicated he would like more items on the Agenda and to have sub-items under Agenda items. He indicated he wants the Board to function more from a project management capability than just from using a Board Agenda-type capability.

PUBLIC COMMENT
Sharon Gregg, spoke before the Board and asked that the public speak on a particular item to be voted on by the Board before the vote is taken by the Board. It was decided by the Board that a one-minute time limit would be given for the public to speak at the end of any item to be voted on by the Board.

Lynne Exe, Mercy Crusade, spoke before the Board indicating that she would like to see all Commissioners present at Board meetings.

The General Manager spoke before the Board regarding Mircochip Program and the lack of standardization for microchips and scanners used in the United States. He indicated we need uniformity if the program is to be totally successful.

The General Manager inquired about using funds from the Animal Welfare Trust Fund for travel regarding a seminar out to State regarding the Microchip program. After further discussion, it was decided that money should be raised elsewhere privately in order that a Department representative can attend the Seminar regarding Microchip Program.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Sharon Gregg, Animal Alliance, spoke before the Board and indicated that the County has a program that they do not release animals to the public unless they are spayed or neutered. She inquired about the Department's lost and Found System. President Huntington indicated the Department has no staffing and that we need volunteers. He indicated that VSA could not support the Department. Ms. Gregg inquired as to why there is only one Animal Health Technician at South Central Animal Care and Control. She asked the Department look into staffing. She indicated a poodle was marked by Department as old, when in fact it was one year old. She suggested use of Reserve Animal Control Officers as Volunteers.

Lois Newman, 5711 1/2 Lexington Avenue, Los Angeles, California, spoke before the Board regarding her objection to the winner of the St. Francis of Assisi Award for 1990.

STATUS REPORT ON NEWS ITEMS

Dyer Huston, Public Relations Specialist II, spoke before the Board regarding status report on news items.

IDENTIFICATION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

It was requested that the following items be placed on the Agenda as permanent items until otherwise indicated: Consideration of Internship Program (1) Breeders License; and (2) Volunteer Staffing at Shelters; and Consideration of Microchip Program. Other items requested to be placed a future agenda were: Consideration of Period Report and Consideration of Task Force Committee Report.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

August 19, 1991

ATTEST

E. O. Huntington

PRESIDENT

Giselle Hauptl

COMMISSION SECRETARY

a:7-1-91

MINUTES

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

BOARD OF ANIMAL REGULATION

Monday, June 17, 1991

1:05 p.m.

The Board of Animal Regulation Commissioners convened in regular session on Monday, June 17, 1991, in Room 1200, 419 South Spring Street, Los Angeles, California 90013.

Members Present: President Robins and Commissioners Hoisch, Huntington, and Velasco.

Members Absent: Commissioner Hochman

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: - None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

CONSIDERATION OF BARKING DOG AND DANGEROUS ANIMAL ORDINANCES

Linda Gordon, Management Analyst, requested that the appeal filed by Mr. Albert Brooks in Barking Dog Case No. 91085SC be denied. She stated this appeal did not meet the criteria set forth in Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 53.18.5(q). Commission President Robins asked Mrs. Gordon if the letter denying the appeal should come from the Commission or the General Manager. Mrs. Gordon stated that according to Mike Klekner, Deputy City Attorney, the letter should come from the General Manager because the "appeal is administratively still in the General Manager's court".

The Commission unanimously agreed that this appeal should be denied.

Mrs. Gordon brought before the Board the procedures concerning the reinstatement of license privileges (LAMC 53.18.5[r]). Mrs. Gordon briefly outlined the procedures and indicated these procedures were proposed by the Commission as a result of the first request for reinstatement of license privileges. There was some confusion she stated, regarding the actual presentation and what was to be considered. Mrs. Gordon further explained that the "biggest" matters of concern were: 1) that the appellant be made aware that the constitutionality of the ordinance will not be considered by the Board and 2), the exact time limits the appellants have to file an appeal. Mrs. Gordon stated that Nos. 3 and 4 of the procedures have been added for the reinstatement

of license privileges. She stated that these are the two "big" changes to the procedure presently in use for administrative hearing appeals. She further stated that there were some grammatical revisions to No. 10.

Commissioner Hoisch moved, seconded by Commissioner Velasco, that the Board adopt the changes to the appeal procedures.

The motion was adopted unanimously by the following vote: Ayes, President Robins, Commissioners Hoisch, Velasco and Huntington (4); Noes, none.

At this time, President Robins asked Dr. Justine Bell, Intern Coordinator, to introduce the interns seated in the audience. Dr. Bell introduced Rosalinda Jacobo, Celeste Thompson and Craig Black.

CONSIDERATION OF DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL REGULATION 1991-92 BUDGET

Robert I. Rush, General Manager, stated that for all intense and purposes the Mayor has adopted the Council's proposed budget. He stated there would be an additional reduction of 9 1/2 to 12%; and that it is all out of the salary account. Mr. Rush stated that the Department is currently analyzing how long it can last without any additional appropriations. He went on to state that evaluation criteria has been established; and a target date of January 1, 1992 has been set to determine if alternative actions must be taken.

Mr. Rush stated that on a straight line basis, the Department will need in excess of $200,000 to survive this fiscal year on a minimum basis. He went on to state that there is going to have to be appropriations sometime during the course of the year and a minimum reduction.

Mr. Rush stated that it has become necessary that the Department try to obtain additional monies from the private sector in order to fund some of the programs that the Department feels are worth while. Mr. Rush stated that this is a realistic alternative so long as the Department does not operate in the "unreal world".

Mr. Rush told the Commission that the Department will share all the information it has as the expenditure plan is made available. Mr. Rush also stated that one or more of the Commissioners will be attending the budget hearings with him in July and further recommended the present Budget Committee remain in place into the 1991-92 fiscal year.

Commissioner Huntington stated that because of the impact of the cuts and proposed cuts, it is absolutely necessary to continue

the Budget Committee in order to have a contingency plan; and to have some letters drafted going to the "right" people early on. As the results of the game plan become apparent, we are going to have to write some pretty powerful letters, he stated.

Mr. Rush agreed, and stated that is very important. He stated that it is almost impossible under a "hard freeze" of positions to predict where the vacancies are going to occur. Mr. Rush gave a brief scenario to support his statement.

Mr. Rush stated that one alternative the Department is analyzing is the possibility of reducing the number of hours the facilities (animal shelters) are open. And the possibility of changing from six days to four days. He further stated there have already been work assignment changes in the part-time clerical assignments to compensate for an overall staff shortage.

Commissioner Huntington asked Mr. Rush if VSA people were working in the shelters anymore. Mr. Rush stated that there were only 5 or 6 at the most. Mr. Huntington asked if it was possible to take steps to try to "beef" up VSA. Mr. Rush stated that "it doesn't appear to be eminent". Commissioner Hoisch concurred with Mr. Rush's assessment. She stated that through personal observation, VSA people are only working half days and not manning phones. President Robins suggested that Mr. Rush draft a letter to all of the animal welfare agencies to see if there are people willing to donate their time and energies. Mr. Rush stated that he is going to have a meeting with the Controller and the City Attorney very shortly. He stated that it would do well if he had a designee from the Board to meet and discuss the volunteer program, the audit and some other concerns.

Commissioner Huntington made the following statement: "We got this organization in place and its been in place for quite some time. It appears that when we need it the most, it's at its lowest point of effectiveness." He further stated that according to the records, at one point they had a lot of people. He also stated that normally when this type of situation happens, it is an indication that the leadership of the organization is not up to par. He asked if it was possible to change leadership through an election if this turned out to be the case.

Mr. Rush stated that clearly the Department needs volunteers in order to operate. He also stated that the timing is unfortunate. President Robins stated that part of the problem is that there have been some hard feelings between VSA and the Department. She stated that she doesn't believe the problem can be solved as easily as Commissioner Huntington and the Department might think. She stated that in the mean time, it would behoove the Department to contact other organizations and see if there are people who

would like to volunteer working in a shelter.

Mr. Rush stated that a volunteer can work under any affiliation, but would have to volunteer to the Department because of insurance matters in case of injury. Mr. Rush said he would draft a communication asking organizations if they would like to volunteer to work in the Department. Commissioner Huntington stated that immediate action needs to take place. He recommended the Department send out a letter immediately.

Commissioner Velasco suggested looking at civic organizations for possible volunteers. He further stated that from his personal observation there appears to be no supervision from the shelter as well as poor coordination in terms of the shelter and volunteers working together.

Commissioner Hoisch asked about the Reserve Officer program. Mr. Rush stated that according to the last report, there were 680 hours logged for the past period.

Commissioner Huntington asked Dr. Bell if the volunteer attrition problem was something the interns could address in terms of how to acquire more volunteers. Dr. Bell said that she would look at this avenue of policy implementation as a project for her program.

Commissioner Velasco stated that from over 10 years of experience, he has seen success with high school volunteers. He further stated that he believes high school students who get work experience credit would be the best place to start.

CONSIDERATION OF BREEDER'S LICENSE

Dr. Justine Bell stated that she had nothing to report.

CONSIDERATION OF MICROCHIP I.D. PROGRAM PROPOSAL
WHICH WOULD RESULT IN A 3-TIER REDEMPTION SCHEDULE

After discussion by the Department and Board, Commissioner Hoisch moved, seconded by Commissioner Huntington, that this item be supported.

The motion was adopted unanimously by the following vote: Ayes, President Robins, Commissioners Hoisch, Velasco and Huntington (4); Noes, none.

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSAL TO INCREASE SPAY & NEUTER FEES

Mr. Rush pointed out that a private program was started in May of 1990. As of May, 1991, the program includes approximately 45 veterinarians in the West Valley and South Bay area. He also stated that the Department is working on the East, South Central and West Los Angeles areas.

Commissioner Huntington moved, seconded by Commissioner Hoisch, that this proposal be supported.

Sharon Gregg of Animal Alliance expressed concern over the cost of getting an animal out of the shelter. Because the spaying/neutering has to be paid in advance, it would greatly reduce the number of animals placed and "create hardship on rescue people and citizens alike." She said that it has been a good policy of the Department to keep the spay and neuter fees low to give an incentive to people to spay and neuter their animals. Now that people have to pay this higher fee before they get an animal out of the shelter, they can't even get assistance from the humane community.

President Robins asked if this was the first increase in this fee. Mr. Rush stated it was the first increase in spay and neuter fees in thirteen years. Mr. Rush indicated that with the budget "collapsing around us" and in order to keep a viable program going, the Department has to have an alternate funding source.

Mr. Rush stated there is no other viable alternative. Sharon Gregg asked if she could request a study be done to see what kinds of viable alternatives there are. She stated by meeting with the humane communities a better solution might be arrived at. Mr. Rush stated that the Department looked at other alternatives, and believes the place for the humane community to articulate their concerns is to the City Council.
The motion was adopted unanimously by the following vote: Ayes, President Robins, Commissioners Hoisch, Velasco and Huntington (4); Noes, none.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sharon Gregg of Animal Alliance asked the Commission if the process could be accelerated on the breeding control study.

STATUS REPORT OF NEWS ITEMS

Dyer Huston gave the Commission a briefing of three news releases which occurred since the last Commission meeting. Mr. Rush asked

Mr. Huston for an overview of the seven-month old girl killed by two Alaskan Malamutes. After Mr. Huston's brief overview, Mr. Rush stated that more information will be available as-soon-as the police report and other documentation is made available. He further stated that this occurrence was the second death within the City of Los Angeles in the past two years.

Commissioner Velasco asked about the consequence to the dogs. Mr. Rush stated that they would be ultimately destroyed.

President Robins asked Mr. Huston for an update on the dog poisonings in the West Valley. Mr. Huston stated that an investigation is continuing, but the problem seems to have ceased.

Upon request and without objection, the President adjourned the meeting at 2:04 p.m.

July 15, 1991

ATTEST

PRESIDENT

ACTING COMMISSION SECRETARY

ot2/61791m

MINUTES

BOARD OF ANIMAL REGULATION

Monday, June 3, 1991

1:30 p.m.

The Board of Animal Regulation Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, June 3, 1991, in Room 1200, 419 South Spring Street, Los Angeles, California 90013.

Members Present: President Robins and Commissioners Hochman, Hoisch, Huntington and Velasco.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The Minutes of May 20, 1991 were unanimously approved.

Consideration of Barking Dog and Dangerous Animal Ordinances

Linda Gordon, Management Analyst, spoke before the Board regarding revisions made to the Board of Animal Regulation Commission Appeal Procedure - Reinstatement of License Privileges, Section 53.18.5(r) of the Los Angeles Municipal Code. President Robins indicated that the Board would review the draft revisions and this item would be discussed at the June 17, 1991 Board meeting. Linda Gordon indicated there would be two appeal cases for the June 17 meeting.

Consideration Department of Animal Regulation Budget

The General Manager advised the Board he requested that the Mayor proceed with the Mayoral Budget, rather than the Proposed Council Budget. He stated we should get a response back in about two weeks regarding what the Mayor will do regarding the Council's Budget. With the Mayoral Budget there would be a $395,000 reduction in Department's budget. With the Council Budget, there would be a further reduction of $200,000. He indicated the Department is very concerned about any further budget reductions and how they will affect Spay and Neuter Clinics, Animal Control Officer positions and other areas in the Department.

Consideration of Breeder's License

Meyer Levine, Senior Management Analyst, spoke before the Board and indicated the Department is moving ahead on the program, and data is being gathered. There is one Intern now working and three other candidates have applied to work on the Breeder's License Program.

Consideration of Request from CPPC for Funding for 1991-92 Fiscal Year

Holland VanDieren (formerly Paula VanOrden) spoke before the Board asking that funding for the Coalition for Pet Population Control be continued for Fiscal Year 1991-92. Ms. VanDieren reviewed information sheet handout with the Board regarding the 1991 Pet Population Control Project. After further discussion and review by the Board, President Robins indicated because of the Budget situation, we do not know where we would be able provide money for the Coalition. Commissioner Huntington indicated he had previously requested that these types of requests for money be submitted through a grants procedure. He stated, a grants procedure has not been done primarily because there is nothing to grant. Commissioner Huntington stressed how important it is for the Department to have an official grants program, with a peer review group that makes recommendations to the Board of Animal Regulation.

Ed Cubrda, Director, SPCA, spoke before the Board and indicated when the Coalition originated there were eleven agencies. These agencies were formed for a common cause and goal: To Reduce the Pet Population. If we do that, it will reduce the City's cost because less animals would be handled. He stated the Budget problem is a common one in the City and County of Los Angeles.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Lynne Exe, Mercy Crusade, spoke before the Board and stated that the Coalition for Pet Population is doing an admirable job. However, any humane group should not expect money from the Department of Animal Regulation or from the Animal Welfare Trust Fund, but should find ways to aid the Department during this budget crunch. She stated that Mercy Crusade is attempting to assist the Department.

Lois Newman, Cat and Dog Rescue Organization, spoke before the Board indicating that the Coalition has done a poor job, and that the number of animals destroyed in the City of Los Angeles has risen 10 percent.

Commissioner Huntington stated that the Coalition had not done a poor job. The General Manager indicated that the Coalition for Pet Population Control brought a lot of agencies on Board. In all fairness, the Department has to be very prudent in the expenditure of money with the current condition of the budget. The President of the Board indicated that the Department cannot make any final commitments at this time.

Commissioner Hochman indicated that the Agencies are working together to do something jointly which is a worthwhile concept for all agencies. If Los Angeles pulls out, it might lead to others pulling out--that is worth considering. Commissioner Hoisch indicated she is just as concerned as others regarding over-pet-population problem. When there is no longer a money problem, then we can study and compare direct spaying and neutering vs. indirect spaying and neutering of animals.

Robin Harrington, who works with humane groups, spoke before the Board regarding spaying and neutering problems. She indicated that money from the Animal Sterilization Trust Fund should be used for direct spaying and neutering, not for referrals.

Joan Peck spoke before the Board and indicated that there is a reduction in animals being destroyed. In the 1960's "owners-turned in animals" were mostly destroyed, now the majority of dogs are stray. She does not see a greater number of puppies at the shelters.

President Robins indicated that the Department is not going to do any funding right now. There may be other options. Commissioner Huntington stated when there is money, the Coalition can resubmit their program to the Department and do statistical politicking.

The Board recessed at 2:25 p.m.

The Board reconvened at 2:40 p.m.

Consideration of Problems Dealing with Exotic Animals

Gary Olsen, District Supervisor, West Valley Animal Care and Control, spoke before the Board regarding this issue. Mr. Olsen briefly explained that the California State Fish and Game Department and Commission is currently reviewing their organizational chart in preparation of forthcoming rules and regulations proposing greater animal welfare and control of wild and exotic animals within the State. Commissioner Hochman indicated his concern as to animals that may fall through the cracks and possibly be a problem for the Department of Animal Regulation. Mr. Olsen used the example of the Hybrid Wolf and suggested that the Department's permit system may require minimum amendment, but is most capable of addressing the issues as they come about. He stated that during the last few years, Fish and Game's proposals regarding all wildlife animals in the State of California have been reviewed by the Department of Animal Regulation, and that amendments recommended by the Department were adopted by Fish and Game. The Department of Animal Regulation continues to provide guidelines and recommendations to the State Department of Fish and Game, which are supported and acted upon by the Fish and Game Department.

Consideration of Public Awareness of How to Retrieve Your Animal

The General Manager indicated that 95 percent of dogs that come through the shelters have no identification. He stated the Department is currently working through the process and intends to embark on a good identification program via a microchip program. With this program, dogs and cats leaving the shelter would be implanted with microchips. It was requested by Commissioner Hochman that this item be placed as a separate agenda item in the near future.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Joan Peck spoke before the Board regarding her experience in searching for a lost dog since April 12. She stated it is a mammoth undertaking and that the microchip program would be a wonderful thing. She suggested that redemptions could be increased by training shelter personnel, specifically in the lost and found area. After further discussion by the Board and Department, the General Manager asked Ms. Peck if she would assist the Department in training shelter personnel in the identification of lost and found animals. Ms. Peck indicated that she would help.

Lois Newman spoke before the Board and suggested that 10 agencies get together and every day swap information regarding animals. She stated there could be a coalition of 10 animal control agencies which are placed on a computer. Los Angeles could take the lead on this. She felt the program could work and would cost the City little.

Joanne Trees spoke before the Board regarding impound No. 14905, a cat. President Robins indicated that the General Manager would investigate her problem.

Lois Newman spoke before the Board regarding a new collar used to stop dogs from barking. She indicated it works by sonar sound. The collar does not hurt the dog, there is no physical damage done. She requested the Department look into this new sonar collar.

STATUS REPORT ON NEWS ITEMS

Dyer Huston, Public Relations Specialist II, spoke before the Board regarding status report on new items.

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

July 1, 1991
ATTEST

PRESIDENT

COMMISSION SECRETARY

a:6-3-91

MINUTES

BOARD OF ANIMAL REGULATION

Monday, May 20, 1991

1:00 p.m.

The Board of Animal Regulation Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, May 20, 1991, in Room 1200, 419 South Spring Street, Los Angeles, California 90013.

Members Present: President Robins and Commissioners Hoisch, Huntington and Velasco.

Members Absent: Commissioner Hochman.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The Minutes of May 6, 1990 were unanimously approved.

Consideration of Barking Dog and Dangerous Animal Ordinances
Linda Gordon spoke before the Board regarding establishment of rules of appeal pursuant to Section 53.18.5, subsection (r) of the Los Angeles Municipal Code, the Reinstatement of License Privileges. She indicated the present status is that the City Attorney has been asked for some clarification and guidance on this matter. Mrs. Gordon introduced Richard Karl, Hollywood School of Training, who is on the Task Force Committee.

Consideration of Department of Animal Regulation Budget
The General Manager indicated that Council has not yet transmitted the budget to the Mayor. He advised the Board that the combined reductions from the Mayor's Proposed Budget and Council budget would be a $600,000 reduction which would have a horrendous impact; and the Department would do its best job with less trying to meet Charter and legal requirements.

CONSIDERATION OF BREEDER'S LICENSE

Carol McGee, Intern for the Breeders License Project, spoke before the Board and gave an update on the progress being made regarding the Breeder's License. She indicated that they have data put together with the local area from newspapers, magazines, and other sources regarding people selling dogs. They have compiled data over a three-month period and put that information into the computer for people selling dogs. Different breeds of dogs are being sold within the Los Angeles County and Orange County. Ms. McGee indicated the work involved in gathering information is time consuming. However she expects other interns and people to get involved in program. Once they are on board, she believes that we should be able to see the different types of things going on regarding selling of animals.

Consideration of Electronic Collar

Dr. Walter Ziegler, Chief Veterinarian, reviewed and discussed with the Board memo dated April 23, 1991 to the General Manager and Assistant General Manager regarding Electronic Bark Limiter (EBL). The conclusion of Dr. Ziegler's memo was as follows: "Use of an electronic bark limiter provides a means of controlling excessive barking. Even though there is little scientific basis for not using an electronic bark limiter, untoward effects appear minimal if used with the advice of a veterinarian to ensure that the dog is in a state of good health and to ensure that there is no physiological or psychological reason for the excessive barking. Current scientific information fails to support or disprove that an electronic bark limiter would be deleterious; its use is made on the basis of scientific rather than empiric evidence. Traditional means of control by methods of reconditioning techniques have continually been accepted because of lack of other means. The electronic collar (anti-bark trainer) is not designed to replace any of the alternatives available, but it provides a viable option for discretionary use."

Linda Gordon, Management Analyst, gave a demonstration of how the electronic bark limiter works.

Lynne Exe, Mercy Crusade, spoke before the Board and indicated that they are concerned as to whether or not the anti-bark collar is safe and humane or inhumane. They do not believe the collar is absolutely safe, and that humane organizations would go for the electronic bark limiter.

Richard Karl, Hollywood Training School, spoke before the Board. He indicated that he has been in business 20 years and owns his own kennel. He watched the evolution of the collar and finds it works. No client who has used it has had a problem. The collar is designed for use when no one is home. You cannot misuse the collar. He is for use of the electronic bark limiter.

Sharon Gregg, Animal Alliance, spoke before the Board regarding the electronic bark limiter. She stated only lazy people want to use the device. She is against use of the collar. She strongly urged responsible and educated dog trainers and dog owners.

Commissioner Hoisch made a motion to accept the report from Dr. Ziegler. Commissioner Velasco seconded the motion. (Unanimous approval, Commissioner Hochman was absent.)

Commissioner Velasco indicated that in his 15 years of practice as a Veterinarian, he has had clients approach him regarding their dogs who have had a barking dog problem. Some of the suggestions and alternatives he has recommended are that dogs be trained professionally; the possible use of the electronic bark limiter, and choice of vocal cord surgery. He feels most people come back and complain about how expensive it is to take their dog to a trainer. He personally has not seen trauma or injury to an animal from the electronic bark limiter and he has used it on his dog. His conclusion is that during the first 24 to 48 hours there should be someone to watch the animal. He does not recommend the electronic bark limiter, but mentions it as an alternative.

Commissioner Hoisch indicated she spoke with William Blackmore, Chief Veterinarian, at USC, whom she has worked with for 8 to 10 years. He told her that he has used the electronic bark limiter himself. Commissioner Hoisch believes that the electronic bark limiter should be used only if an animal is in jeopardy. It should be used as an option, and the public should be given a choice.

Commissioner Huntington thanked Dr. Ziegler for a report done well. He advised that the information in report should be used as a handout to dog owners during the preliminary complaint. He feels the Department is out of place making the use of an electronic bark limiter as an option in the terms and conditions. One primary reason is that we see a number of dog owners that are simply not good dog owners. They are little concerned about their neighbors or others. No empirical data on this matter is an oversight. He is concerned about kids and where they could be injured. He is against the electronic bark limiter. He feels the problem has more to do with the type of dog owner we have.

President Robins indicated if it is necessary to save a dog, she would recommend the electronic bark limiter collar. She stated a person has to have some kind of option to save a dog.

The General Manager indicated that the EBL should only be used as an option, and only if the dog owner uses the guidelines prepared by Dr. Walter Ziegler. Guidelines will be made available commensing at the District meeting level during barking dog hearings.

Commissioner Huntington indicated there might be a possibility for a lawsuit against the Department. He felt it is not in the Department's or Commission's best interest to use the electronic bark limiter collar, and that it would be a terrible mistake other than to be used as written guidelines at the preliminary hearing. Commissioner Velasco indicated that he sees more inhumane things going on. He accepts recommendation as an option and the public has the option to reject or accept use of the collar. He sees no reason to reject use of electronic bark limiter collar.

Commissioner Hoisch made the following Motion: "That the Electronic Bark Limiter Collar be made available as an option as a term and condition and that a pamphlet and guidelines be made available to the general public at the preliminary hearing with the Department." Commissioner Velasco seconded the Motion. (3 ayes: President Robins, Commissioners Hoisch and Velasco; 1 noe: Commissioner Huntington; Commissioner Hochman was absent.)

NEW BOARD BUSINESS

Consideration of Tosatoken, a Japanese Fighting Dog, Brought to the Department's Attention by the Royal Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

er Huston, Public Relations Specialist II, spoke before the Board d indicated the Department sent a communication to Les Ward of .. Andrew Animal Fund in Edinburgh, Scotland requesting nformation regarding a Japanese fighting dog known as a Tosatoken. This request was in response to an article in the Los Angeles Times "View" Section which appeared April 15, 1991 regarding a Japanese fighting dog known as a Tosatoken. Mr. Huston stated that as of this date, the Department has not yet received a response from Mr. Ward.

STATUS REPORT ON NEWS ITEMS

Dyer Huston, Public Relations Specialist II, gave a status report on news items.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Joe Merlino, Canine Consultant, spoke before the Board regarding his knowledge of the Tosatoken. He indicated they weigh 80 to 130 pounds. In the United States they are being used as any working dog, or legal companion. They have courage, are aggressive, and are being bred outside of Los Angeles City, more particularly in the Apple Valley area.

The meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

July 15, 1991
ATTEST

Minnie Rollins
PRESIDENT

Giselle Hauptt
COMMISSION SECRETARY

a:5-20-91

MINUTES

BOARD OF ANIMAL REGULATION

Monday, June 3, 1991

1:30 p.m.

The Board of Animal Regulation Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, June 3, 1991, in Room 1200, 419 South Spring Street, Los Angeles, California 90013.

Members Present: President Robins and Commissioners Hochman, Hoisch, Huntington and Velasco.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The Minutes of May 20, 1991 were unanimously approved.

Consideration of Barking Dog and Dangerous Animal Ordinances

Linda Gordon, Management Analyst, spoke before the Board regarding revisions made to the Board of Animal Regulation Commission Appeal Procedure - Reinstatement of License Privileges, Section 53.18.5(r) of the Los Angeles Municipal Code. President Robins indicated that the Board would review the draft revisions and this item would be discussed at the June 17, 1991 Board meeting. Linda Gordon indicated there would be two appeal cases for the June 17 meeting.

Consideration Department of Animal Regulation Budget

The General Manager advised the Board he requested that the Mayor proceed with the Mayoral Budget, rather than the Proposed Council Budget. He stated we should get a response back in about two weeks regarding what the Mayor will do regarding the Council's Budget. With the Mayoral Budget there would be a $395,000 reduction in Department's budget. With the Council Budget, there would be a further reduction of $200,000. He indicated the Department is very concerned about any further budget reductions and how they will affect Spay and Neuter Clinics, Animal Control Officer positions and other areas in the Department.

Consideration of Breeder's License

Meyer Levine, Senior Management Analyst, spoke before the Board and indicated the Department is moving ahead on the program, and data is being gathered. There is one Intern now working and three other candidates have applied to work on the Breeder's License Program.

Consideration of Request from CPPC for Funding for 1991-92 Fiscal Year

Holland VanDieren (formerly Paula VanOrden) spoke before the Board asking that funding for the Coalition for Pet Population Control be continued for Fiscal Year 1991-92. Ms. VanDieren reviewed information sheet handout with the Board regarding the 1991 Pet Population Control Project. After further discussion and review by the Board, President Robins indicated because of the Budget situation, we do not know where we would be able provide money for the Coalition. Commissioner Huntington indicated he had previously requested that these types of requests for money be submitted through a grants procedure. He stated, a grants procedure has not been done primarily because there is nothing to grant. Commissioner Huntington stressed how important it is for the Department to have an official grants program, with a peer review group that makes recommendations to the Board of Animal Regulation.

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PUBLIC COMMENT

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The Board recessed at 2:25 p.m.

The Board reconvened at 2:40 p.m.

<u>Consideration of Problems Dealing with Exotic Animals</u>
Gary Olsen, District Supervisor, West Valley Animal Care and Control, spoke before the Board regarding this issue. Mr. Olsen briefly explained that the California State Fish and Game Department and Commission is currently reviewing their organizational chart in preparation of forthcoming rules and regulations proposing greater animal welfare and control of wild and exotic animals within the State. Commissioner Hochman indicated his concern as to animals that may fall through the cracks and possibly be a problem for the Department of Animal Regulation. Mr. Olsen used the example of the Hybrid Wolf and suggested that the Department's permit system may require minimum amendment, but is most capable of addressing the issues as they come about. He stated that during the last few years, Fish and Game's proposals regarding all wildlife animals in the State of California have been reviewed by the Department of Animal Regulation, and that amendments recommended by the Department were adopted by Fish and Game. The Department of Animal Regulation continues to provide guidelines and recommendations to the State Department of Fish and Game, which are supported and acted upon by

the Fish and Game Department.

Consideration of Public Awareness of How to Retrieve Your Animal

The General Manager indicated that 95 percent of dogs that come through the shelters have no identification. He stated the Department is currently working through the process and intends to embark on a good identification program via a microchip program. With this program, dogs and cats leaving the shelter would be implanted with microchips. It was requested by Commissioner Hochman that this item be placed as a separate agenda item in the near future.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Joan Peck spoke before the Board regarding her experience in searching for a lost dog since April 12. She stated it is a mammoth undertaking and that the microchip program would be a wonderful thing. She suggested that redemptions could be increased by training shelter personnel, specifically in the lost and found area. After further discussion by the Board and Department, the General Manager asked Ms. Peck if she would assist the Department in training shelter personnel in the identification of lost and found animals. Ms. Peck indicated that she would help.

Lois Newman spoke before the Board and suggested that 10 agencies get together and every day swap information regarding animals. She stated there could be a coalition of 10 animal control agencies which are placed on a computer. Los Angeles could take the lead on this. She felt the program could work and would cost the City little.

Joanne Trees spoke before the Board regarding impound No. 14905, a cat. President Robins indicated that the General Manager would investigate her problem.

Lois Newman spoke before the Board regarding a new collar used to stop dogs from barking. She indicated it works by sonar sound. The collar does not hurt the dog, there is no physical damage done. She requested the Department look into this new sonar collar.

STATUS REPORT ON NEWS ITEMS
Dyer Huston, Public Relations Specialist II, spoke before the Board regarding status report on new items.

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

July 15, 1991
ATTEST

Mimi Rollins
PRESIDENT

Giselle Hauptt
COMMISSION SECRETARY

a:6-3-91

MINUTES

BOARD OF ANIMAL REGULATION

Monday, May 6, 1991

1:00 p.m.

The Board of Animal Regulation Commissioners convened in regular session on Monday, May 6, 1991, in Room 155, City Hall South, 111 East First Street, Los Angeles, California 90012.

Members Present: President Robins and Commissioners Hochman, Hoisch, Huntington and Velasco.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The Minutes of April 15, 1991 were unanimously approved.

Consideration of Barking Dog and Dangerous Animal Ordinances
Linda Gordon, Management Analyst, initiated a motion to make rules for reinstatement of license privileges (Section 53.18(r) of the Municipal Code.) Commissioner Huntington made a recommendation to submit a standard for a time when a dog should be taken in at night and released in the morning in relation to the Noise Ordinance. Ms. Gordon indicated that his request will be included in the report which the Task Force Committee is presently working on.

Consideration of Department of Animal Regulation Budget
The General Manager advised the Board that the Finance Committee's Report regarding changes to the Mayor's 1991-92 Proposed Budget was adopted by Council. Proposed reductions approved by the Budget and Finance Committee affect the Department of Animal Regulation as follows: Salary Step Plan is reduced by $198,924; Personnel Adjustments by $2,653; and Business Travel by $7,445, which is a total reduction of $209,022. Mr. Rush indicated that he sent a letter to the Mayor regarding how the Department would be impacted by the Council's approval of the Budget and Finance Committee Report, and that the Department would probably have to make requests for monies from the General Fund because the Salary Account in the Department could not fund salaries. It is anticipated that the attrition rate in the Department will remain the same as indicated in the Mayor's 1991-92 Proposed Budget.
It was mentioned that as of July 1, the Department will have six vacancies. For the Mayor's Proposed Budget, 13 vacancies are needed, as well as eight additional vacancies by January 1, 1992.

Mr. Rush indicated the Department will follow the Mayor's lead on budget policy as we have always done.

Report on Recent Ordinance Adopted by City of Sacramento Regarding Traps - Robert Rush

Commissioner Hochman thanked Department for forwarding copies of the recent ordinance adopted by the City of Sacramento regarding traps to the Board for their review. President Robins indicated that the issue of traps will be going before the Public Safety Committee on June 3.

Consideration of Abandoned Animal Policy - Department of Animal Regulation

In response to a request by Gillian Lange, Amanda Foundation, for the Department to review and change their policy regarding picking up abandoned animals, the General Manager gave an oral presentation. He indicated that the Department follows Manual Procedures which state abandoned animals shall be picked up within 24 hours of abandonment. As an example, he advised the Board that the Animal Care and Control Centers hold animals until a person who goes to the hospital is out, unless that person designates another person to take care of the animal. The Department follows the State Code and Municipal Ordinances pertaining to abandonment of animals.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mary Stark, 2345 Mertin Avenue, #118, Los Angeles, California 90041, spoke before the Board to protest the process used by the Department in handling an administrative hearing. There was no effort made by the Department to validate the dog owner's testimony. She asked the Board to reconsider their decision. After further discussion, the General Manager indicated another Hearing Examiner would be assigned to the case if warranted.

STATUS REPORT ON NEWS ITEMS

Dyer Huston, Public Relations Specialist II, gave a status report on news items.

IDENTIFICATION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

President Robins requested that Consideration of Spaying and Neutering of All Adopted Animals be placed on a future agenda.

The meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

June 3, 1991
ATTEST

Mimm Robins
PRESIDENT

Giselle Hauge
COMMISSION SECRETARY

a:5-6-91

MINUTES

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

BOARD OF ANIMAL REGULATION

Monday, April 15, 1991

1:00 p.m.

The Board of Animal Regulation Commissioners convened in regular session on Monday, April 15, 1991, in Room 155, City Hall South, 111 East First Street, Los Angeles, California 90012.

Members Present: President Robins and Commissioners Hochman, Hoisch, Huntington and Velasco.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The Minutes of March 18, 1991 were unanimously approved. The Minutes of April 1, 1991 were unanimously approved as amended.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Consideration of Barking Dog and Dangerous Animal Ordinances

Commissioner Hoisch inquired about the Chief Veterinarian's report regarding the Barking Dog Collars. The General Manager indicated preparation of the report is still being done by Dr. Ziegler. As soon as the analyses and written report are complete, the Board will be informed.

Consideration of Department of Animal Regulation Budget

The General Manager advised the Board that a communication from Councilman Yaroslavsky was received which indicated that the Mayor's Proposed 1991-92 Budget is expected to be submitted to the Council by April 20. Mr. Rush indicated that he and Commissioner Huntington would attend the Council meeting regarding the Proposed Budget. The General Manager reviewed with the Board the Mayor's Budget Letter dated April 12, 1991 and how it affects the Department of Animal Regulation. Mr. Rush indicated the Mayor's Budget proposes a $455,098 budget reduction for the Department next fiscal year. Therefore there will be a tightening up of the ship in the Department. Commissioner Hochman indicated that the Harbor and Airport Departments have lots of money and inquired whether or not when there is budget crunch if their surplus funds could go into the General Fund.

The General Manager indicated that the Mayor believes the economy will rebound perhaps not next year, but the following year. Mr. Rush stated that the Department should look at privatization of certain functions in the Department. There will be further discussion regarding the Department's 1991-92 Budget after the Budget Committee meets.

Consideration of Breeder's License

Meyer Levine and Dr. Justine Bell spoke before the Board regarding Breeder's License process as part of the Internship Program. Dr. Bell distributed and discussed a handout regarding the Administrative Internship Coordinating Services Program - Breeders License Data Collection and Analysis Project. The objective of this program is to decrease pet overpopulation by obtaining information for the purpose of locating unlicensed dog breeders, and breeders who are in violation of humane laws.

The General Manager indicated that once the program is established, the Reserve Animal Control Officers will also assist in the program.

Commissioner Huntington advised the Board that he and the Assistant General Manager attended a Productivity Committee luncheon. The Committee indicated that there are funds available and that they can lend funds for programs that show a possible high return for purchase of computer equipment, or other kinds of things that require salary supplements. Now that the program is running, there may be some benefits. Commissioner Parks recommended that the Department of Animal Regulation query them again for funds. Commissioner Huntington stated that a preliminary look at the data is that the County may have to become a participant. Preliminary discussions indicate that the bulk of the animals in the City come from outside the City, particularly the County areas. Data base reflects that the advertisements in the Valley areas and rest of Los Angeles come from the 805 area, which is the County. At some point it appears that a dialogue needs to be started through letters or phone calls with the County. Prior to that we need to determine to what extent an affiliation with the County Office may lead to for a better outcome. Mr. Rush indicated that the Tri-County (Los Angeles, Ventura and San Bernardino) are particularly important areas. Commissioner Huntington indicated that if we could see a draft proposal on how such a discussion would be developed, or what the topics would be, it appears that we can make a significant impact in this area. We can significantly impact the breeders problem and animal population. There are some real cost benefit payoffs.

Mr. Rush indicated that the Internship Program has been instrumental in the data collection and analysis program regarding the Breeders License Program. Commissioner Huntington advised the Board that a news release regarding recruiting interns for the 1991-92 academic year will be going out. All newspapers and media, public service agencies and animal care and control agencies will be receiving the news release. Selected graduate students acting as interns will provide the Department of Animal Regulation with capable temporary assistance, resolving various management, administrative and public relations issues.

Consideration of Spaying and Neutering all Adopted Animals

President Robins inquired about the possibility of spaying and neutering all animals that are adopted from the shelters. She asked about the use of private agencies. The General Manager indicated he has some ideas along those lines which he will discuss at a later date. Commissioner Velasco discussed overpopulation of animals and asked that a publication he brought in regarding spaying and neutering be copied and sent to each Commissioner. This publication looks at spaying and neutering from a Veterinarian's point of view. He believes we have to address the overpopulation of animal problem. This item will be discussed at a future Commission meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Lois Newman, 5711 1/2 Lexington Avenue, Los Angeles, spoke before the Board regarding major problem of overpopulation are cats. She indicated that the months of May, June, July and August are the biggest months when kittens and puppies are born.

Joyce Pieper, Mercy Crusade, spoke before the Board regarding her concern about the budget condition of the City and continuing spay and neuter clinics. She stated if we lose them, then the Veterinarians have no incentive to keep the spay and neuter costs lower.

Gillian Lange, Amanda Foundation, spoke before the Board and requested the use of steel stitches for spaying and neutering be reviewed. She also asked about changing abandoned animal policy to picking up an animal when a call comes in, rather than posting the property for 24 hours because there is no telling how long the animal was abandoned before the Department is contacted. Ms. Lange asked about how many animals were spayed and neutered that got adopted. The General Manager indicated he would get back to her on that matter.

STATUS REPORT ON NEWS ITEMS

Dyer Huston, Public Relations Specialist II, spoke before the Board regarding status report on news items.

IDENTIFICATION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

It was requested that the following items be placed on a future agenda: Consideration of Problems dealing with Exotic Animals; Consideration of dealing with the ISH; Consideration of Report on Early Spaying and Neutering of Animals; and Consideration of Pet Food Tax Bill.

The meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

May 20, 1991
ATTEST

Annie Robin
PRESIDENT

Giselle Hauge
COMMISSION SECRETARY

a:4-15-91

MINUTES

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

BOARD OF ANIMAL REGULATION

Monday, April 1, 1991

1:30 p.m.

The Board of Animal Regulation Commissioners convened in regular session on Monday, April 1, 1991 in Room 155, City Hall South, 111 East First Street, Los Angeles, California 90012.

Members Present: President Robins and Commissioners Hochman, Hoisch and Huntington.

Members Absent: Commissioner Velasco.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Consideration of Barking Dog and Dangerous Animal Ordinances
The Board was advised that on April 15, 1991 there would be one appeal case heard.

Consideration of Department of Animal Regulation Budget
The General Manager indicated to the Board that until after the Election, there is nothing moving forward by the Mayor or Council regarding the Budget. Mr. Rush stated that he would be meeting with the Budget Committee regarding the Department's Budget later in the afternoon after the Board meeting. At that meeting the Committee will discuss enhancing Department budget letters to the Mayor and Council.

Dyer Huston, Principal Public Relations Representative, distributed to the Board the Spay and Neuter Program of the Department for Fiscal Year ending June 30, 1990.

Consideration of Breeder's License
Commissioner Huntington inquired about presentation to be given by Dr. Justine Bell and Meyer Levine regarding the Breeder's License. The General Manager indicated the presentation will be made at the next Commission meeting.

Consideration of Status Report Regarding Increase of License Fees
Commissioner Hochman discussed responses received from animal care and control agencies regarding a proposal to increase license fees. responses received indicated it could lead to a reduction of people getting licenses and be counter productive. The General Manager indicated it would be prudent to maintain the Department's present course. Commissioner Hoisch asked the General Manager how our fees compare with the County. He indicated the City fees are slightly lower. However, the County has a large number of personnel assigned to collecting licenses on a door-to-door basis. The City uses private contractors who work on a percentage basis. President Robins asked the General Manager to research information she heard about the SPCA now spaying and neutering every animal that is adopted.

PUBLIC COMMENT
Joyce Pieper, Mercy Crusade, spoke before the Board regarding the Draize Bill. She asked if anyone has a connection with Governor Pete Wilson. The Bill passed the Assembly and will go to the Senate Judiciary next stop.

STATUS REPORT ON NEWS ITEMS

Dyer Huston, Prin. Public Relations Representative, spoke before the Board regarding status Report on news items.

IDENTIFICATION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEM

The President of the Board requested that Consideration of Spaying and Neutering of all Adopted Animals be placed on the next Agenda as well as Consideration of Assembly Bill No. 491. It was also requested that Consideration of Training of Shelter Personnel regarding Adoption of animals, and what type of orientation program is given by the Department be placed on a future Agenda.

The meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

May 6, 1991
ATTEST

PRESIDENT

COMMISSION SECRETARY
a:4-1-91

MINUTES

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

BOARD OF ANIMAL REGULATION

Monday, March 18, 1991

1:00 p.m.

The Board of Animal Regulation Commissioners convened in regular session n Monday, March 18, 1991, in Room 155, City Hall South, 111 East First Street, Los Angeles, California 90012.

Members Present: President Robins and Commissioners Hoisch, Huntington and Velasco.

Members Absent: Commissioner Hochman.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The Minutes of February 19, 1991 and March 4, 1991 were unanimously approved. (Commissioner Hochman was absent.)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Consideration of Department of Animal Regulation Budget

Commissioner Huntington indicated that the Budget Committee met several times and that there were several letters prepared to the Mayor in response to an earlier budget meeting with the Mayor regarding managing the Department's budget reductions. The Budget Committee came up with several recommendations. The General Manager distributed to the Board and discussed a draft letter dated March 18, 1991 to the Mayor regarding a three-tiered animal redemption fee schedule to add surcharges to each of the three tiers and to establish an Automated Animal Identification Program to be funded by said redemption fee surcharges. The current fee for the redemption of an owned dog is $15.50 plus $3.50 for immunization and $1.00 per day for care and feed.

The Department proposes to add a surcharge of $14.50 to the basic redemption fee for a dog thereby increasing it to $25.00 plus $3.50 for immunization and $1.00 per day for care and feed. The fee for the second redemption for the same dog will be $35.00, of which $24.50 will be a surcharge, plus immunization and care and feed. The fee for the third and subsequent redemption will be $45.00, of which $34.50 will be a surcharge, plus immunization and care and feed.

Support of these proposals would enable the Department to promote responsible dog ownership by providing a financial incentive to dog owners to comply with animal ordinances and to approximate the actual cost of impounding owner's dogs and to provide an effective means of reuniting lost pets with their owners. Commissioner Huntington also indicated that this proposal is important because early on it will reduce the number of animals put down by 50 percent and later on by 90 percent.

Mr. Rush also discussed a draft letter to the Mayor dated March 18, 1991 requesting support to increase the deposits and fees for spaying and neutering dogs and cats in the City Spay and Neuter Clinics from $20 for female and $14 for males to a flat fee of $28 for both females and males.

This increase would result in the deposit of approximately $201,232 per year into the Animal Sterilization Fund No. 842. These funds would finance the low-cost spay and neuter program with the private sector at $97,600, permit the Department to keep its commitments for other programs, pay $44,000 for approximately 1,000 free surgeries for senior citizens, low income persons, and the disabled. The Department would also maintain a small reserve of approximately $39,632 for unforseen contingencies pertaining to spay and neuter and pet overpopulation control.

After further discussion by the Board and Department, Commissioner Huntington made a Motion to proceed with both letters dated March 18, 1991 to the Mayor. Commissioner Velasco seconded the Motion. (Unanimous approval; Commissioner Hochman was absent.)

President Robins thanked the Budget Committee for their work on the budget and indicated that the Board appreciates the work done.

Consideration of Barking Dog and Dangerous Animal Ordinances

Linda Gordon, Management Analyst, spoke before the Board regarding Barking Dog Case No. 91003WV and asked the Board if the appeal as stated meets compliance with the Ordinance. Commissioner Hoisch indicated because there appears to be new evidence to be submitted, and the appeal did not meet the requirements as stated in the ordinance, she would uphold the Department on this case. Commissioner Hoish stated the Board should not hear the appeal. The Board agreed with Commissioner Hoish.

Ms. Gordon gave an update on the Administrative Hearing Task Force Committee and indicated the Committee is beginning to prepare their final report and recommendations.

President Robins inquired about the anti-bark training collar. The General Manager stated when the Chief Veterinarian completes his report on this, it will then be considered.

Consideration of Breeders License

The General Manager indicated that Meyer Levine, Administrative Services Officer, and Linda Gordon, Management Analyst, were consulting with the City Attorney's Office on the legal ramifications of making the Breeders License part of the Administrative Hearing process.

NEW BOARD BUSINESS

Consideration of Fund Raising Program for Spaying and Neutering

The General Manager indicated that he talked to someone about putting a Committee together for fund raising. He has a person in mind and business manager that would help with leadership and develop ways to raise money the easiest and quickest way. There is a need for money for construction at East Valley Animal Care and Control and for caging.

We need big bucks and to develop an RFP for fund raisers to go out to a professional fund raiser. Mr. Rush believes we can raise some money.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sharon Gregg spoke before the Board regarding the following: Breeders License; and a parrot at South Central Animal Care and Control.

Robin Harrington spoke before the Board regarding budget reductions and possible closure of the spay and neuter clinics in the Department when there is a Spay and Neuter Fund. She also indicated that the month of April is "Prevent a Litter Month."

Lois Newman spoke before the Board and indicted she is all for closing down all spay and neuter clinics in the Department, but does not like the idea of SCVMA doing the spaying and neutering. She indicated that it can be done for less with the private sector who provide low-cost spaying and neutering for the general public and that the City should consider giving that money to private organizations.

STATUS REPORT ON NEWS ITEMS

Dyer Huston, Prin. Public Relations Representative, gave a status report on news items.

The meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

May 6, 1991
ATTEST

Mimi Rollins
PRESIDENT

Lisette Hauptl
COMMISSION SECRETARY

A:3-18-91

MINUTES

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

BOARD OF ANIMAL REGULATION

Monday, March 4, 1991

1:00 p.m.

The Board of Animal Regulation Commissioners convened in regular session on Monday, March 4, 1991, in Room 155, City Hall South, 111 East First Street, Los Angeles, California 90012.

Members Present: Commissioners Hochman, Hoisch and Huntington.

Members Absent: President Robins and Commissioner Velasco.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Commissioner Hochman approved the Minutes of February 4, 1991 as amended. Commissioner Hoisch seconded the Motion. (Unanimous approval.)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Consideration of Barking Dog and Dangerous Animal Ordinances
Linda Gordon, Management Analyst, indicated there would be two appeals for the next Board of Appeals meeting on March 18, 1991.

NEWS BOARD BUSINESS

Consideration of Farr Legislation and
What Department is doing on it
The Board and Linda Gordon, Management Analyst, discussed memo dated February 27, 1991 the to Chief Legislative Analyst from the General Manager regarding Assembly Bill 110 to prohibit the draize test, ocular test or the skin irritancy test. This Bill would provide that every person who engages in the use of the animal testing methods known as the Draize Test or Ocular Test, or the Skin Irritancy Test would be guilty of a misdemeanor with specified exceptions. Those exceptions would be for "any animal test performed for the purpose of medical research, or to any animal test of medications, drugs, or foods." This Bill would be operative on January 1, 1994.

On February 19, 1991 the Board concurred with the Department on this matter which recommended that the Chief Legislative Analyst seek the City's support of this legislation.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Consideration of Department of Animal Regulation Budget

The General Manager indicated that he and Commissioner Huntington met with the Mayor regarding the Department's budget. He stated the Mayor was gracious and listened to both himself and Commissioner Huntington. The result of the meeting was that the Mayor would follow the Department's priorities. The next step is going through City Council for approval. Commissioner Huntington indicated that he attended the Mayor's Budget Hearing with the General Manager and he was impressed with the fact that the Department was being listened to. The results of their meeting with the Mayor were very encouraging. Mr. Rush indicated that because of lack of funding, closure of one of the spay and neuter clinics will be effective on June 28. As of this date selection of which clinic will be closed has not been made. Commissioner Huntington asked if the Department would do a press release and the General Manager indicated a press release will be done.

The General Manager discussed memo dated March 4, 1991 to the Board regarding Animal Sterilization Trust Fund Deposits and Expenditures. It was indicated due to budgetary constraints, it may be necessary to close the remaining two Spay and Neuter Clinics as of June 38, 1991. He stated the closures would be offset by the Department's contracting with the private sector veterinarians to perform spay and neuter surgeries on dogs and cats adopted from our centers, similar to the program currently in effect at the West Valley Animal Care and Control Center. However, based on current statistics concerning the adoption rate and the percentage of forfeitures to the Animal Sterilization Fund, the Department will not be able to sufficiently fund such a program on a City-wide basis. Therefore it is proposed that the required sterilization deposit for dogs and cats adopted from the City be raised from an average of $17 to a flat rate of $25.00. This amount will provide for private sector sterilization, allow the Department to meet its commitment to C.P.P.C., as well as provide a surplus should the number of surgeries performed increase.

Commissioner Hochman questioned the use of Animal Sterilization Trust Fund monies being used for the Water and Power inserts regarding animal care and control and sterilization. He felt the ASTF monies should be used primarily for spaying and neutering purpose only. He asked for feedback regarding the flyers which were sent out in the Water and Power mailers. He stated that we need to be sensitive regarding the use of ASTF money.

Commissioner Huntington asked the Department if the cost of flyer is the same regardless of whether or not the insert has one item vs. several items on the insert. The General Manager indicated the cost is the same. Mr. Rush stated when he spoke with the Mayor, there was discussion regarding holding money to accommodate or assist senior citizens, low-income groups, handicapped and lifeline citizens. Mr. Rush stated that a reserve should be kept for this meaningful program. Commissioner Hochman asked if a fund raiser could be held to raise funds to go into the Animal Sterilization Trust Fund. Commissioner Huntington suggested that a Committee consisting of President Robins and Commissioner Hochman be set up and that they come back to the Board with specific items to discuss regarding this. It was recommended that this item be placed on the Agenda for the next meeting.

Commissioner Hochman indicated he was in favor of a flat fee of $25 for the animal sterilization deposit, however he was concerned about the impact of a $25 flat fee as a spaying an neutering deposit. Mr. Rush indicated that he would meet with the Budget Committee on March 8 regarding budget constraints and impact increase of spay and neuter deposit.

Consideration of Breeder's License

Commissioner Huntington gave an update on progress and research being done on the Breeder's License. He indicated the program is moving forward and asked that this item remain on the Agenda. He will be submitting statistical reports on this item in the near future.

Consideration of Lost Animal Insert for Department of Water & Power

Commissioner Hochman suggested before we pursue a lost animal insert for the Department of Water and Power mailings, that we first get a response from the former insert sent. There was further discussion by the Board and Department about inserts regarding lost and found animals, animal sterilization ,and solicitation of funds for spaying and neutering.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Sharon Gregg spoke before the Board regarding the Breeders License. She indicated people are selling animals without a Breeders License and she distributed flyers used by some of those people who want to sell animals. She suggested that these people who sell animals be checked to see if they have a Breeders License. She also spoke regarding proposal to raise the spay and neuter deposit fee to $25. She indicated if the deposit was raised, more people would spay and neuter their animals, but also it would place a hardship on the humane organizations; and that it could cut down on adoption of animals. Ms. Gregg was concerned about those Veterinarians who do not belong to the SCVMA and their ability to participate in the spay and neuter program.

She was informed that those Veterinarians can join the SCVMA. Ms. Gregg asked that the Commission write a letter to Sacramento regarding the Farr legislation.

STATUS REPORT ON NEWS ITEMS

Dyer Huston, Principal Public Relations Representative II, gave a status report on news items.

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

April 1, 1991
ATTEST

Mimi Peluso
PRESIDENT

Giselle Haupt
COMMISSION SECRETARY

a:3-4-91

MINUTES

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

BOARD OF ANIMAL REGULATION

Tuesday, February 19, 1991

1:30 p.m.

The Board of Animal Regulation Commissioners convened in regular session on Tuesday, February 19, 1991, in Room 155, City Hall South, 111 East First Street, Los Angeles, California 90012.

Members Present: President Robins and Commissioners Hoisch, Hochman and Huntington.

Members Absent: Commissioners Hochman and Velasco.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Consideration of Department of Animal Regulation Budget

The General Manager indicated that he met with the City Administrative Officer and recommendations were made which will be forwarded to the Mayor. He will meet with the Mayor the latter part of this week. Then we will have to wait for specific recommendations from the Mayor to the City Council. Mr. Rush indicated that the proposal is for a six percent budget reduction. Next year we may experience a reduction above six percent and possibly as high as ten percent. The state of the economy is serious with possible difficult economic times ahead. The Department will stay in line with their budgetary means. All Departments are affected with the budgetary reductions. We will know more after the meeting with the Mayor and then we will take a longer look at the budget proposal. We won't have an answer with what our concerns will be for a few more months. First we must see the Mayor's budget proposal.

Consideration of Barking Dog and Dangerous Animal Ordinances

Linda Gordon, Management Analyst, indicated there are two appeals cases scheduled for March 4, 1991. President Robins inquired as to when a demonstration was going to be given regarding electronic collars. Ms. Gordon indicated there will be a sub-committee meeting to look at documentation of the pros and cons of an electronic collar demonstration.

The General Manager indicated that the Chief Veterinarian is gather medical information from the SCVMA regarding this. The President of the Board stated she just wants to see what it is about and requested in the next six or eight weeks that a demonstration be set up. The General Manager indicated the Department wants to be careful and make sure the electronic collar is safe and humane. It is not mandatory, and is by choice one can use one. Mr. Rush indicated notice will be given when a demonstration date is set.

NEW BOARD BUSINESS

Consideration of Farr Legislation & What Department is Doing on it

The General Manager discussed Assembly Bill No. 4300 which would prohibit any retial dealer from knowingly selling any dog which is diseased, ill, or has a condition that requires hospitalization or surgical procedures, and in lieu of the $250 civil penalty, would impose maximum civil penalties of from $1,000 to $10,000 and would prohibit violators from selling dogs at retail for a maximum of 30 days to a year, or both, depending on the existence of prior offenses, as specified. It would modify the purchaser notice requirement to, instead, require a statement of any veterinarian treatment or medication received by the dog while in the possession of the retail dealer, and either a statement that the dog has no known disease, illness, or condition that requires hospitalization or surgical procedures, as specified. This bill would also require a notice to be conspicuously posted on the cage of any dog displayed for sale by a retail dealer indicating the state in which the dog was bred and brokered. It would require additional information to be made available, upon request, to prospective purchasers, and would require a notice regarding the availability of this information to be conspicuously posted, as specified. The General Manger indicated that pet shop owners are aware of the new Farr legislation.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ingbar Carlsen and Annette Carlsen spoke before the Board regarding their missing Doberman Pincher. They indicated that their Dobberman was released to a person who said he was the owner of their dog, but was in fact making a false statementto acquire the dog. Fortunately, the error was corrected and the Carlsen's were able to retrieve their dog through the efforts of West Valley Animal Care and Control Center. The Carlsens asked for protection of other animals and their owners. They asked that people be screened and their animals be identified before they are able to go into the shelters to look for their animals. They recommended using micro-chips, that information pamphlets be distributed, and the use of tatoos be considered.

Joyce Pieper, Mercy Crusade, spoke before the Board regarding the Draize Bill.

STATUS REPORT ON NEWS ITEMS

Dyer Huston, Prin. Public Relations Representative, gave a status report on news items.

IDENTIFICATION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

President Robins requested Consideration of Lost Animal Insert for Department of Water and Power flyers be placed on next Agenda. Commissioner Huntington requested that Consideration of Found Dog Retrieval Program be placed on next Agenda.

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

April 1, 1991
ATTEST

PRESIDENT

COMMISSION SECRETARY

a:2-19-91

MINUTES

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

BOARD OF ANIMAL REGULATION

Monday, February 4, 1991

1:00 p.m.

The Board of Animal Regulation Commissioners convened in regular session on Monday, February 4, 1991, in Room 155, City Hall South, 111 East First Street, Los Angeles, California 90012.

Members Present: Commissioners Hoisch, Huntington and Velasco.

Members Absent: President Robins and Commissioner Hochman.

Consideration of Status Report Regarding Increase of License Fee
Dan McGowan, City Administrative Office, introduced Commissioner George Parks, Productivity Commission. Mr. Parks spoke before the Board regarding the history of the Productivity Ad Hoc Committee which began in 1985 and became the Productivity Committee with 15 members in 1988. He discussed the educational programs for City employees, and other programs designed to make City employees more productive. He discussed the PIN organization and mentioned that a survey of City Departments was conducted and that several City departments need to know more about productivity and participate in the program. He gave the Public Works as an example of a Department that saves the City millions of dollars. He asked that every Department examine their work and determine how through productive areas they can save the City money. He indicated that the Productivity Committee is able to make loans if a Department's idea can make money. He suggested Animal Regulation participate in the productivity concept program and training programs offered which concentrates on front-line duties and employees who come in contact with the public.

Daniel McGowan spoke before the Board regarding the PIN concept and City employees brainstorming and reporting back to the Productivity Commission.

The General Manager spoke to the Board, Mr. Parks and Dan McGowan, and indicated that two years ago the Department of Animal Regulation received Outstanding Award of the Year for Productivity. The Department also has an internship program which will have ten to eleven interns by the end of the year.

Commissioner Huntington indicated that the Department has been conducting special seminars. These seminars are in-house training by an attorney and a university professor. The outcome of these seminars has substantially reduced the number of appeal cases heard by the Board of Appeals, with a savings in cost and an increase in productivity, saving $30,000 to $40,000 per year. Commissioner Huntington stated he is very impressed with what the Department has accomplished. We have a failure to communicate and need greater liaison. Commissioner Hoisch asked Dan McGowan who did the survey of Departments not participating in the Productivity Program. Dan McGowan indicated the PIN Committee listed those departments listed who participated in the information network meeting and acted on the Committees. Mr. McGowan indicated that the Department of Animal Regulation had just changed PIN coordinators and there would be a new productivity team with more employee involvement. Mr. McGowan stated that the reason for being before the Board was to give a pep talk.

Commissioner Huntington requested the General Manager provide the Productivity Commission a copy of the Training Material for the next In-House Training Session conducted by attorney and university professor to Department of Animal Regulation staff regarding conflicts resolution and other training programs. Mr. Rush stated when the Department did not receive funding for productivity improvements and did not have the staff to do the work, Dr. Bell was brought on board as an Intern Coordinator. Commissioner Huntington also mentioned there are volunteers assisting the Department in various programs and the Department is benefiting with new ideas. Commissioner Huntington asked Dan McGowan if Commissioners from other Boards attend the Productivity Commission meetings. Mr. McGowan indicated if a Board member wishes to attend a Productivity Committee meeting, to let them know and they will be placed on the agenda.

Commissioner Huntington thanked Dan McGowan and Commissioner Parks for coming before the Board. He stated they all now have a greater understanding of Productivity Programs that will be of benefit for both the Department of Animal Regulation and other Departments.

<u>Consideration of Barking Dog and Dangerous Animal Ordinances</u>
Linda Gordon, Management Analyst, asked the Board whether or not they wished to grant an appeal to be heard for Case No. 90665WV even thought it did not meet specifications as outlined in the ordinance. The Board indicated that the Department was justified in denying this particular appeal.

Consideration of Department of Animal Regulation Budget
Mr. Rush advised the Board there would be a Budget meeting with the CAO on Wednesday, February 6, 1991, at 2:30. Commissioners Huntington, Hoisch and Velasco indicated they would also attend the budget meeting with Mr. Rush.

The General Manager advised the Board that he talked with District Supervisors regarding changing boundaries covered by shelters in order to have a more definite and clear distinction, as well as improved reporting procedures. In this way productivity improvements can be monitored for each district shelter and we can determine exactly what is going on in the districts in a more precise manner. This will be a big money saving proposal.

Consideration of Department of Animal Regulation Budget
The General Manager indicated there have been reassignments made in the Department. The Department has nine Animal Control Officer vacancies. Six have been filled by trainees and the Department now has 45 Animal Control Officers. The Wildlife Officer now has a split assignment because one of the Wildlife Officers broke an ankle. Because General Services Department had to pull the night shift Security Officers from South Central Animal Care and Control, it has created a very trying situation. Reassignment of personnel have been made to cover the swing and graveyard shifts. Our overtime is exceeding the budgeted authority and it will be nip and tuck until June 30. Because of this, we have had a problem with evening shifts on Wednesday from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The Department asked for an exemption for hiring in order to hire an Animal Control Officer. We have not as yet heard from the CAO, Mayor, or Council on this matter. With the Mayor's hiring freeze, if a position becomes vacant, that position is frozen no matter what unless an exemption is granted. The District Supervisor from West Valley Animal Care and Control retired and we need to fill that vacancy. Plans for South Central Animal Care and Control facility are being worked on, as well as the plans for East Valley Animal Care and Control. Caging is being donated for East Valley.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Lois Newman spoke before the Board regarding trapping of wild cats. She is against putting these feral cats down when they are brought in to the shelters. She strongly suggested the Department change its policy and allow the public to keep feral cats when they show proof that the cat has been spayed or neutered. The General Manager stated he would talk to staff and take a look at what can be done.

STATUS REPORT ON NEW ITEMS

Dyer Huston, Sr. Public Relations Representative, gave a status report on news items.

The meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

April 1, 1991
ATTEST

Mimi Rollins
PRESIDENT

Gaiell Hoeppl
COMMISSION SECRETARY

A:2-4-91

MINUTES

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

BOARD OF ANIMAL REGULATION

Tuesday, January 22, 1991

1:00 p.m.

The Board of Animal Regulation Commissioners convened in regular session on Tuesday, January 22, 1991 in Room 155, City Hall South, 111 East First Street, Los Angeles, California 90012.

Members Present: President Robins and Commissioners Hochman, Hoisch, Huntington, and Velasco.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: None.

Consideration of Barking Dog and Dangerous Animal Ordinances

The Appeal for January 22, 1991 date was rescheduled to be heard on February 4, 1991. Ms. Gordon suggested a form be used to take up problems regarding appeal cases rather than discussing specific problems at the time of an appeal hearing. After further discussion, the Board decided that an appeal case be heard in normal fashion. If there is a problem regarding a specific appeal case, then that problem should be heard at a regular Commission Meeting under the Barking Dog and Dangerous Animal Ordinance section of the Agenda.

Consideration of Department of Animal Regulation Budget

The General Manager indicated that Dr. Foraker Smith will be conducting another seminar regarding Conflict Resolution and Negotiation. He stated he would be handing out material regarding this seminar during the Commission meeting.

Mr. Rush informed the Board that he would be meeting with the City Administrative Officer on February 6, 1991 and requested President Robins and Commissioner Huntington also attend that budget meeting. He stated that the CAO has approved 56 officers versus the original 60 officers which were approved in the budget. As soon as the General Manager meets with the CAO, he will meet with the Commission Budget Committee and then bring their recommendations and findings to the Board. This year is a frugal year in carrying out a 10 percent reduction in the Department of Animal Regulation budget. Those instructions went out to all departments and it may become a reality whether or not we want to face it. We will then have to manage the Department's staffing most carefully. The General Manager indicated so far $97,000 has been pulled out of the budget. There is a City-wide hiring freeze. In the case of Animal Control Officers, we can only fill three per the CAO figure. We have asked for an unfreeze request for District Supervisor to replace Tom Walsh who retired.

Mr. Rush gave an update on the Department of Animal Regulation move to 419 South Spring Street. He indicated that the Administration Division will be at South Spring effective January 28, 1991. The Animal Management Information Center and Accounting Section of the Department will follow once their furniture arrives. He requested the Board journey to 419 South Spring to see the neighborhood and where the Department Administrative Offices will be located. There was further discussion by the Board and Department about where the Board will meet. For the time being the Board will continue to meet at Room 155, City Hall South until Commission furniture is moved into South Spring.

Consideration of Spay and Neuter Program

The General Manager indicated that Dr. Sullivan is continuing to work to bring on board South Central, and West Los Angeles as part of the spay and neuter program.

Dick Holden, Executive Director, SCVMA, indicated he is working with Dr. Sullivan on the spay and neuter program. It has been successful in the East Valley so far. There have been positive responses from the participants who received questionnaires regarding this program. One question asked participants was, "would the spay and neuter program be a viable program to expand to other than the City of Los Angeles area." The majority of responses was yes to this question. Mr. Holden indicated there was going to be a meeting in the South Bay area to see if those veterinarians would be interested.

Consideration of Breeder's License

Commissioner Huntington indicated we have a volunteer to input the data and streamline the output. He stated we may need a regional approach to address the breeder problem. A large portion of the breeders are located outside Los Angeles. Commissioner Huntington asked the General Manager if a regional approach would be feasible. The General Manager indicated he would call a meeting of directors regarding this subject sometime in February. Mr. Rush asked Commissioner Huntington to also attend the meeting when they do meet.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Joyce Pieper, Mercy Crusade, spoke before the Board and inquired about Cable T.V. particularly channel 35 regarding the Lost and Found Animals and asked if advertising low cost spay and neuter clinics could also be incorporated in the program. President Robins suggested that she talk with Dyer Huston, Sr. Public Relations Representative, regarding this suggestion.

Sharon Gregg spoke before the Board and suggested a more effective public access television station for advertising the lost and found animals. She stated she does not have cable television and that it should be on public television.

STATUS REPORT ON NEWS ITEMS

Dyer Huston, Sr. Public Relations Representative, gave a status report on news items.

The meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

April 1, 1991
Attest

Mimi Robins
President

Giselle Haupt
Commission Secretary

MINUTES

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

BOARD OF ANIMAL REGULATION

Monday, January 7, 1991

1:00 p.m.

The Board of Animal Regulation Commissioners convened in regular session on Monday, January 7, 1991 in Room 155, City Hall South, 111 East First Street, Los Angeles, California 90012.

Members Present: President Robins and Commissioners Hochman, Hoisch, Huntington, and Velasco.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The Minutes of December 3, 1990 and December 17, 1990 were approved.

Disposition of Dogs and Cats
The General Manager transmitted the revised policy of the Department Manual amendment concerning the disposition of dogs and cats impounded by the Department of Animal Regulation. Specifically, eliminating the policy issued by the General Manager concerning Pit Bull type dogs dated February 8, 1990. The General Manager stated that dogs classified as potentially dangerous would continue to be evaluated according to paragraph three. President Robins expressed her appreciation for the effort that was put into this amendment and stated that it was a much more commendable policy. Lois Newman was recognized and recommended Dr. Polsky provide training to department staff on breed identification. Commissioner Hoisch moved and was seconded by Commissioner Hochman in support of the department change policy. The policy was unanimously approved.

Dangerous Animal and Barking Dog Ordinance.
Commissioner Hoisch expressed her concern in the use of the electronic barking dog collar which has been recently used as a term and condition of Administrative Hearing Barking Dog cases. She asked the Department to explain its cost and use. Linda Gordon spoke on behalf of the department and stated that the barking dog collar is not actually a new term and condition, but as the program has progressed the department is finding that it is becoming a more feasible alternative. She went on to state that the basic cost of the anti-bark collar was about $165. Mrs. Gordon offered to provide for the Commission a demonstration of the collar by the company that manufactures the device. She further stated that training for a dog requires a substantial investment of time and commitment on the part of the dog owner; and the department finds that the problems exist when the dog owner is not home to reinforce

the training. She said that trainers themselves have suggested the barking dog collars. President Robins was recognized and asked if there was any legal problem with the Board requesting respondents that come before them purchase this collar. The General Manager replied by stating, no, because it was a reasonable term and condition. He also stated that the department does not single out one person and treat that person different from a whole host of people. Dr. Velasco was recognized and said that basically from his experience, it is well accepted by most dog owners for this problem. He also stated that he recommends the device before having de-barking surgery done. The General Manger went on to state that cost wise the barking dog collar is a cheaper alternative to professional training. Commissioner Hochman stated that he felt is was a good approach.

Consideration of Department of Animal Regulation Budget

The General Manager stated that the Department has transferred back $97,000 out of its budget, which the City Administrative Officer extracted. He stated that it was almost equivalent to four positions which the department would be unable to fill. He also stated that the department did submit a request last week for the position of Animal Control Officer. He said that the department presently has seven vacant positions of Animal Control Officer out of sixty possible positions. The General Manager said that combined with the holidays, vacation and sickness it really reduces the ability of the department to function well. He went on to say that by the instructions and guidelines of the Mayor's Executive Directive, as well as the instructions from the City Council, he submitted a concurrent request to the Mayor and the City Council asking authority to fill those positions for the balance of the fiscal year. Mr. Rush stated that the department has monies appropriated for those positions as approved by the City Council and the Mayor for this year. He said that he was sure the Department would be able to meet with the Mayor's Office, CAO and the City Council to discuss this matter.

Consideration of Breeders Licenses

President Robins described how Commissioner Huntington extracted names and telephone numbers of people who were selling animals in the City of Los Angeles. Meyer Levine was recognized and stated that the two people who were responsible for making the telephone calls, met with various kinds of responses, mostly answering machines. They did make some contact, but probably only 20 - 25 percent of all the names. Commissioner Huntington was recognized and asked what the result of the twenty five percent was. Mr. Rush

stated that 100% of the 25% was professional and some were not located in the City. Mr. Rush further stated that people that had answering machines would be investigated through the use of a reverse directory. Commissioner Robins asked how many of the names contacted were license breeders, Mr. Levine stated "none". President Robins stated that with a lot of them, the department should be able to do something with a letter. Mr. Levine said, "hopefully we can prompt people into acting, but a letter is not a person". Mr. Rush stated that the department should have the basics of a motion concerning its ideas by the end of this week for transmittal to Council. President Robins stated that this idea was definitely "doable" and definitely revenue producing if the department can make it work. Mr. Rush stated that doable is subject for review by the City Attorney. Commissioner Hochman asked what the department proposes to do? Mr. Rush said "to handle the enforcement of it administratively under Civil procedures for Breeders License, operating and selling animals in the City and doing it under Civil Liability". Mr. Hochman then asked, what sort of system does the County have in place? Mr. Rush said, "nothing".

Public Comment

Lois Newman spoke before the Board and gave her advise on how Commissioner Huntington should approach his telephone breeders analyst by utilizing Pacific Bell and General Telephone.

Status Report On News Items

Dyer Huston, Sr. Public Relations Representative, gave a status report on news items.

The meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

April 1, 1991
ATTEST

Mimi Robins
PRESIDENT

Wayne L. Garcia
ACTING COMMISSION SECRETARY

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MINUTES

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

BOARD OF ANIMAL REGULATION

Monday, December 17, 1990

2:00 p.m.

The Board of Animal Regulation Commissioners convened in regular session on Monday, December 17, 1990, in Room 155, City Hall South, 111 East First Street, Los Angeles, California 90012.

Members Present: President Robins and Commissioners Hochman, Hoisch, Huntington and Velasco.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The Minutes of November 19, 1990 were approved as corrected. (Unanimous approval.)

Consideration of Barking Dog and Dangerous Animal Ordinances
The Board approved to hear the Gluck Appeal Case for the January 7, 1991 Commission meeting.

Consideration of Department of Animal Regulation Budget
The General Manager indicated the City Administrative Office anticipates a "doom and gloom" budget for 1990-91. The Department's authorized positions for 1990-91 have been removed by City Council. The Department disagrees with one category where four positions were removed from the Department's budget. Mr. Rush will be meeting with the City Administrative Officer regarding this issue. He stated that when there is a "hiring freeze", there are a lot of steps involved. The request for unfreeze goes from the CAO, to the Mayor, to Finance Committee and on to the City Council. It is becoming increasing clear we are coming short of revenue in the City and there is a tightness of funding. Mr. Rush indicated that he will meet with the Budget Committee regarding possible further budget reductions in the Department and come back to the Commission with their recommendations.

Consideration of Breeder's License

Commissioner Huntington submitted to the Board a report he worked on entitled "Los Angeles Department of Animal Regulation Breeders Advertising Analysis Report." He indicated the information he gathered was labor intensive and would take from eight to twelve hours a week to gather on a regular basis from newspapers. If the Department were to go with this project, it should be done on a weekly basis and over a long period of time. A computer would be needed and would require several different programs. We would need to define the criteria to be used to define backyard breeders. The Board and Department reviewed Commissioner Huntington's report and the Use Breeder Structure List. Some of the issues discussed by the Board were: Use of telephone prefixes, sending a form letter out to put people on notice regarding requirement of having a breeder's license; use of reverse directory; raising breeder's license fee; the need for enforcement of breeder's license fee; and request newspapers to require a Breeder's License No. when an advertisement is placed in newspaper.

The General Manager indicated the Breeder's License Fee enforcement program could be incorporated into the Administrative Hearing process, which would be a self-policing thing. Then the Department would have recourse. Commissioner Huntington was supportive of the General Manager's recommendation and indicated that part of the whole problem would be the enforcement of the Breeder's License Fee which could be handled by the Department in the Administrative Process which would be self-policing. It would be excellent and the revenue from that would be excellent.

The General Manager indicated that from Commissioner Huntington's report, he would run those phone numbers listed to see if those people have licenses for their dogs. Commissioner Hochman inquired about generating form letters to let people know that licenses are required for breeders. Commissioner Velasco volunteered his employees' services and indicated he would pay them to assist in gathering information from newspapers of those persons selling animals.

Consideration of Spay and Neuter Program
Commissioner Velasco requested that discussion on this item be postponed until after the holidays.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sharon Gregg, 8033 West Sunset Boulevard, Los Angeles, spoke before the Board and stated using the Administrative Hearing Program as a policing program regarding Breeders' Licenses is a very sane, progressive, excellent, ingenious idea. Ms. Gregg then read a letter she received from a person regarding the sale of cats and dogs who were starving and skin and bones. In the letter, the person indicated a big concern about the inhumane treatment of animals that are sold by "rescue" people, who in reality are only interested in the dollar and treat these animals in an inhumane way. The Department needs a stricter more enforceable Breeders License program.

Joyce Pieper, Mercy Crusade, spoke before the Board regarding the new Farr Bill. This Bill requires that Pet Shops indicate the State of origin of animals, their health history, etc. The enforcement of this law involves the Department of Animal Regulation and the Consumer Affairs Department. The General Manager indicated that any permittees under the Department's control will be notified of the FARR Bill. There are approximately 104 pet shops in the City of Los Angeles. Mr. Rush stated that a form letter and attachment of the Farr Bill will be sent to the permittees. President Robins requested this item be placed on the Board's agenda in a few months and that the Department give an update on what the Department is doing on this item.

STATUS REPORT ON NEWS ITEMS
Dyer Huston, Sr. Public Relations Representative, gave a status report on news items.

Sharon Gregg spoke before the Board and asked why pigeons are being put to sleep. She also asked about coyote trapping and killing. The General Manager indicated that the Department is now looking at the coyote trap, and will bring something in on this item after the first of the year. Commissioner Hochman suggested asking the City of Burbank to speak before the Board and make a presentation on this subject.

The meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

January 22, 1991
ATTEST

Mimi Bohem
PRESIDENT

Giselle Hauptl
COMMISSION SECRETARY

A:12-17-90

MINUTES

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

BOARD OF ANIMAL REGULATION

Monday, December 3, 1990

1:30 a.m.

The Board of Animal Regulation Commissioners convened in regular session on Monday, December 3, 1990 in Room 155, City Hall South, 111 East First Street, Los Angeles, California 90012.

Members Present: President Robins and Commissioners Hochman, Hoisch, Huntington, and Velasco.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The Minutes of November 5, 1990 were approved as corrected.

Consideration of License Fee Adjustment

Commissioner Hochman discussed the possibility of increasing license fees of unlicensed animals. He suggested a proposal to increase the fee for those animals not sterilized. He suggested a public hearing be held regarding such a proposal to raise fees if animals are not altered. It was also recommended that the Board receive comments on the usefulness of such a fee differential from other animal agencies and humane societies and the public. He indicated if an ordinance were passed for increase of fees it should become effective six months to one year after passage of ordinance. There should be public education regarding low cost spay and neuter programs. Commissioner Hoisch asked the Department when the fees were last raised. The General Manager indicated about 3 1/2 years ago the fees were raised from $16 to $18 for unaltered animals. Commissioner Hoisch asked the General Manager if there was any drop rate in licenses by the public and his response was "yes." He also indicated that the Department puts out more resources to get licenses, and anytime you raise fees, it is more difficult to get an animal licensed. Most licenses are voluntary. We get renewal licenses and licenses from those people who happen to get caught. Before Proposition 13, the Department was able to catch more people without dog licenses.

President Robins asked the General Manager what the Department's position is on raising license fees. The General Manager indicated that it would be a regressive form of movement. That is why the Department wants the two percent pet tax fee to pass. Commissioner Hoisch asked how license fees in the City compare with the County. Mr. Rush indicated the County fees are: $10 for altered animals, and $20 for unaltered animals. The City fees are: $8 for altered animals and $18 for unaltered animals. The General Manager indicated that the County is not issuing as many licenses as the City issues. Commissioner Velasco suggested that any lowering of license fees would increase the number of licenses. With regard to increasing license fees, Commissioner Huntington felt it could be a problem without an enforcement program by the Department. He also mentioned with the Budget constraints and limited revenue, it would be difficult for the Department to secure positions to enforce such a program. The General Manager indicated the Department is looking for other ways to secure revenue, and that the two percent pet product tax was to go before the Intergovernmental Relations Committee.

After further discussion, the Board indicated they would like to see a public hearing. However, the Board requested the Department prepare a form letter to be sent to other governmental animal care and control agencies, humane organizations, and concerned citizens in order to receive input from them before a public hearing is scheduled. Some of the items discussed by the Board to be incorporated into the form letter sent out were: asking for their thoughts on increasing fees up to $50 for unaltered dogs; whether or not they believe any increase beyond the current level currently established by the Department would be counter productive, or would achieve desired goals and objectives of encouraging animal owners to have their animals sterilized in greater numbers; or whether or not the Department should decrease dog license fees, and if so why?

<u>Consideration of Department of Animal Regulation Budget</u>
The General Manager indicated that due to budget condition and tight restraints there will probably bee a freeze on hiring and position will remain vacant where vacancies occur unless Department's obtain Mayoral approval for exemption from the hiring freeze.

The Board recessed at 2:05 p.m.

The Board reconvened at 2:15 p.m.

Consideration of Breeder's License

The Board and Department discussed possible amendment to the Breeder's License. However, it was clear to the Board and Department that because of the present budget constraints, the Department would not have the staff to enforce such an ordinance. The General Manager suggested bringing in a Reserve Animal Control Officer specialist to place calls to those Breeder's who advertise in newspapers and other areas, and then place those names and addresses in computers. In this way, Department could ascertain those persons who have or do not have breeder's licenses and could follow up on obtaining license fees by telephone. Mr. Rush stated he would get a directive out requesting assistance from the Reserve Animal Control Officers. Commissioner Huntington offered assistance to collect data, using students to develop a program using newspaper ads, etc.

Consideration of Early Spaying and Neutering of Animals

Commissioner Velasco indicated he had talked with Dr. Ziegler. Commissioner Velasco stated the concept is very practical to a certain degree. Dogs are spayed between eight to twelve weeks. You have to develop a confidence level to spay and neuter an animal. Some veterinarians will not do very small dogs or great danes. President Robins asked if early spaying and neutering of shelter animals would be possible. Commissioner Velasco stated some veterinarians would do it. The General Manager indicated that it is up to the discretion of those veterinarians in the West Valley as to whether or not animals are spayed or neutered at an early age. There was further discussion by the Board and Department regarding risks involved to young animals spayed and neutered. The General Manager indicated that the Department has always ruled for safety, which means spaying and neutering of animals six months old because the Department does not have a history on the shelter animals. Commissioner Velasco indicated he has no problem with early spaying and neutering of animals, however it is a matter of how practical it is for shelter animals. It was suggested that Dr. Ziegler, Chief Veterinarian, and Commissioners Huntington and Velasco meet and then report back to the Board with their recommendations regarding early spaying and neutering of animals.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Joyce Pieper, Mercy Crusade, spoke before the Board in favor of early spaying and neutering of animals. She indicated she has a list of doctors who endorse early spaying and neutering of animals wholeheartedly. She feels the problems at the Shelters can be solved.

Maida Henderson, Mercy Crusade, spoke before the Board in favor of early spaying and neutering of animals. She requested a pilot program at North Central Animal Care and Control for early spaying and neutering of animals. She indicated she would send a prepared statement to be sent to the Commission with her proposal.

Marge Gable, Kennel Owner, spoke before the Board and indicated to raise licenses now would be a disaster. The Commission should support the Department. She offered to personally go through the Daily News Newspaper to find those people who run Kennels in order to secure licenses from those people.

Sharon Gregg spoke before the Board about her concern about a Breeder's License Ordinance. She feels something should be done to enforce a breeder's license.

Lois Newman, Cat and Dog Rescue Association, spoke before the Board. She indicted there is no excuse that veterinarians in Los Angeles City cannot do early spaying and neutering of animals. If they cannot do it, the City should hire the best. She believes the Breeder's License Fee should be raised to $100 and the ordinance should be changed.

STATUS REPORT OF NEWS ITEMS

Dyer Huston, Sr. Public Relations Representative, gave a status report on news items.

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

January 22, 1991
ATTEST

Mimi Bohrer
PRESIDENT

Estelle Harper
COMMISSION SECRETARY

a:12-30-90

MINUTES

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

BOARD OF ANIMAL REGULATION

Monday, November 19, 1990

1:30 p.m.

The Board of Animal Regulation Commissioners convened in regular session on Monday, November 19, 1990, in Room 155, City Hall South, 111 East First Street, Los Angeles, California 90012.

Members Present: President Robins, and Commissioners Hochman, Hoisch, Huntington and Velasco.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: None.

Consideration of Barking Dog and Dangerous Animal Ordinances

Linda Gordon, Management Analyst II, spoke before the Board regarding appeals. Commissioner Hochman asked who in the Department was making the decision on whether or not an appeal met the Ordinance criteria for hearing by the Commission as an appeal. He stated that he thought this decision was for the Commission to make. The General Manager indicated that he makes that decision based upon whether or not those people who file an appeal attend the administrative hearings, as well as many other factors. Ms. Gordon asked the Board if they wished to hear all appeals. The President requested that the Administrative Hearing Coordinator provide a list of appeals of which the Board can then determine what should or should not be heard. The General Manager indicated pursuant to the Ordinance, that he is responsible for determining what cases should or should not be heard by the Board. Commissioner Huntington requested that the Department come to the Board and inform them of any special situation. The President requested the Board be notified in advance when there is a problem with an appeal. It was suggested this item be discussed under the regular Agenda item, and at that time it can be determined whether or not an appeal should be scheduled for hearing by the Board. The General Manager suggested that a special meeting be held to discuss this appeal matter with Michael Klekner, City Attorney's Office.

Consideration of Department of Animal Regulation Budget

The General Manager indicated the 1990-91 Budget package will be given to the Board before the end of the Board meeting. He requested that Board members also attend Budget meetings with the CAO, Budget and Finance Committee and Council when they meet regarding Budget reductions.

Consideration of Proposals for Animal Sterilization Grant Funds

Meyer Levine, Sr. Management Analyst II, spoke before the Board regarding the proposed spay and neuter services grant program to humane groups to be funded from the Animal Sterilization Fund No. 842. He indicated as of today there is $284,764 in the Fund. The Department now has committed from the Animal Sterilization Fund No. 842 the following programs: Transfer into the Department salaries account 1010 to pay the salaries of one spay and neuter surgical team - $144,496; Annual dues to the Coalition for Pet Population Control - $39,299; East Valley Spay and Neuter Program - $10,000; Harbor and West Los Angeles Spay and Neuter Program - approximately $15,000 per year. Mr. Levine stated with the amount of funds from that source so heavily committed, that it would not be prudent to commit to any other spay and neuter services at this time. The General Manager stated that the budgetary outlook for the City is not good. He further stated that we must be cautious because further budget reductions may be necessary. Commissioner Huntington asked how many proposals were received for spay and neuter grant funding. The General Manager stated that the Department received proposals from Pet Assistance, Actors and Others for Animals and from Volunteer Services to Animals.

Consideration of Pit Bull Type Policy

President Robins indicated that the Motion in effect from November 5, 1990 Board meeting is: "That the Board oppose the General Manager's policy regarding Pit Bull type dogs, and that a letter be sent to the Mayor." It was requested that the General manager review the present procedures and policy and statistics for making his decision. The General Manager passed out a memo dated November 19, 1990 to the Board regarding "Statement by Robert I. Rush, General Manager, to the Board of Animal Regulation Concerning the Disposition of Pit Bull Type Dogs in City Animal Care and Control Centers." The conclusion of the General Manager's memo was as follows: "The primary obligation of this Department is to protect the citizenry as well as the welfare of animals. Accordingly, my decision to prohibit the sale of Pit Bull type dogs to the public was not intended to segregate a breed of dog for destruction, but to take the only responsible action to meet those obligations. Until such time as legislation is enacted which would allow the City of Los Angeles to adopt a permit system to protect its citizens from hazards created by negligent owners of these potentially dangerous dogs, this prohibition against their sale to the public must continue. Pending the enactment of such legislation, I request the understanding and support of the Commission and others in the enforcement of this necessary policy."

The Board and General Manager discussed permit system; minimum standards for public safety; charts used by Department to determine statistics regarding Pit Bull type dogs; and the criteria used. Commissioner Hoisch asked Commissioner Velasco how easy or difficult it is to determine if a dog is aggressive. Commissioner Velasco indicated the hardest to determine are the fear bitters--those dogs bite without any signs of aggressiveness. The real bitters show signs of being ferocious. Commissioner Huntington indicated that he has difficulty with the Department's policy and difficulty with the proposed letter to the Mayor because there is no solution to the problem. He indicated that he would like to see the Commission support a change in the State law that prohibits breed through the permit system.

The Board took a vote on Commissioner Hoisch's Motion: "that the Board oppose the General Manager's policy regarding Pit Bull type dogs, and that a letter be sent to the Mayor." (4 ayes; 1 noe, Commissioner Huntington.)

Commissioner Huntington made the following Motion: "That the Commission become pro-active in writing to the Mayor and City Council and State representatives to bring about a repeal with a law that prohibits a breed specific permit system." Commissioner Hoisch seconded the Motion. (3 ayes; 2 noes, President Robins and Commissioner Hochman.)

The General Manager indicated that the Department submitted a request in February of this year regarding a permit system. However, Senator Torres prohibited breed specific legislation. Mr. Rush indicated that he will request to Council that part of the legislation program for 1990-91 for the State establish a permit system. Commissioner Huntington indicated the Board would write a letter to assist. Commissioner Huntington asked that the Pit Bull type dog issue be given high priority and that the Department assign someone to shepherd this through. The General Manager stated he would look into this.

Consideration of Request from U.S. Post Office for Service from the Department of Animal Regulation When Needed

Representatives from the U.S. Post Office spoke before the Board regarding assistance from Animal Regulation shelters, particularly in the Northeast and Southwest areas of the City. They indicated that they are concerned about the lack of cooperation in recent months. Some examples of concern were they are not given assistance where a dog is confined on property and they must deliver mail. The General Manager indicated if the animal is confined on private property, the Department cannot go in unless the animal is running at large. The Department receives more than 30,000 requests for service which is impossible to handle.

Mr. Rush suggested working with the Public Safety Division and sending notices to the public in order to educate dog owners and have them take responsibility for their animals. He indicated that there is a serious leash law problem. He suggested that a meeting be set up with Postal representatives, himself and Michael Burns to work problems out.

The meeting recessed at 2:40 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 2:50 p.m.

The General Manager introduced to the Board the Department's new CAO Analyst, Laura Filatoff.

Consideration of Program for Sterilizing Cats at East Valley Animal Care and Control Center

Commissioner Huntington indicated there is a cat breeding problem that appears to be greater than the dog breeding problem in Los Angeles. He suggested a pilot program at one of the shelters where all cats from that shelter be spayed and neutered. Once we receive feedback, and if it is successful, it could be a City-wide program. Commissioner Velasco suggested only spaying or neutering those cats that are adopted before they leave the shelters. Dr. Ziegler, Chief Veterinarian, suggested he and Commissioner Velasco investigate and look into it and make a presentation to the Board of the advantages and disadvantages of such a program. President Robins appointed the following Committee to serve: Commissioner Huntington, Commissioner Velasco and Dr. Ziegler. The Committee will meet and report back to the Board in the future.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Lois Newman, 5711 1/2 Lexington Avenue, Hollywood, spoke before the Board regarding Ferral Cat Population and Cat and Dog Rescue Association. She indicated the purpose of this association is for landlord tenant realtors, and to alert the City to problem of people who move that dump their dogs and cats. She suggested better vets in the clinics who know how to handle Ferral Cats and to have the veterinarians spay and neuter them rather than kill them.

Pat Bercel, President, VSA, spoke before the Board and indicated years ago when spay and neuter fee was $10, VSA picked up the rest of fees, and that two days after animals were altered, people picked up their animals. She indicated that these programs work.

Joyce Pieper, Mercy Crusade, spoke before the Board and suggested expanding program with the private veterinarians in West Valley and to stay on same program and draw from veterinarians in other sectors of the City.

Judy Hoi, Humane Foundation of Cat Care, spoke before the Board and inquired about the grant fund of $40,000 to Coalition for Pet Population Control. President Robins indicated further grant funds will be looked at in June 1990 and that money is now better spent on spaying and neutering of animals.

IDENTIFICATION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS
It was requested by President Robins that Consideration of Spaying and Neutering Program at West Valley be placed on future agenda.

STATUS REPORT ON NEWS ITEMS
Dyer Huston, Sr. Public Relations Representative, spoke before the Board of status of news items.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

January 7, 1991
ATTEST

Minnie Robins
PRESIDENT

Giselle Hoeppl
COMMISSION SECRETARY

A:11-19-90

MINUTES

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

BOARD OF ANIMAL REGULATION

Monday, November 5, 1990

1:00 p.m.

The Board of Animal Regulation Commissioners convened in regular session on Monday, November 5, 1990, in Room 155, City Hall South, 111 East First Street, Los Angeles, California 90012.

Members Present: President Robins and Commissioners Hochman, Hoisch, Huntington and Velasco.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The Minutes of October 1, 1990 and October 15, 1990 were unanimously approved (Commissioner Huntington was not present at time of vote).

Consideration of Woo/Alatorre Motion Re: Waiting Period of All Animals Brought into Shelters

Diana Brueggemann of Councilman Woo's Office spoke before the Board to help clarify Councilman Woo's Motion that "the Department be instructed to implement the waiting period for all animals brought to shelters unless staff at the shelters can establish that an animal is incurably ill, badly injured, or dangerous." The General Manager was asked if that policy was in effect. He indicated that in spite of the insufficiencies of lack of proper facilities and personnel to keep additional animals maintained, the Department is implementing Councilman Woo's Motion. Commissioner Hochman indicated that the Motion is meaningless and that this is an opportunity for the Department and Committee to hold animals for the same time frame as stray animals brought in. Mr. Rush stated that he would respond to Councilman Woo and demonstrate how the Department could hold more animals.

Consideration of Barking Dog and Dangerous Animal Ordinances

The General Manager indicated that the Task Force Committee is currently working on this subject. As requested, Linda Gordon, Management Analyst, submitted to Commissioner Hochman the Administrative Hearing Program Cost report for period July 1, 1989 to June 29, 1990. Commissioner Hochman requested the Department prepare a brochure to be handed to the public regarding the Barking Dog and Dangerous Animal Ordinance and procedures. He asked the Department to give a hard date for completion of brochure. The General Manager indicated that Dr. Justine Bell will be working on this. He will also assign a staff member and outside person to put the brochure together and bring it back to the Commission.

Consideration of Implementation of New Ordinance Pertaining to Prohibition of Ritual Animal Sacrifice

Michael Burns, District Supervisor, North Central Animal Care and Control, discussed the recent passage of the ritual sacrifice ordinance (Section 53.67 L.A.M.C.) which will become effective November 12, 1990. He explained that training has occurred for Department and Bureau of Sanitation personnel which will be ongoing to center on investigation specifics. Full cooperation has been promised by the Los Angeles Police Department and Office of the City Attorney. President Robins asked that the Board be apprised from time to time on what is going on.

Consideration of Pit Bull Policy and City Attorney's Opinion

President Robins indicated that she is opposed to the General Manager's policy. Commissioner Hoisch said, "it is an unnecessary policy which creates negative attitudes from the public, and that there is a perception that staff personnel are not wise in determining what dog is a Pit Bull type dog. People have a fear of bringing in animals because of the Policy." President Robins said, "to single out a dog is discriminatory and poor public relations." Commissioner Hoisch made the following Motion: "That the Board oppose the General Manager's Policy regarding Pit Bull Type Dogs, and that a letter be sent to the Mayor." Commissioner Hochman indicated he is not opposed to adopting puppies that are Pit Bull Type dogs. He is not sure that Pit Bulls are any more of a problem than any other animal that leaves the shelters. He suggested modification of the policy until more information is gathered as to the risks involved with adult Pit Bulls. Commissioner Huntington indicated he has difficulty with the Department's policy. He asked if it results with a net increase in the number of dogs put down. The General Manager stated he didn't believe it does. Commissioner Huntington stated he has a problem with the number of animals put down.

By not having the General Manager's policy, it is not going to change the numbers one way or the other. Rather than submitting a proposed ordinance to the Mayor on this one issue, Commissioner Huntington recommended a request to the Mayor that would include a methodology of acquiring funding from drug monies. Something that will result in a methodology for the Department to retain more animals, or to somehow impact that total number. Commissioner Velasco indicated that it is not only the Pit Bull that can be a problem. He sees more problems with Cocker Spaniels and breeds being inbred. It is the "fear bitters" that are worse. In those cases where animals are more extremely aggressive, most professionals and shelter people know how to react. The Pit Bull type dog can make the most acute annoying damage to persons, whether it be to an owner or to shelter personnel. Most Veterinarians report dog bites. He asked the Department how many reports are collected regarding Pit Bulls and other different breeds. The General Manager indicated that the Department receives a copy of dog bite reports from the County Health Department. The report contains a breakdown by breed. It was requested that the Board be given a copy of the County Health Department's Dog Bite Report by Breed. Dr. Velasco indicated that there has to be some kind of alternative to putting Pit Bull puppies to sleep. He asked about the possibility of those persons adopting Pit Bull type dogs signing a waiver.

Commissioner Hoisch asked Commissioner Velasco if fear bitters are easily recognizable. Commissioner Velasco indicated that the Pit Bull can be docile, and an aggressive nature can come out with any dog. However, there are certain qualities of Pit Bulls where they can attack for any unknown reason. The Pit Bull has strong, massive jaws that can break bones easily. It is a very political issue. Pit Bulls have been used for gangs and fighting. The breed has been used and abused. Commissioner Hochman asked if the Department had the written guidelines used to determine if an animal is a Pit Bull type dog. The General Manager indicated he would have it for the Board at the next Commission meeting. Commissioner Hoisch stated, "she believes very strongly that the Department should not place any animal out for adoption that shows aggressive tendencies. The Department has the capability of not allowing any poorer Pit Bull dog to go out without an overall policy like this. Because of this policy, there is a reluctance of some of the people to bring animals into the Shelters. Commissioner Velasco suggested the possibility of filing down a dog's canines the same levels as front teeth. The upper and lower canines are the most destructive in animals.

President Robins indicated her concern is the written policy of the Department. She does not think any dog should be adopted out if it is aggressive. We should not be "breed or type" specific. If a dog is sick, injured, or dangerous, the Department has never adopted dogs out. She doesn't see any reason for a written policy on this.

Commissioner Huntington asked the Department if they would be willing to modify its directive to say: "animals that are perceived to be dangerous", in place of the word "Pit Bulls" in the General Manager's policy directive. The General Manager stated he would like to think it over and talk to staff about this. The Department is concerned about public safety.

It was requested that the Motion be held over until next Commission meeting when a report and analysis is received.

Consideration of Proposed Expenditures for Animal Welfare Trust Fund by General Manager

The General Manager indicated that presently the Animal Welfare Trust Fund has under $50,000 and during the month of November will receive $250,000. The Pollard Estate has been approved and accepted for deposit by the Mayor and City Council. Of the $20,000 from the Olden Estate, $10,000 will be deposited in the Animal Welfare Trust Fund, and $10,00 will be deposited in the Animal Sterilization Trust Fund Account. There will be approximately $300,000 to work with from the Animal Welfare Trust Fund. The General Manager and Board reviewed, discussed and took action on the following items:

1. Memo dated October 29, 1990 to the Board from the General Manager Regarding: "Request for Approval to Expend Funds from the Animal Welfare Trust Fund to Improve the Quality of Life for Animals at the East Valley Animal Care and Control Center."

   Commissioner Hoisch made a Motion to support the Department's proposal for Animal Welfare Trust Funds to improve the East Valley Animal Care and Control Center. Commissioner Huntington seconded the Motion. (Unanimous approval.)

   Commissioner Hochman suggested that there be a refinement of policy procedures by the Board on how monies are spent from the Animal Welfare Trust Fund. However the Board felt each item should be looked at as it comes up. The General Manager indicated that the Department is spending money in accordance with the Ordinance. The only difference is that the General Manager is to come before the Board for approval of expenditure of money for the benefit of animals pursuant to the Ordinance.

2. Memo dated October 25, 1990 to the Board from the General Manager regarding: "Request for Approval to Expend Funds from the Animal Welfare Trust Fund to install a new 8' Block wall on the West Side of the North Central Animal Care and Control Center Property to Protect Impounded Animals."

   Commissioner Huntington made a Motion to approve expenditure for approval of new 8' Block Wall at North Central Animal Care and Control property to protect animals. Commissioner Hoisch seconded the Motion. (Unanimous approval.)

3. Memo dated October 12, 1990 to the Board from the General Manager regarding: "Field Equipment."

   Commissioner Huntington made a Motion to approve expenditure for net guns and recommended that the Department first attempt to acquire funding from the Drug Fund and if that is not possible, then funds from the Animal Welfare Trust Fund be used. Commissioner Hoisch seconded the Motion. (Unanimous approval.)

4. Memo dated October 25, 1990 to Meyer S. Levine from Jack Nylund Regarding: "Departmental Computer Resources."

   Commissioner Hochman suggested there should be guidance from Board regarding use of Animal Welfare Trust Funds. Commissioner Velasco stated the issue here is for the Board to discuss, make a decision, and approve such things. He felt setting guidelines would be very difficult. Commissioner Huntington made a Motion to urge the Commission approve expenditures for Departmental Computer Resources for upgrading computer software. Commissioner Hoisch seconded the Motion. (Unanimous approval.)

IDENTIFICATION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS
It was requested the following items be placed the next Agenda: Consideration of Request from U.S. Post Office for Service from the Department of Animal Regulation When Needed; Consideration of Program for Sterilization Cats at East Valley Care and Control Center; and Consideration of Pit Bull Type Dog Policy.

The meeting recessed at 2:40 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 4:15 p.m.

Meyer Levine, Sr. Management Analyst II and Linda Gordon, Management Analyst I, presented an outline of the proposed budget packages for fiscal year 1991-92. The Board questioned the need for certain equipment as it relates to safety for field personnel, and the priority order of all packages.

Commissioner Huntington inquired about the upgrading of various positions the Department requested on an interim basis. Meyer Levine stated that the Department is requesting the upgrades on a now basis, however, these requests must also be made through the budgetary process.

Commissioner Huntington made a Motion to support the Department's budget proposals and attend budget meetings with the General Manager. Commissioner Hoisch seconded the Motion. (Unanimous approval.)

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

December 17, 1990
ATTEST

Wm. Robbins
PRESIDENT

Estelle Haupt
COMMISSION SECRETARY

a:11-5-90

ROUGH DRAFT

MINUTES

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

BOARD OF ANIMAL REGULATION

Monday, October 15, 1990

1:30 p.m.

The Board of Animal Regulation Commissioners convened in regular session on Monday, October 15, 1990, in Room 155, City Hall South, 111 East First Street, Los Angeles, California 90012.

Members Present: President Robins and Commissioners Hochman, Huntington and Velasco.

Members Absent: Commissioner Hoisch.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The Minutes of September 24, 1990 were approved as amended. (Unanimous approval, Commissioner Hoisch was absent.)

President Robins introduced Commissioner Velasco to the Board. Commissioner Velasco was appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by Council on October 3, 1990 as Commissioner to the Board of Animal Regulation. Commissioner Velasco indicated that he has been practicing veterinary medicine in the Los ^Angeles area for ten years and has a practice in Burbank and resides in North Hollywood. He stated that he has a lot of material to go through and would be observing and learning about the Department. Commissioner Velasco welcomed any questions from the Board or audience. The General Manager indicated that the Department is delighted to have Commissioner Velasco.

Consideration of Barking Dog and Dangerous Animal Ordinances
The General Manager advised the Board that the Administrative Task Force held a meeting and another meeting will be held on October 25. There were no new matters to discuss at this time regarding the Task Force.

Consideration of Department of Animal Regulation Budget
The General Manager indicated that the Budget Committee met today and they will meet again on October 29.

Consideration of Pit Bull Policy and City Attorney's Opinion
Michael Burns, District Supervisor, North Central Animal Care and Control, and the Board spoke regarding the Department's Pit Bull Policy. President Robins indicated that the Board received and reviewed the transcript of the Pit Bull public hearing that was held on June 19, 1990. It was requested that the Department hold Pit Bull type dogs in the shelters that were not considered aggressive. The General Manager indicated the Department is presently holding Pit Bull type dogs that are not considered dangerous. He stated that the Mayor and Department sent a communication to Senator Torres requesting legislation establishing a permit system regarding Pit Bull type dogs. Senator Torres' responded by indicating that he would not oppose it, but that he would not introduce legislation. It was decided by the Board to vote on this issue at the next Board meeting when Commissioner Hoisch would be present.

Commissioner Hochman inquired about who makes Pit Bull type determinations, and asked if there is a check and balance system. Mr. Rush indicated that the Department has review levels in the districts: Animal Care Technician, Sr. Animal Care Technician, Sr. Animal Control Officer, and District Supervisor. He indicated in July a training program was conducted by the Department. He had asked for assistance in developing a training program regarding Pit Bull type dog determinations, but did not receive assistance from outside the Department as requested. Mr. Rush stated that in order to change the Department's policy regarding Pit Bull type dogs being released from the shelters, an ordinance would have to be passed by the Mayor and Council to reverse it. Commissioner Hochman requested the Board receive by the next Commission meeting a copy of the written guidelines used by staff on how the Department determines if an animal is a Pit Bull Type dog.

Consideration of Woo/Alatorre Motion Re: Waiting Period for All Animals Brought into Shelters

President Robins indicated that the Commission supported a Department policy implementing a waiting period for owner brought in animals to the shelters. The Department would hold for adoption those animals that were adoptable and not dangerous. She asked the General Manager if that policy was now in effect. The General Manager indicated that it is in effect. President Robins read the following Woo/Alatorre Motion: "That the Department be instructed to implement the waiting period for all animals brought to shelters unless staff at the shelter can establish that an animal is incurably ill, badly injured, or dangerous." Mr. Rush stated that there is a misunderstanding here. East Valley shelter has insufficient space to accommodate large numbers of animals, as does South Central and Harbor Shelters. We need additional facilities. Michael Burns, District Supervisor, North Central Animal Care and Control, indicated his concern about the length of time for waiting period because there is such a lack of space for animals at other shelters. He stated that he has to take animals in from other shelters because they do not have the space. Some of these animals may have respiratory problems which don't show up until two to three days later. By that time that particular animal has infected other animals which means those animals may have to be disposed of because of the lack of space and quarantine areas at other shelters. If the waiting period is extended indefinitely by the Woo/Alatorre Motion, it could be ludicrous for animals, unless there is adequate space for them.

Some of the concerns discussed by the Board and Department were as follows: The Motion by Councilman Woo and Alatoree did not specify length of time for waiting period of owner brought in animals, which could also mean the length of time for holding animals could be shorter; animals brought in as evidence and held for long periods of time and the impact that has on space at the shelters; possibility of having a separate facility for animals that have to be held as evidence animals; and determination made by Department staff and who makes the determination as to whether or not an animal is adoptable.

After further discussion, it was decided that this item be placed on the next Board agenda. President Robins indicated she would ask Diana Brueggemann to speak before the Board at the November 5 meeting to give clarification to the Motion by Councilman Woo and Alatorre. In that way the Board can then make an intelligent decision on this matter.

The meeting recessed at 2:20 p.m.

Consideration of Breeder's License

A concerned enforcement effort of the provisions of LAMC 53.15.2 requires full-time application of overt and covert techniques in locating backyard breeders, gathering evidence and citing for the violation. The budgetary restraints imposed upon operating City departments, including Animal Regulation, precludes concerted enforcement at this time.

The General Manager spoke before the Board and indicated that if the Breeder's License was substantially revised, there would be the hope and possibility that it would be easier to enforce. At the present time, the only way that the Breeder's License can be enforced is with prima facie evidence that constitutes the sale of property. Committing a sale in a residential zone constitutes a violation. In order to prove that, you have to be a recipient of a receipt. If the Breeder does not have a Breeder's License, it is a criminal misdemeanor. The Department at one time had two officers to do undercover work and then the funds were removed and the Department lost the officers that were enforcing Breeder's Licenses. We now have an ordinance without any effective field enforcement because it takes undercover people to do the work. The key is for the Department to have the enforcement tools. To suggest that the Department can absorb a little more work is not realistic. The Department has absorbed every bit that it can possibily absorb right now. We do not have enough staff to do what needs to be done now. We require something in the budget that would address Breeder's License enforcement and forfeit. He further stated there is no other City that he knows of that is doing it at all.

Commissioner Hochman suggested a substantial increase in fees for those animals that are not spayed or neutered. Commissioner Velasco's concern was that if you increase the fees, there is the possibility that people will not license their animals. The General Manager indicated when you increase fees, you have a fallout of participants. He suggested that we also look at the spay and neuter deposit as an option. It was requested that this item be placed on a future agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Lois Newman, 5711 1/2 Lexington Avenue, Los Angeles, spoke before the Board. She indicated that she is suing the City of Los Angeles regarding Pit Bull issue and that a Notice of Appeal will be filed in the next few weeks. She also indicated that dogs are being misidentified at the shelters and until that situation is stopped hundreds of dogs will be killed mistakenly. She stated that the shelters do not know how to identify a Pit Bull type dog.

Sharon Gregg, 8033 West Sunset Boulevard, Los Angeles, California 90046, spoke before the Board and stated that she talked to the District Attorney's Office who indicated that no one is suppose to pass any policy that is prejudice with breeds specific in mind. She stated that the City is opening up for a very large Civil suit. The Department is breaking the law. Regarding the Woo/Alatorre Motion, Ms. Gregg stated that when an animal is brought in to a shelter by someone, other than the real owner, the Motion will serve to allow the real owner an opportunity to claim their dog, or at least the animal has an opportunity to be placed. Ms. Gregg submitted to the Board a proposal she wrote to amend the existing Breeders License.

Pat Bercel, President, VSA organization, spoke before the Board and said: "I want to make a statement from VSA--that the books of VSA have not been seen or audited by either the City of Los Angeles, or the Department of Animal Regulation. Therefore any statement that is made about these books or the management of the books must be construed as being vicious or untrue."

IDENTIFICATION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

It was requested the following items be placed on the next agenda for future agendas: Consideration of Pit Bull Policy and City Attorney's Opinion; Consideration of Woo/Alatorre Motion Re: Waiting Period for All Animals Brought into Shelters; Consideration of Proposed Expenditures for Animal Welfare Trust Fund by General Manager; Consideration of Breeders License; Consideration of Increase of fees or establishment of fees to increase revenue; Consideration of Division of License Fee Adjustment; and early spaying and neutering of animals.

STATUS REPORT ON NEWS ITEMS

Dyer Huston, Sr. Public Relations Representative, gave a status report on news items.

The meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

November 19, 1990
ATTEST

Mimi Dolins
PRESIDENT

Michelle Hamik
COMMISSION SECRETARY
a:10-15-90

ROUGH DRAFT

MINUTES

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

BOARD OF ANIMAL REGULATION

Monday, October 1, 1990

1:00 p.m.

The Board of Animal Regulation Commissioners convened in regular session on Monday, October 1, 1990, in Room 155, City Hall South, 111 East First Street, Los Angeles, California 90012.

Members Present: President Robins and Commissioners Hochman, Hoisch and Huntington.

Members Absent: Commissioner Putney.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The Minutes of September 10, 1990 were unanimously approved (Commissioner Hochman was absent at time of vote).

Consideration of Barking Dog and Dangerous Animal Ordinances

Ms. Gordon, Management Analyst, spoke before the Board and gave an update on the first meeting of the Administrative Hearing Task Force which met on September 26, 1990. The task force met to review the barking dog and dangerous animal ordinances, and polices and procedures used in conjunction with the Administrative Hearing process. Some of the items recommended to be discussed at future Task Force meetings by the Board and Management were as follows: Single Complainant complaints; the requirement of spaying and neutering animals; use of electronic anti-barking collars on dogs; debarking of dogs issue; training; association of other frictions and conflicts between animal owner and complainant; taking a closer look at "due process" issue; noise ordinance and what constitutes a problem; day-time barking of dogs; dog declared not dangerous, but hearing examiners says dog has to leave City; and issue of requiring owners of animals putting in time class (i.e., similar to traffic school).

Ms. Gordon indicated that the task force is enthusiastic about the project and that they have given a time frame of six months to complete their discussions, research and findings. She stated that by April 24, 1991, she and Dr. Foraker Smith will have an executive summary prepared regarding the issues discussed by the Task Force.

Consideration of Department of Animal Regulation 1990-91 Budget

The Assistant General Manager gave an update on where the Department is in the budget process. She stated that the Department is preparing Capital Improvement Project requests and working on personnel, expense, and equipment items of the 1991-92 budget. Commissioner Huntington inquired about alternative routes in the budget process to obtain pay raises and promotions and what the Department's options are. Ms. Lee indicated the best route is through the yearly budget process.

Status Report on Fire Protection Rules and Regulations for Kennel Permittees

The Assistant General Manager spoke before the Board regarding a meeting held on September 24, 1990 regarding new additional rules and regulations of specific application to dog or cat boarding kennel facilities. She indicated approximately 200 permittees received notices regarding this public hearing and approximately 10 appeared at the meeting. Comments were received from permittees and public in attendance. There were no objections to the proposed rules and regulations. In accordance with LAMC 53.50 and 53.58, the rules and regulations will become effective upon the Mayor's approval and 30 days after publication. The permittees will be contacted by letter once the new rules and regulations take effect. Commissioner Huntington indicated that the public was supportive of this once there was clarification of some of their issues.

IDENTIFICATION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

It was requested the following items be placed on future agendas: Consideration of Woo/Alatorre Motion regarding Waiting Period for All Animals Brought in to Shelters; and Consideration of Pit Bull Policy and City Attorney's Opinion.

STATUS REPORT ON NEWS ITEMS

Dyer Huston, Senior Public Relations Representative, gave a status report on news items.

The meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

November 19, 1990
ATTEST

Jimmie Robinson
PRESIDENT

Giselle Haught
COMMISSION SECRETARY

ROUGH DRAFT

MINUTES

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

BOARD OF ANIMAL REGULATION

Monday, September 24, 1990

10:00 a.m.

The Board of Animal Regulation Commissioners convened in regular session on Monday, September 24, 1990, in Room 155, City Hall South, 111 East First Street, Los Angeles, California 90012.

Members Present: President Robins and Commissioners Hoisch and Huntington.

Members Absent: Commissioners Hochman and Putney.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: It was requested that the Minutes of September 10, 1990 be held over until the next meeting of October 1, 1990.

Consideration of Barking Dog and Dangerous Animal Ordinances
The General Manager indicated that he has appointed an administrative hearing task force to review the barking dog and dangerous animal ordinances, policies and procedures used in conjunction with the Administrative Hearing process. That task force will meet on September 26, 1990 at 9:00 a.m. at North Central Animal Care and Control. The task force includes: Lynne Exe Mercy Crusade Legislative Representative; Rita Hoisch, Commissioner Board of Animal Regulation; Richard Karl, Sentry Dog Trainers Examining Committee; Ron Marks, Attorney at Law; Dr. Foraker Smith, Professor, Cal State University, Dominguez Hills; Kenneth Williams, District Supervisor; and Linda Gordon, Coordinator.

The task force shall examine each step of the process, from complaint through appeal, to determine the extent to which the process is meeting the stated objectives of the ordinances.

Consideration of Department of Animal Regulation 1990-91 Budget

Meyer Levine, Sr. Management Analyst II, spoke before the Board and indicated that the Budget Committee composed of the General Manager, Commissioners Hoisch and Huntington, Linda Gordon and himself met to address the future and viable plans for the 1991-92 budget year. At present the Department is working on the budget reduction plan approved by the Mayor and Council for 1990-91. The Department is now filling all vacancies until the hiring freeze becomes effective again on October 1, 1990. The Department is staying within the perimeters of the budget for this fiscal year. The Mayor sent another policy letter and it appears there will be more reductions. With this in mind, the Budget Committee discussed where we can make reductions and at the same time keep full time employees. Commissioner Huntington indicated that it was too premature to discuss until the major perimeters are known.

NEW BOARD BUSINESS

Announcement of Intern Coordinator Selection for Department of Animal Regulation

Meyer Levine, Sr. Management Analyst II, spoke before the Board regarding the Internship Program. He stated that it is well on its way and that Justine Bell, Ph.d., has been selected. She is a full professor at Dominquez Hills and the Committee consisting of Elza Lee, Assistant General Manager, Foraker Smith, Professor, California State University Dominquez Hills, and himself unanimously decided on Dr. Justine Bell as Intern Coordinator. Mr. Levine indicated that Dr. Bell's qualifications are impeccable and she has already begun work putting together documents to be used in selecting projects and interns. The Department is very pleased, and as soon as final documents are signed by Dr. Bell, she will be introduced to the Commission. This project is an 18 to 20 hours per week project. Commissioner Huntington indicated that this is an important project. These talents are needed and with the budget condition we find ourselves in, it will be even more helpful. Many students are eager to participate and he has great hopes for the outcome. He asked if it would be possible for the Department to develop a newsletter to distribute to other City departments in order that those departments may also evaluate the program and possibly implement a similar program. President Robins asked if this particular project was on a contract basis. The Department indicted it was. Commissioner Huntington indicated that Dr. Bell has expertise in Risk Management.

Meyer Levine introduced, Derrick Hill, Management Assistant, Personnel Section, to the Board of Animal Regulation. He stated that Mr. Hill has a good background in education and that this was his first real full time job. The Board welcomed Mr. Hill.

President Robins introduced Cathy Mendenhall, Mayor's Office, who will be acting as liaison to the Department of Animal Regulation. Ms. Mendenhall indicated that on behalf of the Mayor she looks forward to learning about the Department and has already received many calls from constituents.

STATUS REPORT ON NEWS ITEMS

Dyer Huston, Sr. Public Relations Representative, spoke before the Board and gave a status report on news items.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Joyce Pieper, Mercy Crusade, spoke before the Board regarding the Animal Welfare Act and the 1985 amendments to the Act. She distributed prototype letters to Ms. Helene Wright, Chief, Regulatory Analysis and Development, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and asked the Department and Board as a unit or as individuals to send these letters to U.S.D.A. The letters ask U.S.D.A. to correct the regulations to implement the Improved Standards for Laboratory Animals amendments, as published in the Federal Register in August, 1990; and to respect the will of Congress and provide the laboratory animals with the minimum protection as described in the prototype letters.

The meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

D. November 5, 1990
ATTEST

Mimi Robins
PRESIDENT

Giselle Hamp
BOARD SECRETARY

A:9-24-90M

MINUTES

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

BOARD OF ANIMAL REGULATION

Monday, September 10, 1990

1:00 p.m.

The Board of Animal Regulation Commissioners convened in regular session on Monday, September 10, 1990, in Room 155, City Hall South, 111 East First Street, Los Angeles, California 90012.

Members Present: Commissioners Hochman, Huntington and Putney.

Members Absent: President Robins and Commissioner Hoisch.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The Minutes of August 6, 1990 and August 20, 1990 were unanimously approved. (President Robins and Commissioner Hoisch were absent.)

Consideration of Barking Dog and Dangerous Animal Ordinances
In regard to discussion of possible penalties to be imposed on irresponsible pet owners, Lynne Exe indicated that she believed that approach could encourage those animal owners to just dump their animals rather than be a responsible pet owner.

Commissioner Hochman inquired about the Department's procedure in appeal cases where an animal is seized and asked if the Department hears those cases first. The Department assured Commissioner Hochman seized animal cases are given top priority.

Consideration of Department of Animal Regulation 1990-91 Budget
The Assistant General Manager advised the Board that a transfer of monies has been transferred from the Animal Sterilization Account to the General Salaries Account; one spay and neuter clinic laid off 12 "as needed" people; and that the shelters are open from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on an overtime basis. The Department is in the process of filling seven Animal Control Officer positions and clerical staff. Animal Control Officers will begin training on November 1. She indicated that before the City sees another freeze on hiring, the Department is working as quickly as possible to fill vacancies in accordance with the managed budget reduction plan of the Department.

Commissioner Hochman inquired as to what has been done to increase revenue. The Assistant General Manager indicated a proposal for a 2% pet tax fee, as well as fees for subdivision work the Department is responsible for. The Board and Department had further discussion regarding recommendations for increasing revenue for the City and Department. Some of the items discussed were as follows: Modest fee to be paid by complainant in barking dog cases when they go to formal hearing; raising of license fees by $1.00; increase in spay and neuter fees and possible ramifications which could be: (a) Department could get better compliance for spaying and neutering; (b) Department could receive more money; or, (c) there could be fewer adoptions; and Commissioner Hochman suggested the possibility of creating a cat license fee.

After further discussion, the Board requested that the Budget Committee (Mr. Rush, and Commissioners Hoisch and Huntington) meet and then come back to the Board on December 3 with a written analysis of their findings for the feasibility of creating new fees as well as increasing fees for services already provided in order to increase revenue for the City and Department.

CONSIDERATION OF SCREENING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR ADOPTION OF ANIMALS

The Board and Department reviewed and discussed adoption guidelines and application forms from the Los Angeles Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals; Peninsula Humane Society in San Mateo, California; San Francisco SPCA Adoption Guidelines; and Marin Humane Society Adoption Policies and Guidelines. Some of the items and concerns discussed by the Board and Department regarding the Department possibly using adoption guidelines were: Enforcement of adoption contract by the City; lack of money and staff to do the work required; shelters are thinly staffed at present and would have to change staffing to accomplish goal; and unless the Department has staff to review required forms, it is pointless for the public to fill out the forms.

Lynne Exe spoke before the Board and stated that the idea of policies and procedures for adoption of animals is a great idea, however without the proper staff and funds, it could not be accomplished.

A representative from Actors and Others suggested setting the fees for adoption at a higher level.

Commissioner Hochman asked about the status report on the Lost and Found Program. Commissioner Putney suggested placing the Lost and Found Program in the Budget. Commissioner Huntington suggested the possibility of using the Internship Program and having one person be responsible for the Lost and Found Program.

STATUS REPORT ON NEWS ITEMS
Dyer Huston, Sr. Public Relations Representative, gave a status report on news items.

The meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

October 15, 1990
ATTEST

Mimi Robinson
PRESIDENT

Giselle Haupt
COMMISSION SECRETARY

a:9-10-90M

MINUTES

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

BOARD OF ANIMAL REGULATION

Monday, August 20, 1990

1:30 p.m.

The Board of Animal Regulation Commissioners convened in regular session on Monday, August 20, 1990, at South Central Animal Care and Control Center, located at 3612 Eleventh Avenue, Los Angeles, California 90018.

Members Present: President Robins and Commissioners Hoisch, Huntington and Putney.

Members Absent: Commissioner Hochman.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Consideration of Barking Dog and Dangerous Animal Ordinances
Linda Gordon, Management Analyst, indicated that there are two appeal cases to be heard which are scheduled for September 17 Commission meeting. After further discussion, the Board decided to hold the appeal hearings on September 10 rather than September 17.

Consideration of Department of Animal Regulation 1990-91 Budget
The General Manager advised the Board that based on what he reads and what is going on in the City Council, and the CAO indicating there is further need to reduce spending and as a result, we may receive another request in sooner than anticipated for further budget reductions.
It was suggested that the Budget Committee of the Board meet the week of September 17 to discuss the Department's budget reduction plan.

Request for Audit - Volunteer Services to Animals

The General Manager advised the Board that a request for audit of Volunteer Services to Animals has gone to the Controller. The Controller will assign an auditor, at City expense, who will perform the audit and will contact the President of VSA. Commissioner Putney asked the General Manager what prompted this action. The General Manager stated that after review of VSA By Laws, many provisions of the By Laws were not being followed. No annual financial statement or audit of VSA has been submitted to the Department. VSA has declined in active volunteers working in the Department to nine or seven volunteers working in the Centers. The General Manager stated he is most concerned about VSA's ability to sustain itself. We need volunteers drastically in the Department and want to see if VSA can be restructured and brought forward again as a viable organization in the Department. We need something to be done to correct this state of affairs. We need accountability and to get the VSA house in order and comply with the By Laws which is mandatory. The General Manager indicated he spoke to Pat Bercel on the telephone and the request for audit of VSA was concurred in, and then he submitted the request to the Controller dated July 24, 1990.

Pat Bercel stated that Mr. Rush was dealing with a different set of By Laws then she had. She said the By Laws changed and there is no date on her By Laws. She advised the Board that she told the Controller when he called her that she wanted it in writing that any expenses that their accountant has will be borne by the City.

Jane Bronson, VSA, inquired about where the General Manager got the seven VSA volunteer figure. It is obviously a mistake. The General Manager indicated the numbers were verified by the VSA President at an earlier Board meeting and that the Department needs a large number of volunteers six days a week at facilities as opposed to just a few days a week. Ms. Bronson stated VSA has 40 to 50 volunteers. Mr. Rush stated that the By Laws of VSA were obtained from the California Department of Justice, Registry of Charitable Trusts. President Robins indicated to VSA that there is nothing wrong with an audit and that it focuses on things that need to be addressed. She stated that VSA needs to obtain a current set of By Laws which are dated now. Commissioner Hoisch asked if the Board would get a copy of the audit report when it is complete. The General Manager indicated that the audit is independent and the Department and Board will receive a copy of audit report. Pat Bercel gave the name of VSA's accountant to Meyer Levine, Administrative Services Officer.

Consideration of Proposals for Animal Sterilization Grant Funds
The General Manager discussed memorandum submitted to the Board dated August 20, 1990 from him regarding Animal Sterilization Fund to Finance Spaying and Neutering of Impounded Animals Sold by the Department of Animal Regulation. President Robins asked the General Manager if this proposal is a request from the City of Los Angeles to keep the $30,000 which was discussed as available at the last Commission meeting. She asked if when the Board addresses the Department's proposal, it should be treated like all other RFPs received for $30,000. The General Manager indicated yes, in the broad sense of the word. The General Manager indicated that the spay and neuter program that the Department is proposing can be implemented around November 1. The Department's program would be modeled after the West Valley spay and neuter program. Commissioner Hoisch asked for more time to compare figures and make comparisons of all RFPs. She asked that the Department be more specific and give more detail regarding their proposal. Commissioner Hoisch also asked to see VSA's request for proposal. It was requested that this item be placed on a future Commission Agenda.

Consideration of Humane Education Program
Joan Peck, contractor for Humane Education Consulting Services for the Department, presented the Commission with the humane educating materials that she prepared under contract, and briefly explained that the material was prepared to be appropriate for inclusion in the Los Angeles Unified School District science curriculum for each grade level K through 12. She stated that all units were presented in a factual, scientific manner and not in a form which advocates any position so that the students may draw their own conclusions on all of the humane subjects presented in the material.

The Commissioners were provided with copies of the material prior to the meeting, and the Board praised Ms. Peck for her efforts. The General Manager explained to the Board that all of the units will be delivered to the LAUSD science curriculum administrators for their evaluation, and subsequently the Board of Education, and that the Commission would jointly officially accept the material for inclusion in the general science curriculum for all grades.

Commissioner Hoisch made a motion to "enthusiastically adopt with much pleasure the humane education materials prepared and presented by Joan Peck, contractor for Humane Education Consulting Services for the Department." Commissioner Putney seconded the motion. (Unanimous approval; Commissioner Hochman was absent.)

Commissioner Hoisch suggested that the Department and Commission contribute to a resource library. The General Manager indicated that the Board of Education give a recommendation for a member of their staff to help maintain resource material so that the materials added do not detract from the lesson plans themselves. You need an educator to make evaluations. The Department will work closely with the Board of Education.

IDENTIFICATION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Commissioner Putney indicated he would contact Dr. Lippicott to speak before the Board regarding debarking of animals; the surgery involved and the effects on animals, etc. It would be a general informative session where Dr. Lippicott could answer any questions concerning debarking of animals and explain the procedures involved. Commissioner Putney indicated that he believed the Board could better make a decision whether or not an animal should or should not be debarked when it is involved in a barking dog case after they have heard Dr. Lippicott's general presentation.

Mr. Rush requested that consideration of assessment and selection of an Intern Coordinator be placed on the next Agenda. He also indicated that the Ordinance regarding Animal Sacrifice was approved by the Public Safety Committee and that it would be before Council before long. Commissioner Hoisch requested that the Board be contacted when it goes before Council.

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

September 24, 1990
ATTEST

Mimi Robins
PRESIDENT

Giselle Hauck
COMMISSION SECRETARY

A:8-20-90M

MINUTES

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

BOARD OF ANIMAL REGULATION

Monday, August 6, 1990

1:00 p.m.

The Board of Animal Regulation Commissioners convened in regular session on Monday, August 6, 1990, in Room 155, City Hall South, 111 East First Street, Los Angeles, California 90012.

Members Present: President Robins and Commissioners Hochman, Hoisch, Huntington and Putney.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The Minutes of July 2 and July 16, 1990 were unanimously approved. (Commissioner Hochman was not present at time of vote.)

Consideration of Barking Dog and Dangerous Animal Ordinances

In reference to a Dangerous Animal Appeal Case, Commissioner Huntington inquired about the definition of responsible pet ownership. He feels that this issue should be addressed where guidelines are used to identify violations of pet owners and responsible pet ownership. Linda Gordon, Management Analyst, indicated that under the Administrative Hearing process, there was a provision that covered this item. However, it was removed from the Ordinance by the Board's recommendation. Commissioner Huntington requested that the Department replace that particular provision in the Barking Dog and Dangerous Animal Ordinance. The General Manager indicated that the Department would follow up with his request.

Lois Newman spoke before the Board regarding special forms and guidelines used by other governmental agencies for adoption of animals.

Consideration of Department of Animal Regulation
1990-91 Proposed Budget

The General Manager indicated that he received notification from the Mayor that the hiring freeze which was imposed on April 1, 1990 has been suspended by the Council. This unfreeze will be in effect until October 31, 1990. The Board suggested that in order to be prepared for next year's possible budget reduction plan, that the Budget Committee (Commissioners Hoisch, Huntington and Mr. Rush) meet and come back to the Board with their recommendations. In this way, the Department and Board would have a well thought out plan in case further budget reductions are necessary. Mr. Rush indicated that the Committee could meet in November to develop a budget plan for next year, and then come back to the Board for their review and comments.

Consideration of Department of Animal Regulation
Animal Sterilization Refund Procedure

Vangie Fermin, Chief Accounting Employee, spoke before the Board and gave an overview on how the spay and neuter deposits are processed by the Department. She submitted a written package to the Board and explained the procedure as follows: The Department collects deposits from the adopter of an animal as required by Assembly Bill 1663 and the local Ordinance, and the deposits are placed in the fund called "Veterinary Medical Trust Fund." The adopter upon payment of the deposit required is given a voucher. That voucher indicates the date the animal is to be sterilized. President Robins asked what happens if one goes past the sterilization due date. Vangie Fermin stated that the Animal Management Information System automatically generates a reminder to the dog owner. Also, the Accounting Section will notify the animal owner 30 days before the due date for sterilization and send the citizen a letter reminding them of deadline for sterilization. If the adopter has an animal sterilized before the due date, they present the necessary papers to the Department and the Department will refund their sterilization deposit. If the animal owner does not adhere to the reminders and have their animal sterilized, the deposit will then be transferred to the Animal Sterilization Trust Fund.

Commissioner Putney inquired about those people who adopt animals and have them spayed or neutered through VSA or another organization, and whether or not those organizations can be credited by the City. He felt that they should receive credit for their spay and neuter vouchers.

Pat Bercel, President, VSA, said, "that people can be reimbursed for their sterilization deposit from the City if they apply for it. They are not told they can or how to apply for it. VSA gives them a voucher for same amount as the City, and the voucher is good indefinitely. As long as people get reimbursed they don't care where it comes from. The money deposited in the City sits in the Animal Sterilization Trust Fund because people don't know the difference between VSA and the Department." She said, "it is not right that VSA should be helping the Animal Sterilization Fund. If people were explained how to get their money back, VSA would help them."

President Robins read the following excerpt from sterilization form letter which is sent to people who adopt animals and has been in effect for approximately seven years:

"If you prefer to have the surgery performed by a private veterinarian, the following procedure must be followed:

> Surrender your Voucher to the Veterinarian and request that it be submitted, along with a photocopy of the statement which must indicate the charge for the surgery and the date it was performed, to the Department of Animal Regulation, Room 1650, City Hall East, 200 N. Main Street, Los Angeles CA 90012

Private veterinarians may require that the owner pay for surgery. In this case, you are entitled to a refund of your deposit if you submit the following documents to this office:

1. The Original Veterinary Medical Services Trust Fund Voucher,

2. Photocopy of the Certificate of Sterility, and

3. Photocopy of the proof of payment from the private veterinarian

The General Manager said, "he always understood vouchers to be a philanthropic approach to get the animals spayed and neutered by private organizations without a question in mind to get a refund over and above what they have already put up on a deposit." He indicated that he doesn't know of any transmittals that have been going out to the private sector on that basis. That becomes almost a civil thing when you become involved with a private organization or individual.

Commissioner Hoisch asked why people don't bother to get money back. She stated that she read letter that goes out as an average citizen and thought the letter was quite complicated and asked if it could be simplified. The General Manager indicated that people don't voluntarily pay out $14 to $20, but are mandated to post the sterilization deposit with full explanation. Commissioner Putney suggested that a simplified explanation of refund procedure could be put on the back of the voucher, or dog owner could be given something at the time the deposit is made.

Commissioner Huntington indicated that if you modify this program in any manner, you will impact present sources of revenue. Thus you will have to come up with additional funds to continue funding the grants and West Valley Spay and Neuter Program, or we have a problem.

Lois Newman spoke before the Board and indicated the basic problem is the form given to people when an animal is adopted. The form needs revision, and the dog owner needs to be educated about their animal.

Marge Peebls spoke before the Board and indicated if VSA or other organizations want to spay and neuter animals that is fine, and it is a separate issue. However, they are no longer a non-profit organization if they take money from the Department of Animal Regulation. She stated if a person, other than the elderly, cannot afford to spay and neuter an animal, how can they afford to feed the animal and get necessary shots.

The General Manager indicated that the Department would follow up and look into revising the form regarding deposit for sterilization of animals and will come back to the Commission for their review.

IDENTIFICATION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

It was requested the following items be placed on future agendas: Consideration of spaying and neutering of animals; and consideration of Humane Education Program.

STATUS REPORT OF NEW ITEMS

Dyer Huston, Public Relations Representative II, gave a status report on news items.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Lois Newman inquired about Pets in Housing issue. The Board referred her to the Housing Authority.

Bernard Kessler, H.E.L.P., spoke before the Board and submitted his proposal to the Board regarding an ordinance to establish foster care facilities for dogs, cats, puppies and kittens.

Commissioner Putney spoke to the Board regarding his last four terms as a Commission on the Board of Animal Regulation. He talked about the past and present accomplishments of the Board, and suggested that serious screening of animals be done before they leave the shelters.

The meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

September 24, 1990
ATTEST

Mimi Rykus
PRESIDENT

Giselle Haeger
COMMISSION SECRETARY

A:8-6-90M

MINUTES

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

BOARD OF ANIMAL REGULATION

Monday, July 16, 1990

1:30 p.m.

The Board of Animal Regulation Commissioners convened in regular session on Monday, July 16, 1990, in Room 155, City Hall South, 111 East First Street, Los Angeles, California 90012.

Members Present: President Robins and Commissioners Hoisch, Huntington and Putney.

Members Absent: Commissioners Hochman.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The Minutes of June 18, 1990 were unanimously approved by the Board. (Commissioner Hochman was absent.)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Consideration of Status Report - Owners' Animals Issue
Linda Gordon, Management Analyst II, spoke before the Board and discussed a memo dated July 16, 1990 to the Board from the General Manager regarding owners' relinquished animals for destruction survey. She indicated that the survey covered all six Animal Care and Control Centers and was for the period covering June 18 to June 30, 1990. During this fourteen day period, there were a total of 277 animals relinquished by owners who requested that they be euthanized (153 were dogs, and 124 were cats). Ms. Gordon stated that there were a total of 18 animals with no apparent problems (9 dogs and 9 cats). Of the nine dogs relinquished with no apparent problems, eight were identified as Staffordshire Terriers, or Pit Bull type dogs.

She indicated that the Department has modified the impound procedure whereby owners who relinquish their dogs and/or cats, and request the animal be euthanized are advised in writing, and that the Department will not automatically euthanize animals on request if the Department determines that the animal is adoptable to a new home. Relinquishers will continue to be required to display valid identification and to sign the statement on the Animal Impoundment form.

The Board also reviewed Exhibit III of the memo which is a "Notice" to be given to anyone who wishes to relinquish their dog or cat. The Notice reads: "Please be advised, if your dog or cat is an adoptable pet, the Department retains the option of making your pet available for adoption to a new home." It was requested by the Board that this new directive be put into effect today. The General Manager advised the Board that after the Commission Meeting, he would direct his District Supervisors to put this policy into effect.

Joyce Forest spoke before the Board and asked, "if the policy was in effect at this moment; the criteria used to make judgement on whether or not the animals are adoptable and will there be guidelines; and how soon will the notices be attainable." The General Manager indicated the following: That the afore-mentioned Departmental policy will be faxed to District Supervisors after the Commission meeting; That the District Supervisor, with the assistance of the clerical, kennel, field and medical staff shall make the determination if an owner's dog or cat may be made available for adoption to a new home; and that until the "Notice" is printed with black and yellow lettering by Print Shop, it will be duplicated and handed out at the Animal Care and Control Centers.

Commissioner Putney made the following Motion and Commission Huntington seconded the Motion: "That the Board approve the procedure as indicated in Memo dated July 16, 1990 to the Board regarding "Owners' Relinquished Animals for Destruction Survey." (Unanimous approval; Commissioner Hochman was absent.)

Consideration of Department of Animal Regulation 1990-91 Proposed Budget

The General Manger apprised the Board that the Department will go before the Finance Committee on July 24 regarding the Department's planned reduction program. He indicated that he will ask the Council that some vacancies in the Department be exempted from the hiring freeze. As soon as the Department receives feedback from Finance Committee as to whether or not the

Department's planned reduction program is accepted by Finance or modified, he will inform the Board.

Commissioner Robins inquired about the Memory Mate Program. Commissioner Huntington indicated that a demonstration was given at the West Valley Animal Care and Control Center, including simulating a lost dog with a red collar, which was found in the system. He indicated that this system will be demonstrated to the Board in the future. The General Manager stated that the Department will set up a directive and implementation program for the Animal Management Information System, Memory Mate, and Lost and Found Program. This program will allow volunteer services,as well as Department personnel, to use the system. Commissioner Hoisch requested that the Commission be given a demonstration of the Memory Mate System.

Lois Newman, 5711 1/2 Lexington Avenue, Los Angeles, spoke before the Board regarding a person who called North Central Animal Care and Control and inquired about two lost dogs. She indicated that North Central refused to take information from caller on description of dogs. She asked if the shelters were going to take any calls and place them on the system. The General Manager indicated to the Board that the Department does not take lost animal reports--the Department only places information on system for animals that are impounded. Report of lost animals have historically been referred to the Volunteer Services to Animals organization. What we are look at now at West Valley is Memory Mate where we can combine both lost and found animal reports. The General Manager stated that we need to figure out a way to obtain additional staff to work and assist the Department.

Commissioner Huntington indicated that the Memory Mate System will accept all data. The capability is there and retrieval is instantaneous if there is a match. The problem is staffing within the Department and the VSA organization. If the system is not used for every animal, it is of no use.

Commissioner Hoisch asked Pat Bercel, President, VSA, about the situation at VSA now, and how well the shelters are covered. It seems that we desperately need help there. Pat Bercel stated that VSA has a hard time getting help. People who are capable and responsible more and more leaving because of the budget crunch and they go to work. She indicated that the shelters are pretty well covered. However, at North Central there is a problem. She also indicated that most volunteers want to play with the animals and hold them vs. other areas of assistance that are needed.

The meeting recessed at 2:07 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 2:20 p.m.

Consideration of Department of Animal Regulation's Policy on Pit Bulls

The President of The Board asked for a moratorium on the Department's policy regarding Pit Bulls until a City Attorney Opinion and Minutes for the Public Hearing of June 19, 1990 are received and acted upon. The General Manager indicated there are two questions in mind (1) The animals relinquished to the Department; and (2) Animals outside the Department governed by State Code effective January 1, 1990. He stated once the Department receives a City Attorney Opinion, he is hopeful that the Department can establish terms and conditions in writing regarding animals sold under certain circumstances. After further discussion, he indicated the best he can do is not destroy Pit Bull type dogs as long as there is space available and other docile animals will not be destroyed.

Commissioner Hoisch asked if the determination of holding Pit Bull type dogs could be done shelter by shelter to hold and not destroy that animal. The General Manager indicated he would allow that discretion to take place as long as placeable animals are not destroyed because of lack of space. Commissioner Huntington asked if it is possible to release Pit Bull type dogs to certain groups in the animal community to adopt them out, such as the many groups attending the meeting rather than putting them down or adopting them out. He asked Pat Bercel, President, VSA, if that would be possible. She indicated the animal rescue groups rescue everything they can and they are up to their eyeballs. Lois Newman indicted the only group that might do it is a Pit Bull group. The General Manager indicated he met with American Staffordshire personnel who indicated they would help locate owner of animal, but they are not interested in mixed breeds.

Joyce Forest spoke before the Board wanted to make it clear to the Board that not all of the Pit Bull type dogs are vicious. She has two gentle, docile mixed breed Pit Bull type dogs.

Joyce Pieper, Mercy Crusade, stated that not all people who adopt mixed breeds are people who are evil. She knows of loving people who own these dogs.

Sharon Gregg spoke before the Board regarding a breeding control ordinance which addresses people who are breeding vicious animals. She talked about the LASPCA using a 32-question screening policy for adoption of any animal and recommended that the Department of Animal Regulation initiate such a program.

Lois Newman spoke before the Board indicating that a governmental agency can have a screening process for animals that are adopted out. She indicated that LASPCA, SFLASPCA, Marin Humane Society and others use a screening process. The solution to any dog or cat problem is screening by governmental agencies and they must screen properly.

Commissioner Huntington asked the General Manager if the Department has the authority to screen applicants. Mr. Rush indicated that ten years ago the City Council turned down that proposal. The President of the Board requested that the Department ask for screening policy and procedures from the LASPCA, SFSPCA, Marin Humane Society and Peninsula Humane Society and that this item be placed on a future agenda.

Consideration of Legislation

Joyce Pieper, Mercy Crusade, spoke to the Board asking for the Department and Commission's approval of Assembly Bill 4300 and Assembly Bill 4357. (These Assembly Bills pertain to the Health and Safety Code relating to Dogs.)

Commissioner Hoisch made a motion as follows and Commission Huntington seconded the motion: "That the Board of Animal Regulation support Assembly Bill 4300 and Assembly Bill 4357." (Unanimous, Commissioner Hochman was absent.)

IDENTIFICATION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

It was requested that the following items be placed on future agendas: Consideration of Department of Animal Regulation's Policy on Pit Bulls; and Consideration of Screening Policy and Procedures for Adoption of Animals.

STATUS REPORT ON NEWS ITEMS

Dyer Huston, Sr. Public Relations Representative, gave a status report on news items.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sharon Gregg spoke before the Board regarding people falsely bringing in animals. She stated there should be a list of the public who brings animals into the shelters, as well as identification to prove an animals actually belongs to that person. These procedures should be incorporated in the "Owner Brought-In Animal" Procedure.

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

August 20, 1990
ATTEST

Jimmi Roberts
PRESIDENT

Giselle Hauptl
COMMISSION SECRETARY

MINUTES

BOARD OF ANIMAL REGULATION

Monday, July 2, 1990

1:32 p.m.

The Board of Animal Regulation Commissioners convened in regular session on Monday, July 2, 1990, in Room 155, City Hall South, 111 East First Street, Los Angeles, California 90012.

Members Present: Commissioners Hoisch, Huntington and Robins.

Members Absent: President Putney and Commissioner Hochman.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The Minutes of June 4, 1990 were unanimously approved as corrected. (President Putney and Commissioner Hochman were absent.) The Minutes of June 12, 1990 were unanimously approved. (President Putney and Commissioner Hochman were absent.)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Consideration of Department of Animal Regulation 1990-91 Budget
The General Manager advised the Board the Department is going to be facing a serious situation in terms of Animal Control Officer personnel. The Department currently has four new positions which are vacant and three turnover positions that will be vacant until the first of the year. We have been advised informally that a number of Animal Control Officers are on the Street Use Inspector list which pays about $5,000 more per year. The Department may loose ten officers. Also, when the Senior Animal Control Officer list is out, one or two Animal Control Officers will promote. The General Manager indicated he believes the Animal Control Officers on the Street Use Inspector list will be highly placed based on their experience and background. The loss of ten Animal Control Officers would be devastating to the Department.

Commissioner Huntington inquired about the First Rights Ordinance. The General Manager indicated The Ordinance on First Rights was adopted by the City Council on July 2, 1990. Commissioner Huntington indicated the material he saw on First Rights was significantly different than the Board had agreed to. He thought the General Manager would have discretion not limited to three days--which would make it three days a year one would have an open season on First Rights. The General Manager indicated he had to agree to the three days because there was a major concern the City City Administrative Officer about the loss of revenue for each one of those days. He stated the Board can always go back and ask for an amendment to the Ordinance.

Commissioner Robins requested the Department secure from the City Attorney an Opinion regarding the policy that is currently in effect for Pit Bulls.

Consideration of Breeders License

Lois Newman, 5711 1/2 Lexington Avenue, Los Angeles, California 90038, Animal Activist, representing herself, spoke before the Board and submitted in writing a proposed revision of Section 53.15.2 Breeders License Fee as she would like to see it. One of the major changes proposed was a raise in the annual license fee to $100 per year. Ms. Newman also proposed other additions to Section 53.15.2, which included that Breeders License fees collected can only be used for spaying and neutering programs run by private humane organizations.

Sharon Gregg, 8660 Lookout Mountain, Los Angeles, California 90046, representing 10 groups of Humane Organizations, spoke before the Board regarding her concern to cut down population of animals, including those animals that are being allowed to be bred, and made the following suggestions: If person allows their animal to become pregnant, or if they allow another dog to become pregnant, they have the following choices: (1) They can get the animal aborted; or (2) After the litter, they can get the animal spayed or neutered; or (3) they can pay a $500 fine.

Commissioner Robins requested that Sharon Gregg put her recommendations in writing to the Board. Commissioner Huntington suggested that a "Project Team" (comprised of Department personnel, Board members, and Animal Activities) meet to explore the problem totally and draft a report that addresses the whole area. Commissioner Robins requested the Department present a written report on this subject and submit it to the Board by August 20.

The meeting recessed at 2:13 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 2:27 p.m.

Election of Board of Animal Regulation Officers for 1990-91 Fiscal Year

Commissioner Hoisch nominated Commissioner Huntington for Vice President of the Board and Commissioner Robins seconded the nomination. (Unanimous approval; President Putney and Commissioner Hochman were absent.)

Commissioner Hoisch nominated Commissioner Robins for President of the Board and Commissioner Huntington seconded the nomination. (Unanimous approval; President Putney and Commissioner Hochman were absent.)

IDENTIFICATION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Commissioner Huntington requested that "Consideration of Department Policy on Pit Bulls" be placed on the next Commission meeting agenda. Joyce Pieper, Mercy Crusade, requested that "Consideration of Legislation" be placed on the next agenda as AB 786 is a very important Assembly Bill to be considered by the City.

STATUS REPORT ON NEWS ITEMS

Dyer Huston, Senior Public Relations Representative, gave a status report on news items.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Lois Newman submitted to the Board article entitled "Los Angeles Animal Shelter Kills Family's Golden Retriever" by Jay Tell. She also discussed a Pit Bull being held by the Department for observation that became pregnant in the shelter and whose puppies were destroyed by Department.

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

August 20, 1990
ATTEST

Mimi Robins
PRESIDENT

Isabelle Hamp
COMMISSION SECRETARY
a:7-290m

MINUTES

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

BOARD OF ANIMAL REGULATION

Monday, June 18, 1990

1:00 p.m.

The Board of Animal Regulation Commissioners convened in regular session n Monday, June 18, 1990, in Room 155, City Hall South, 111 East First Street, Los Angeles, California 90012.

Members Present: President Putney and Commissioners Hoisch, Huntington and Robins.

Members Absent: Commissioner Hochman.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Consideration of Department of Animal Regulation 1990-91 Proposed Budget

The General Manager indicated to the Board the Department's proposed budget plan, as discussed at the Special Board Meeting of June 12, 1990, will be forwarded to the CAO and on to the Mayor and Council. Scheduled implementation of this budget plan is on or about July 15, 1990. He also stated that if the hiring freeze continues, it will prohibit the Department from being able to manage the proposed reduction program--the Department would then have to come back to make other reductions in its budget. He informed the Board that he would keep them apprised of any changes.

Consideration of Lost and Found Program - Memory Mate Software for Shelters

Commissioner Huntington stated that the shelters can acquire a program called Multi-Mate that would allow the Department to start collecting descriptive data on animals that come into the shelters. There would be a training program to teach how to describe animals and enter that information into the computers. Commissioner Robins inquired about the volunteers also going through the training program to assist at the shelters.

Mr. Rush distributed to the Board a "Task List for Implementation of the Broadcasting Stray Animals on Cable Television". He stated that this listing would follow Council meetings and would be shown at prime time on television in the morning and afternoon. The target date of this new program is August 1, 1990 once the Department receives Council authority.

Commissioner Huntington indicated that up to $700 would be needed for the software to run the Memory Mate program for the shelters. Commissioner Hoisch made a motion and Commissioner Huntington seconded the following Motion: "That authorization to spend up to $700 for software for the Memory Mate program for the shelters be approved." (Unanimous approval; President Putney was not present at time of vote, and Commissioner Hochman was absent.)

Lois Newman, 5711 1/2 Lexington Avenue, Los Angeles, California, spoke before the Board regarding her concerns about shelter personnel being trained to properly identify animals. She stated that unless everyone in the shelters are trained, the proposed above-mentioned program will be a total failure. She proposed video taping animals once a week for one hour at all the shelters and placing it on video.

Consideration of Animal Sterilization Proposals

Commissioner Robins asked if the Department could write to organizations that have shown an interest in proposals and request a formal proposal explaining what we are going to be doing down the line and see if there is any interest. The General Manager indicated that the Department is interested in entertaining a solicitation a $30,000 grant for sterilization of animals. Commissioner Hoisch inquired about the balance left in the Sterilization Fund and why the Department is not following the grant process as it has done in the past. She suggested that the Board go through the whole process to see the paperwork involved and see letter received by the Department for reimbursement. She is amazed that the fund builds up the way it does. The Board and the General Manager indicated that a lot of people do not take advantage of the voucher system, but do indeed have their animals spayed or neutered.

Commissioner Robins made a motion and Commissioner Huntington seconded the motion as follows: "That the Department send a letter to interested parties suggesting the amount this year will be $30,000, and that the Department will no longer pursue the grant process." (3 ayes; 1 noe, Commissioner Hoisch; Commissioner Hochman was absent.)

Commissioner Hoisch requested the amount be increased to $40,000. The General Manager indicated the amount of $30,000 can be increased at a later time once the Department knows exactly what the Department's expenditures are going to be.

Pat Bercel, President, VSA, spoke before the Board and stated what is needed is a crash program of $200,000 to $300,000 for sterilization. She stated that sterilization is not accomplished with piddly sums of money--it does not make an impact.

Lois Newman spoke before the Board and stated that the Department and Commission are counting their chickens before the eggs are hatched. The Animal Sterilization Fund monies have to go through the CAO, Public Safety Committee, Budget and Finance and finally to the City Council. The General Manager indicated there are two ways you can go: (1) Through the City Council, or (2) the Department can make expenditures directly out of the Animal Sterilization Fund. Lois Newman made a complaint regarding a West Valley Animal Care and Control Center Animal Care Technician named Dwane Stinson, and named him as being a very uncaring person and such other platitudes as indicated on tape recording of Board meeting for June 18, 1990. Ms. Newman stated she has a goal that within 24 months she will see 25,000 animals a year less killed by the Department.

The Board recessed at 2:10 p.m.

The Board reconvened at 2:24 p.m.

IDENTIFICATION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Commissioner Robins requested that consideration of Department of Animal Regulation Sterilization Fund Refund Procedure be placed on a future agenda.

STATUS REPORT ON NEWS ITEMS

Dyer Huston, Senior Public Relations Representative, gave a status report on news items.

Lois Newman spoke before the Board regarding loose animals at Griffith Park. She recommended large signs be posted in Griffith Park indicating what humane organizations to contact to help the animals that run loose at Griffith Park.

The meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

August 6, 1990
ATTEST

PRESIDENT

Estelle Harvey
BOARD SECRETARY

A:6-18-90M

MINUTES

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

BOARD OF ANIMAL REGULATION

Tuesday, June 12, 1990

1:35 p.m.

The Board of Animal Regulation convened in special session on Tuesday, June 12, 1990, in Room 250-A, City Hall, 200 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, California 90012.

Members Present: President Putney and Commissioners Hochman, Hoisch, Huntington and Robins.

The Board met to discuss the impact of the Mayor's 1990-91 Proposed Budget for the Department of Animal Regulation and proposed reduction program in various operations and services.

The General Manager discussed the attached memo dated June 8, 1990 to the Board of Animal Regulation Re: "Mayor's Veto Message - 1990-91 Proposed Budget - Department of Animal Regulation - Reduction Program for Services and Operations."

The General Manager and Board discussed and modified attached report entitled "Department of Animal Regulation - Departmental Managed Budget Reduction Program - Target $295,695 (6% Reduction)" as follows:

Item No. 1.a.- change "Reduction" of part-time clerical and animal care employees to "Elimination" of part-time clerical and animal care employees. Clarify that 14 clerical and animal care employees will be affected.

Item No. 1.b. - Indicate exact number of hours that each shelter will lose per week because of modified hours that shelters will be open to the public.

Item No. 2. - The Board discussed their concern about using Animal Sterilization Funds and that it might become a standard fee for service and could become a permanent arrangement. It was stressed by the General Manager and Commissioner Huntington that failure to transfer funds from the Animal Sterilization Fund will require the Department to reduce spay and neuter clinic service to two days per week at North Central and South Central and one day per week at Harbor. President Putney and Commissioner Hoisch indicated that the ideal would be that there would be no money in the Animal Sterilization Fund, which would mean people are sterilizing their pets. However, because of the present fiscal situation for the 1990-91 Fiscal Year, the Department would prefer to transfer funds from the Animal Sterilization Fund rather than layoff personnel.

Item No. 3. - It was requested that "Employ four" new positions of Animal Control Officers commencing November 1, 1990 be changed to "Delay employment of" four new positions of Animal Control Officers commencing November 1, 1990. It was also requested that the General Manager justify why the Department is adding the four new positions.

Item No. 4. - The Board did not revise this item.

Item Nos. 5, 6, and 7 - The Board did not revise these items.

Items No. 8, 9 and 10 - It was requested that the Department clarify personnel in these positions are not being laid off.

In answer to some of the Board's concerns about the Department's capability to be flexible and move personnel from one shelter to another as needed, the General Manager indicated that the discussed plan is subject to modification and that nothing is locked in concrete. Mr. Rush stated that the Department's plan will be forwarded to the Mayor and Finance Committee.

Commissioner Robins made the following Motion and Commissioner Hochman seconded the Motion as follows: "That the Commission support the General Manager's Departmental Managed Budget Reduction Program Target of $295,695." (Unanimous approval.)

A speaker from the audience spoke to the Board and inquired about how the Department can retain their present spay and neuter program. She stated that the Department of Animal Regulation is the envy of the Nation with our spay and neuter program. Commissioner Hochman indicated that the Department proposes to retain its present level of Spay and Neuter Clinic Program by partially funding the program through a transfer of funds from the Animal Sterilization Fund to the Department's General Salaries Account. This would be an interim measure. She suggested that the Department also look at other revenue areas.

Commissioner Huntington recommended the Department send a letter to the animal activists rights groups that normally frequent the Board meetings. He was disappointed that those groups were not at this Special Meeting regarding the Budget because those people are usually present at regular meetings asking for program changes that cost money. They need to know that this coming fiscal year there is little or no need to come before the Board with program enhancement recommendations because the funds won't be there. It was requested that the above-mentioned animal rights activists receive copies of the Minutes of June 12, 1990.

The General Manager indicated as part of the budget picture this year and next year, the Chief Legislative Analyst's Office will be moving forward this month to introduce revenue measures to the League of California Cities that will help to reduce the budgetary reductions in this Department. One of the items is on tax of certain kinds of pet food and accessories. The General Manager indicated implementation of that tax this year or even the succeeding year will help to mitigate the impact of any budgetary reductions that the City might make.

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

July 16, 1990
ATTEST

Mimi Robin
PRESIDENT

Giselle Hauepl
BOARD SECRETARY

a:6-12-90M

MINUTES

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

BOARD OF ANIMAL REGULATION

Monday, June 4, 1990

1:40 p.m.

The Board of Animal Regulation Commissioners convened in regular session on Monday, June 4, 1990, in Room 155, City Hall, 111 East First Street, Los Angeles, California 90012.

Members Present: Commissioners Robins, Hoisch and Huntington.

Members Absent: President Putney and Commissioner Hochman.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The Minutes of May 21, 1990 were approved as corrected as follows: Commissioner Hoisch indicated that on page 4 under Public Comments, Pat Bercel inquired about the "First Rights" and "Owner's Requesting Euthanasia for their Pets" issues and wanted to know why the Department had not implemented the changes at the shelters.

The General Manager stated these issues have been considered by the Department and at the present time the waiver of fees regarding first rights issue will be going before the Public Safety Committee within the week. Department staff is presently conducting a survey on the owner's requesting euthanisia for their pets issue. Mr. Rush indicated that he will have a report on this issue submitted to the Board within one month's time.

Consideration of Barking Dog and Dangerous Animal Ordinances
Linda Gordon, Management Analyst, informed the Board that there would be three appeal cases at the next Commission meeting. She also stated that in regard to the Retz Appeal Case, the Superior Court upheld the Department in its decisions.

Consideration of Department of Animal Regulation
1990-91 Proposed Budget
The General Manager advised the Board that he and Commissioners Hoisch and Huntington met and discussed budget proposals and options which would be instituted to mitigate problems in connection with the Mayor's budget and/or the Proposed Budget as modified by the City Council. The Board will be apprised of the Committee's recommendations as soon as the Department receives the Mayor's Veto message.

Consideration of Animal Welfare Trust Fund

Commissioner Huntington discussed memo to President of the Board dated May 21, 1990 from Commissioner Hoisch and himself regarding Review of the Animal Welfare Trust Fund. The memo indicated that the Committee's analysis of the lists of expenditures provided by both the General Manager and the Office of the Controller lead Committee to conclude that expenditures from the Animal Welfare Trust Fund were made in accordance within the intent and letter of the ordinance. In addition, all expenditures from this fund were processed through the appropriate City department and inventoried according to City regulations. Commissioners Hoisch and Huntington suggested, " that care should be taken to assure that any amendments to the ordinance do not render it useless and make it virtually impossible to fund activities within the department that support animal welfare, but which cannot be funded by the City in a timely manner."

Commissioner Huntington advised the Board as the current ordinance is written, it allows flexibility for the Department. For example, the Department could open a new shelter and because of current budget conditions that shelter might not have the funds to equip that shelter. If the funds were in the Animal Welfare Trust Fund, it currently could be used to outfit a new shelter, or to retrofit an old shelter. If the present ordinance is modified, you lose that capability. Commissioner Hoisch indicated she didn't see any reason to continue the Committee's work when as it stands now any expenditures spent out of the Animal Welfare Trust Fund will come before the Board for approval. It was suggested by Commissioner Huntington that it would be better to have the Commission as the final say, rather than restricting the ordinance and thereby restricting the Commission. Commissioner Robins requested the Department prepare a quarterly report regarding the Animal Welfare Trust Fund and submit it to the Board.

Pat Bercel, VSA, spoke before the Board and indicated that the wording "Animal Welfare" Trust Fund should be changed to "Department of Animal Regulation Welfare" Fund. She stated that "animal welfare implies it is to help and benefit animals, and there is no one in the world that can tell her that a bunch of chairs are going to benefit animals."

Betty Cardoni, Mercy Crusade, spoke before the Board and indicated that she could not agree with Pat Bercel because she has seen the dilapidated chairs that were in the spay clinics and in the offices, and she does not think the condition of any of that stuff inspired the confidence of anybody coming in to a public facility. A lot of that stuff has badly needed replacement for many years. Chairs are a very small item in the total budget picture in the Animal Welfare Trust Fund. You need the latitude--you have to have an appearance to go with the services you are providing. She stated the more flexibility you have in what you can do, the better off you are going to do because this budget deficit is not going away--its going to get worse every year.

Commissioner Hoisch made a Motion and Commissioner Huntington seconded the Motion as follows: "To accept the report of Commissioner Hoisch and Hungtington on their review of the Animal Welfare Trust Fund." (Unanimous approved, President Putney and Commissioner Hochman were absent.)

Commissioner Robins suggested that the Board send a report with a cover letter to the Mayor explaining that the Board will look at all expenditures as a Commission and will then give final approval. There was further discussion that if the name Animal Welfare Trust Fund is changed to Department of Animal Welfare Trust Fund, it would be the same as doing away with the Animal Welfare Trust Fund altogether.

Lynne Exe, spoke before the Board regarding destruction of owner's brought in animals and her concerns that injured animals be allowed to be destroyed. Healthy animals should be held for three to four days rather than just the present one hour.

IDENTIFICATION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

It was requested that the following items be placed on future agendas: Consideration of Animal Sterilization Fund Proposals; and Proposal to Change name of Animal Welfare Trust Fund.

STATUS REPORT ON NEWS ITEMS

Dyer Huston, Senior Public Relations Representative, gave a status report on news items.

The meeting adjourned at 2:44 p.m.

July 16, 1990
ATTEST

PRESIDENT

COMMISSION SECRETARY

MINUTES

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

BOARD OF ANIMAL REGULATION

Monday, May 21, 1990

1:30 p.m.

The Board of Animal Regulation Commissioners convened in regular session on Monday, May 21, 1990, in Room 155, City Hall, 111 East First Street, Los Angeles, California 90012.

Members Present: President Putney and Commissioners Hochman, Hoisch and Huntington.

Members absent: Commissioner Robins.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The Minutes of May 7, 1990 were unanimously approved. (Commissioner Robins was absent, and Commissioner Hochman was not present at time of vote.)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Consideration of Department of Animal Regulation 1990-91 Proposed Budget

The General Manager indicated that he and Commissioner Huntington attended the Council Budget Session and made some pronouncements as to what budgetary proposals might do to the Department. The Finance Committee did not cut positions in the Department, they cut a dollar amount. Overall the Finance Committee recommended to the Council major reductions in City service programs. They added a $200,000 reduction in the Department and deletion of plans for East Valley and Harbor Animal Care and Control Centers, but left in money for the South Central Animal Care and Control Center. However, at a subsequent Budget hearing, it was recommended that consideration of plans for East Valley and Harbor Animal Care and Control go back to Finance Committee for discussion because Councilman Wachs was interested in East Valley and Councilwoman Flores was interested in the Harbor Animal Care and Control Center.

In response to the the Mayor's request, Mr. Rush discussed a draft letter to the Mayor dated May 21, 1990 regarding additional reductions made by the City Council on the 1990-91 Proposed Budget for the Department of Animal Regulation, and the impact those reductions would have on the Department. Commissioner Huntington commented about the Council Budget hearings. He felt the City is facing severe fiscal problems and the situation is probably worse then what we know. He anticipates that 1992 will be a period of even less resources. There is something happening on the economic scene and this translates now into budget cuts. The General Manager requested that the Commission and Department work together on a Study Committee to formulate a reduction plan that will minimize adverse impacts on any one program and that will continue an acceptable level of service to the City. The General Manager asked that the President of the Board also sign the letter to Mayor regarding impact of proposed 1990-91 budget reductions for Animal Regulation by the City Council.

Commissioner Hoisch made the following motion and Commissioner Huntington seconded the motion: "To support the General Manager in his response to the Mayor regarding impact on the Department of Animal Regulation of the additional reductions of the proposed 1990-91 budget made by the City Council." (Unanimous approval, Commissioner Robins was absent.)

President Putney appointed Commissioners Hoisch and Huntington to serve on the Budget Committee.

Consideration of Barking Dog and Dangerous Animal Ordinances

Linda Gordon, Management Analyst, asked the Board if they wished to listen to Administrative Hearing tapes for Barking Dog Case involving Sharon Brewer's dog. In Ms. Brewer's written appeal, there was mention of the recordings. The Board decided that they would listen to the administrative tapes involving the Brewer case. Commissioner Huntington inquired about the Waco Case involving barking dogs and asked that the Department reassess its findings because the appeal could stand on its own merit. The Board was reassured that the Department would carefully review the case and get back to the Commission. Ms. Gordon discussed the Superior Court appeal involving the decision of the General Manager declaring dogs owned by Mr. Frank Retz to be dangerous. The appeal was heard in March 1990 by the Board and the decision of the General Manager was upheld. Mr. Michael Klekner, Deputy City Attorney, will be representing the Department in the matter.

The General Manager discussed his memo dated May 21, 1990 regarding Dangerous Animal and Barking Dog Ordinances. This memo proposes that a special committee be established to review the results of the past two years since the Department implemented the Dangerous Animal and Barking Dog Ordinances and to determine if additional changes are required.

Commissioner Huntington stated that the number of appeals have significantly dropped since the on-going training of the Hearing Examiners began. He suggested that training be an on-going program in the Department. Commissioner Hochman stated that the Barking Dog and Dangerous Animal Ordinance has been a significant undertaking and has accomplished a lot. The City and Department should pat themselves on the back. One way to do this is to prepare a report reviewing what has been accomplished under the Barking Dog and Dangerous Animal Ordinance and by addressing concerns that may have been raised by members of the public, the Commission, or Department staff. He recommended that a committee meet and come up with some sort of draft report and bring it back to the Board so that the issues and report can be discussed. Commissioner Hoisch inquired if members of the proposed committee would include some of the people voicing concerns. The General Manager indicated that the Committee would consist of the strongest animal rights people he can get. It was the overall feeling of the Board that a member of the Board should also be on the proposed committee. The President asked Commissioner Hochman to serve on the committee.

The meeting recessed at 2:55 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 3:07 p.m.

<u>Consideration of Commercial Dog Ordinance</u>
Commissioner Hochman indicated that one year ago an ordinance established a license fee for what is known as the Guard Dog Ordinance. That license and tag is $50.00 per year. He talked to Mr. Rush regarding implementing the Ordinance to see that the contractor who is presently out and trying to find people who don't have licenses for their dogs in a residential situation also include this particular Guard Dog license which will generate revenue for the City and Department. The Department will then start to know which establishments have guard dogs, and be able to give them information on the requirements, and begin to get the new ordinance into effect.

The General Manager stated that a year ago the Department recommended and was given Animal Control Officers to enforce the Guard Dog Ordinance, and then they were taken away. He stated that Commissioner Hochman's proposal is a good one.

President Putney expressed concern about the language contained in LAMC 53.66 D. pertaining to the section on the requirement for guard dog owners to obtain a physical examination in order to qualify for a guard dog license. He stated strongly that there should not be any reference to specifics because licensed and certified veterinarians conduct physical examinations according to accepted veterinary standards.

Commissioner Hochman made the following motion and Commissioner Hoisch seconded the motion: "That the Department go forward in working with the contractor to collect guard dog license fees under the contract program." (Unanimous approval, Commissioner Robins was absent.)

Mr. Levine, Administrative Services Officer, stated that license collectors would collect the fees and issue receipts but would inform guard dog owners that a license would not be issued until a health certificate was obtained from a licensed veterinarian and presented to the Department. President Putney was concerned about the time lag between the payment of the license fee and the actual physical examination. Mr. Levine stated that at least the Department would have a record of the guard dog and owner on file for any further required action to have the dog properly licensed. The Commission supported the issuance of guard dog licenses and to accept a certificate of health from a licensed veterinarian in accordance with standard veterinary practice, notwithstanding the language in LAMC 53.66 D.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Pat Bercel, President, VSA, spoke before the Board inquiring about the "first rights" and "owner's requesting euthanasia for their pets" issues. She indicted the Board had voted for changes in these two policies and wanted to know why the Department had not implemented the changes at the shelters. The General Manager indicated that these issues would be taken care of by the Department. Ms. Bercel also recommended that the Board members visit each shelter.

The General Manager made a Productivity Recognition Award presentation to Meyer Levine, and congratulated him on his fine suggestion.

IDENTIFICATION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The President of the Board asked that the Animal Welfare Trust Fund item be placed on June 4, 1990 Agenda. Commissioner Huntington asked that the recommendations of Lois Newman regarding the breeder's license issue be placed on July 2, 1990 agenda.

STATUS REPORT ON NEWS ITEMS

Dyer Huston, Senior Public Relations Representative, gave a status report on news items.

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

June 18, 1990

ATTEST

PRESIDENT

BOARD SECRETARY

A:5-21-90M

MINUTES

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

BOARD OF ANIMAL REGULATION

Monday, May 7, 1990

1:00 p.m.

The Board of Animal Regulation Commissioners convened in regular session on Monday, May 7, 1990, in Room 155, City Hall South, 111 East First Street, Los Angeles, California 90012.

Members Present: President Putney and Commissioners Hochman, Hoisch, Huntington and Robins.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The Minutes of April 16, 1990 were unanimously approved.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Consideration of Department of Animal Regulation 1990-91 Proposed Budget

The General Manager indicated that the Finance Committee made some recommendations for curtailment in budgets across the board in the salary categories. This may result in the possibility of layoff of six to seven employees. This does keep new positions that the Mayor had proposed and the Finance Committee has retained in the budget an Animal Control Officer and one and one-half positions with the Dangerous Animal Ordinance for Hearing Examiner and Clerk Typist. Until the Council makes their final decisions on the budget, we will not know the final outcome. Mr. Rush stated that the South Central facility is still scheduled for replacement and the Harbor facility will be considered for replacement mid-year. He mentioned that he and Commissioner Huntington will attend the Council Budget Hearings.

Consideration of Status Report and Commission Review of the Animal Sterilization Fund

The General Manager and Board discussed and reviewed letter to the Board dated May 1, 1990 regarding proposed plan of expenditure for the Animal Sterilization Trust Fund for the period July 1, 1990 through June 30, 1991.

Paula VanOrden, Coalition for Pet Population Control, spoke before the Board and asked that reconsideration be given for the Proposed Plan of Expenditure for the Coalition from $20,000 back to $40,000.

The meeting recessed at 2:15 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 2:29 p.m.

Lois Newman, 5711 1/2 Lexington Avenue, Los Angeles, spoke before the Board against providing an additional $20,000 to the Coalition for Pet Population Control.

Pat Bercel, President, VSA, spoke before the Board and indicated that $40,000 should go for sterilization only and not for any other costs.

After further discussion by the Board and General Manager, Commissioner Robins made the following Motion and Commissioner Huntington seconded the Motion: "That the Proposed Plan for Expenditure for the Coalition for Pet Population Control be changed from $20,000 to $40,000." (4 ayes, 1 noe, Commissioner Hoisch.)

Commissioner Robins made a Motion regarding New Projects to Be Considered as follows: "That the remaining budget items be approved by the Commission prior to issuance of contract and expenditure."

Commissioner Huntington recommended the Department establish a formal grants program with measuring techniques in order for the Board and Department to make educated awards. In that way, a proposal is developed and submitted where a determination can be made.

Commissioner Hochman recommended the Department receive proposals and set up a review panel to look at proposals, analyze them and then the Board can make decisions on the proposals.

Commissioner Huntington made a Substitute Motion which was seconded by Commissioner Robins as follows: "For the 1990-91 Fiscal Year, the Department take projects to be identified as new projects and use those as a guide as the parameters, and solicit proposals to be funded as a grant process." (Unanimous approval.)

Commissioner Huntington indicated that initially the Commission and representatives from the Department would evaluate the grants program for the first year, and in subsequent years, the Department would have an opportunity to put into motion a Board of Volunteers from the community to evaluate the proposals.

Lois Newman, 5711 1/2 Lexington Avenue, Los Angeles, spoke before the Board and stated that she does not mind a review process, but to have the burden of a federal bureaucracy is inappropriate.

Carol Ellis spoke before the Board regarding a letter dated March 13, 1990 to the General Manager from Councilwoman Molina regarding the use of spay and neuter funds for the Have a Heart Program. She indicated that she found the General Manager's reply unacceptable and that the City of Los Angeles has failed in their responsibility to continue a program that has worked in the past. Commissioner Huntington asked the General Manager why the Have A Heart Program was eliminated. The General Manger indicated that the Cassidy Foundation supplanted Have A Heart Program and matched the City's contribution and doubled the City's benefit. Commissioner Huntington requested another letter be sent to Councilwoman Molina giving more information and detail on this subject.

Consideration of Status Report and Commission Review of Animal Welfare Trust Fund

President Putney read the following letter dated April 20, 1990 from the Mayor to the Board as follows: "Several years ago, the Animal Welfare Trust Fund was established to allow residents to make private contributions to assist in the caring treatment of animals. I have heard several reports that raise significant questions about whether or not trust funds have actually gone to improve the condition of animals in the City. This well-intentioned fund could help support our efforts to improve the condition of our animals shelters, provide spay and neuter programs, and offer free rabies shots. Please investigate allegations that funds from this account have been used to purchase furniture and other items not directly related to the caring of animals. In addition, I would like you to recommend to me and to the City Council changes we could make in the operation of the trust fund to make sure future expenditures directly benefit animals. I look forward to your report on this matter within the next month or so. Thank you for your quick attention to this matter."

He then read the following parts of Section 5.200 pertaining to the Animal Welfare Trust Fund: (b)The Fund shall be used to augment established programs and activities of the Department of Animal Regulation, other than those involving pet sterilization, and may be used for the acquisition, construction and maintenance of land and capital improvements and the purchase of equipment, services for furnishings in support of such programs and activities, subject to any special terms or conditions attached to individuals gifts, contributions or bequests to the City. "(g)The Fund shall be administered and expenditures therefrom may be authorized by the General Manager of the Department of Animal Regulation in accordance with established City practice,

provided, however, that no expenditure shall be made from the Fund for any purpose which is contrary to the Budget policy of the Department of Animal Regulation as established by the Mayor and City Council."

President Putney also read the following Motion dated April 27, 1990 presented by Councilman Richard Alatorre and Seconded by Councilman John Ferraro: "On February 24, 1987, the City Council adopted an ordinance which established the Animal Welfare Trust Fund. The intent of this legislation was to insure that gifts to the City of Los Angeles by concerned individuals or groups for the purposes of animal welfare were not used for general city purposes. The ordinance established the Trust Fund within the budget of the Department of Animal Regulation and authorized the General Manager of the Animal Regulation Department to expend monies from the fund. While there have been, to the knowledge of the City Council, no illegal expenditures from that fund, some questions have been raised as to the appropriateness of some expenditures. In order to insure that monies expended from the Trust Fund directly provide for animal welfare, additional safeguards are needed. I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council direct the General Manager of the Department of Animal Regulation to submit all proposed expenditures from the Animal Welfare Trust Fund to the Board of Animal Regulation for review and approval, and that no expenditures be made from that fund without the approval of the Board."

President Putney indicated that in addition to the Mayor's letter and Councilman Alatorre's Motion, he procured from the Controller's Office a printout of all expenditures that have been made from that fund. Commissioner Huntington was asked by the President to analyze the printout. Commissioner Huntington mentioned that the printout is extremely confusing and recommends that he complete his computer analysis and then meet with the Controller's Office to discuss his analysis and areas that need clarification.

Commissioner Hochman made the following Motion and Commissioner Robins seconded his Motion: "The Board of Animal Regulation recommends in response to the Mayor's request of April 20, 1990, that the Board submit a recommendation to him on this matter, that: (1) All proposed expenditures from the Animal Welfare Trust Fund be submitted to the Board of Animal Regulation for approval, with full opportunity for public comments, and (2) That this procedure be formally established by ordinance. The Board further recognizes that the effective use of this Fund for the direct benefit of the City's animals should be the paramount priority, and the Board will act to accomplish this result in making its decisions. Finally, the Board acknowledges the Motion of Councilmen Alatorre and Ferraro from the Public Safety Committee of April 27, 1990, supporting this approach."

The General Manager read verbatim his " Statement to the Board of Animal Regulation, May 7, 1990 Concerning the Expenditure of Monies from the Animal Welfare Trust Fund" as follows:

"Mr. President and members of the Commission, I wish to thank you for this opportunity to make a statement with regard to the recent publicity concerning the Animal Welfare Trust Fund.

"The enabling ordinance provides that the 'fund shall be used to augment established programs and activities of the Department of Animal Regulation other than those involving pet sterilization, and may be used for the acquisition, construction and maintenance of land and capital improvements and the purchase of equipment, services or furnishings in support of such programs and activities, subject to any special terms or conditions attached to individual gifts, contributions or bequests to the City.'

"There have been some claims and conjectures that monies from this fund have been "misspent" as if I have sought some personal gain from these bequests and donations. But the simple truth of the matter is that all of the funds expended have been in keeping with all provisions set forth in the Animal Welfare Trust Fund and have been accounted for and have benefitted the animals of this City and the people whom we serve.

"It is important to understand that in recent years the City's budget process has been, at times, particularly brutal and perhaps rightfully so. There are many departments and many needs. This Commission can testify as to this Department's needs that could not be met because the money was not there. Equally important to note are the competing needs. We all have opinions as o which is more or most important for this Department and the animals. But all the needs cannot be met and so the decisions of picking and choosing priorities finally rests with me after counsel and advice from staff, vested interest groups and this Commission.

"There are some animal welfare groups that believe the trust fund's monies should be spent exclusively upon spaying and neutering programs. Others opt for humane education and promotions to have higher shelter adoption rates. At times the list of wants that are truly beneficial seems endless. But there are also times when I, as General Manager, have other equally important considerations. I must, in the budget process, opt for more collection vehicles and personnel over office furniture. But that does not mean that chairs and desks, some many years old, do not need replacement. Or that a working environment for personnel cannot be made more hospitable or safe. It does not mean that, in our very limited travel expenditures account, I should turn my head at funding travel for staff to assist in the passage of State legislation that will truly restrict the awful

bloody practice of cock fighting. It does not mean that simply because we are an animal care and control department, dog pound to some, that our personnel, who are professionals, should continue to live and work in the dark ages and not have the benefit of contemporary training, training equipment, and work areas. All of these needs do, I assure you, directly benefit the animals and citizens of Los Angeles. As a result of my decisions of these expenditures, employees' skills and abilities have increased. With the purchase of furniture, employee morale has greatly improved, and to my thinking morale is not an intangible, rather it is a necessity in achieving job effectiveness.

"I am not oblivious, however, to the statements and concerns of others who also work for the welfare of animals. A task that is too often thankless. I also understand that competition, within the private sector, to fund these groups is fierce. Consequently, the expenditure of these funds for items, other than what some may personally perceive to be not in keeping with their own individual priorities or beliefs as directly benefitting animals, may appear questionable.

"Therefore, I have requested:

1. That a full and complete audit by the City Controller be made of this Department's past expenditures of the Animal Welfare Trust Fund. Reference copy of attached letter directed to the Controller dated April 26, 1990.

2. That the City Council adopt a Resolution to provide that all expenditures of this fund be made subject to review and approval by the Board of Animal Regulation Commissioners.

"Submitted for your review are documents reflecting all of Fund's expenditures. I believe this audit and review will address the concerns of those who have complained about the past use of monies from this fund and may further clarify duties and responsibilities of the General Manager to expend all monies donated to the Animal Welfare Trust Fund in keeping with its intent, conditions or purpose."

The General Manager stated: "Last but not least, I have been given the authority by the Los Angeles Municipal Code adopted by the City Council and Mayor to spend those funds in accordance with those provisions. I have exercised the authority and have been criticized for exercising the authority--that is convoluted thinking to the best of my knowledge."

Commissioner Robins stated that the Motion made to ask for the Commission's approval on any further requests does not cast any aspersions one way or another. This Motion was meant to clarify

the condition that now exists and to respond to the Mayor's request that the Board address it.

Commissioner Hochman indicated it was important for the Board to act now on his Motion because he is concerned that the Board will look unresponsive if they don't act today. He indicated that the General Manager acted responsibly today in a timely way.

Pat Bercel, President, VSA, spoke before the Board and stated that anyone donating to the Animal Welfare Trust Fund should be made aware of what money has been spent on and what it can be spent on.

Betty Cardoni, Mercy Crusade and Tailwaggers, spoke before the Board and stated, " that to restrict the General Manager who really has responsibility for general management so that he is not able to spend money for what he is best able to determine is needed would be a grievous dishonor to the people who contributed this money and who will be contributing money in the future to this type of fund. These people understand that they contributed for one reason--that they have a leader who can be trusted and will perform."

Jane Bronson, VSA, spoke before the Board regarding Commissioner Hochman's Motion and indicated where the Motion states "paramount priority be the welfare of animals", it should read the "only issue, the welfare of animals."

Lois Newman, 5711 1/2 Lexington Avenue, Los Angeles, California, spoke before the Board regarding the General Manager's written statement, and the expenditure of funds by the Department of the Animal Welfare Trust Fund. She stated, "This is an excuse--it's not an explanation. Mr. Rush, I warn you, from now on everything you do is going to be under a microcope. You are going to be accountable to us, we the people."

The Board took a vote on Commissioner Hochman's Motion. President Putney indicated that he would not vote for the Motion and preferred whatever vote is taken to be unanimous to serve a purpose. He stated that he could not in good conscience vote for a Motion until such time as the Board has completed enough work to answer the allegations that have been made.

Commissioner Robins withdrew her second to Commissioner Hochman's Motion. He asked that a letter be written to the Mayor with a carbon copy to Councilman Alatorre informing them what the Board will do. President Putney stated that he would follow up and prepare a letter to the Mayor with a copy to Councilman Alatorre.

The President appointed Commissioners Hoisch and Huntington to the Committee to do analyses and investigative work on the Animal Welfare Trust Fund matter.

IDENTIFICATION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Commissioner Huntington requested that consideration of Memory Mate software for the Lost and Found Program be placed on a future agenda.

STATUS REPORT ON NEWS ITEMS

Dyer Huston, Senior Public Relations Representative, gave a status report on news items.

The meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

June 18, 1990
ATTEST

PRESIDENT

Giselle Hauge
BOARD SECRETARY

MINUTES

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

BOARD OF ANIMAL REGULATION

Monday, April 16, 1990

1:35 p.m.

The Board of Animal Regulation Commissioners convened in regular session on Monday, April 16, 1990, in Room 155, City Hall South, 111 East First Street, Los Angeles, California 90012.

Members Present: President Putney and Commissioners Hoisch, Huntington, and Robins.

Members Absent: Commissioner Hochman.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The Minutes of April 2, 1990 were unanimously approved. (Commissioner Hochman was absent and Commissioner Robins was not present at time of vote.)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Consideration of Department of Animal Regulation 1990-91 Proposed Budget

The General Manager stated as soon as the Mayor releases the Proposed Budget, the Department will send a letter to each Council member regarding the Department's budget asking for support of the Mayor's Proposed Budget. He will direct attention to the critical items of the Department's budget asking the Council's approval of those items in addition to the Mayor's Proposed Budget. He indicated he will then meet in person with key Council Members or Deputies to discuss the Department's budget.

The Administrative Services Officer Meyer Levine presented the Board with a short video representation of a program to assist owners of lost pets to locate them. It will eventually be aired on the City's television Cityview program on cable Channel 35 when the Department of Telecommunications selects the appropriate hardware and software.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Lois Newman spoke before the Board and recommended that a larger font with six dogs or six cats per screen be used. She also recommended that pictures of animals be taken and stored on a disk.

Pat Bercel, President, VSA, spoke before the Board and indicated that a person needs to physically see an animal in person and that photographs of animals are not the only answer to finding lost animals.

President Putney indicated how pleased he was with this program. He stated that this is a beginning, and we will go as far as we can go a step at a time.

The General Manager discussed a news release which went out regarding the Department of Animal Regulation's new information program, "Adopt a Friend for Life." He indicated that a private grant has been awarded the Department for a $49,920 newspaper advertising campaign for the program.

Mr. Levine made a short presentation on his visit to the North Shore Animal League in Long Island, New York where he observed their adoption program and techniques and obtained the particulars on the grant funding for newspaper ads to increase pet adoption in the City of Los Angeles. The first portion of the $49,920 will arrive on approximately April 23, 1990. This will pay for four ads per week, including Sundays, for 26 weeks. The first ad will be printed in the Los Angeles Times shortly thereafter. The Department's responsibility will be to keep accurate statistics on dog and cat adoptions. The statistics gathering will begin on the day the first ad is printed.

After further discussion by the Board, Commissioner Robins made the following Motion and Commissioner Huntington seconded the Motion: "To adopt the information program, 'Adopt a Friend for Life'."

The meeting recessed at 2:37 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 2:45 p.m.

President Putney indicated he had a meeting with George Buchanan, City Attorney's Office, this morning regarding Commission Business on the Brown Act. Mr. Buchanan indicated that when there is an item of emergency nature that the Board must act upon at a particular meeting, then a motion must be made by a Commissioner to do so. There must be a two-thirds vote of approval by the Board in order to discuss and act upon the item of emergency nature.

The President stated that other items can be discussed by the Board at a particular meeting, however no action can be taken on that item if it is not on the Agenda prior to the meeting. In regard to public comment, the Board can control the amount of time allowed to speak. As far as the Board commenting on public comment, they have a right to do so. Even though it is not illegal for the Board to respond, generally speaking, when the public has a comment and if it is an important item, it is recommended that it be placed on a future agenda. This gives the Board time to approach it in a reasonable manner and allow the Department to prepare something for the meeting.

IDENTIFICATION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Commissioner Hoisch indicated that Commissioner Hochman requested "Consideration of Commercial Dog Ordinance" be placed on a future agenda. This item will be placed on the May 21, 1990 Agenda.

The Board set a date and time for a public hearing on "Pit Bull Type Dogs" for June 19, 1990 at 7:00 p.m.

Pat Bercel inquired about a status report on owner's turned in animals. The General Manager indicated he would report back in about a month on this item.

STATUS REPORT ON NEWS ITEMS

Dyer Huston, Senior Public Relations Representative, gave a status report on news items.

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

May 21, 1990
ATTEST

PRESIDENT

Giselle Hauge
COMMISSION SECRETARY

MINUTES

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

BOARD OF ANIMAL REGULATION

Monday, April 2, 1990

1:05 p.m.

The Board of Animal Regulation Commissioners convened in regular session on Monday, April 2, 1990, in Room 155, City Hall South, 111 East First Street, Los Angeles, California 90012.

Members Present: President Putney and Commissioners Hochman, Hoisch, Huntington, and Robins.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The Minutes of March 19, 1990 were unanimously approved.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Consideration of Barking Dog and Dangerous Animal Ordinances

Linda Gordon, Management Analyst, distributed a compilation of the Barking Dog and Dangerous Animal Ordinances current as of April 2, 1990. This also included the most recent amendment to Section 53.18.5(r) - Reinstatement of License Privileges.

Robert Rush, General Manager, gave a brief overview of the purpose of Section 53.18.5(r).

Ms. Gordon stated that the Animal Regulation staff will make recommendations for a revision to the current rules governing the appeals procedure to address this new subdivision. These revisions will be distributed to the Commission at a future meeting for consideration and further recommendations.

Consideration of Department of Animal Regulation 1990-91 Proposed Budget.

The General Manager indicated that he had a verbal report from the City Administrative Officer on the Mayor's Proposed Budget for 1990-91. It will be submitted to the City Council and will contain provisions for: (1) an additional Hearing Examiner and a half-time Clerk Typist in the San Fernando Valley. This would provide the ability to conduct evening hearings in the East Valley, (2) fou additional Animal Control Officers, (3) pay grade advancement t upgrade the Sr. Management Analyst I position to a Sr. Managemen Analyst II position, and (4) two four-wheel drive vans for the Wil Life Officers. These proposals would become effective July 1, 1990. The General Manager also stated that there is a recommendation for Capital Imporvement Project money for the

replacement of the Harbor and South Central Shelters. Any additional monies would be used in the medical treatment area of East Valley Animal Care and Control Center

The General Manager felt that the budget recommendations of the Mayor encompassed those things the Department set out to obtain. The General Manager expressed his appreciation to the Board and to the Board's representative, Commissioner Eldridge Huntington, for his assistance in the budget hearing process.

The General Manager stated that the Department's adjustments in the Proposed Budget are probably an abnormal situation in City service because this Department's Capital Project reflects 1/3 or almost 40% of the Capital Project Program for 1990-91. The General Manager felt that this Department's considerations have <u>really</u> been met in a grandiose style.

The General Manager requested that Commissioner Huntington attend the budget consideration hearings as they go forward in the City Council. Commissioner Huntington requested that Commission President, Dr. Putney also attend the hearings. Dr. Putney agreed to attend.

Commissioner Huntington also recommended that it become standard procedure for a Commissioner to attend all budget hearings. Commissioner Huntington felt that attendance by a Commissioner would show a unification of direction between the Department and the Commission.

The General Manager discussed the Mayor's transmittal which implemented a freeze on hiring for the remainder of the fiscal year. All vacant positions, unless a firm job offer has been granted shall not be filled.

Consideration of conducting pet care and humane education classes for children and adults at two District Animal Shelters on <u>weekends.</u>

The General Manager discussed his proposal to reestablish (on a formalized basis) humane education programs in the City of Los Angeles. He spoke of the Department's ongoing efforts to conduct humane education classes in schools and for elderly persons. Because of limited resources, the General Manager proposed that the Department fund this program through its Sterilization Fund. This funding would provide for two Animal Control Officers at a cost of approximately $50,000 a year not including overhead. These officers would work Tuesday through Saturday. On Saturdays the officers would coordinate and maintain a program at the East Valley and North Central Animal Shelters that would provide classes for children and adults. These classes would teach individuals the

responsibility of taking care of an animal's grooming, obedience and other matters.

The projected date of implementation of this program is July 1, 1990. The Department is planning a two year commitment in order to demonstrate the effectiveness of the Humane Officer Program to the City.

Commissioner Robins asked the General Manager if funding of the two officers from the Sterilization Fund is permissible. The General Manager affirmed this, and further stated that funds could be used for both Animal Sterilization and Humane Education as provided for by the State of California. The General Manager stated that the Department would have a report on this subject (which would include all budget concerns), within four weeks.

Consideration of the Novak Foot Snare Trap

The General Manager distributed copies of a report relating to the Novak foot snare trap. The report from the General Manager, District Supervisor Tom Walsh, and three Wildlife Officers recommended that the Commission not endorse the Novak trap.

After reviewing the report, Commissioner Hoisch asked the General Manager about the most commonly used trap presently employed by the Department. The General Manager stated that the Department makes about a third of its coyote catches with a spring-loaded, soft-jaw, padded steel off-set trap, and uses a walk-in box trap for the remainder. At the Commission's request, the General Manager demonstrated the Novak trap.

Ms. Lila Brooks, Director, California Wildlife Defenders, displayed a No.3 Oneida Victor model spring-loaded trap, one of the sort she wants banned. Since this was not the one the Department uses, the Commission did not consider this trap in its discussion. Ms. Brooks read a prepared statement stating her affiliation's opposition to any form of trapping, but favoring the use of the Novak foot-snare trap as less injurious to panicked trapped animals.

After review and discussion of the Department's report, Ms. Brook's statements, and the General Manager's trap demonstration, the Commission decided not to endorse the Novak trap.

Commissioner Hochman stated that he does not believe any trap is humane, and recommended a meeting to discuss such points as: What is the coyote problem?, What have other City's done? What about no traps? Commissioner Huntington concurred with Commissioner Hochman's recommendations and asked that the Commission and the

people in the audience take a longer look at how the coyote conflict is handled in the City of Los Angeles for future discussion.

Commissioner Hochman made the following Motion and Commissioner Huntington seconded the Motion: "That the Board take no action." (Unanimous approval.)

IDENTIFICATION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Commissioner Robins asked for the following future agenda item: "Consideration of a Public Hearing concerning the General Manager's directive dated February 8, 1990 to all District Animal Care and Control Centers which did not allow for the sale of "Pit Bull" type dogs to any person period."

Commissioner Hoisch asked for the following future agenda item: "The need for trapping and/or other methods to deal with coyotes."

STATUS REPORT ON NEWS ITEMS

Dyer Huston, Senior Public Relations Representative, gave a status report on news items.

The meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

May 7, 1990

ATTEST

PRESIDENT

Wayne P. Garcia

COMMISSION SECRETARY

4-2-90m

MINUTES

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

BOARD OF ANIMAL REGULATION

Monday, March 19, 1990

1:30 p.m.

The Board of Animal Regulation Commissioners convened in regular session on Monday, March 19, 1990, in Room 155, City Hall South, 111 East First Street, Los Angeles, California 90012.

Members Present: President Putney and Commissioners Hochman, Hoisch, Huntington, and Robins.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The Minutes of March 5, 1990 were unanimously approved.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Consideration of Barking Dog and Dangerous Animal Ordinances
Commissioner Hochman inquired about the Council approving amendments to the Barking Dog and Dangerous Animal Ordinances. The General Manager indicated that the effective date of the revised Ordinances is March 30, 1990.

Linda Gordon, Management Analyst, gave a status report regarding an appeal by Mr. Frank Retz. She indicated that on March 15, 1990 an appeal to the Superior Court by Mr. Retz was begun. Mr. Retz is appealing the decision of the General Manager (which was sustained by the Appeals Board) which declared that the five dogs owned by Mr. Retz be declared dangerous and that the dogs be humanely euthanized. The attorney for the dog owner was granted a stay order from the Superior Court prohibiting the Department from euthanizing the dogs and was granted 15 days to file an Alternative Writ of Mandate. At the time the Writ is filed, a date will be set for a hearing. The two major issues are: (1) is due process satisfied by the manner in which the respondents are summoned to appear; and (2) the right of a person's enjoyment of their property vs. a possible trespasser's safety. The Department welcomes the appeal in hopes that it will strengthen the procedures by putting them to the test and having them upheld.

Consideration of Department of Animal Regulation 1990-91 Proposed Budget

The General Manager indicated that to his knowledge, no City department has been advised about the outcome of the Mayor's budget meetings. He stated that he expects to hear from the Mayor around mid-April regarding the results of the budget hearing. The General Manager indicated that he is monitoring progress of the South Central and Harbor Animal Care and Control capital projects on a daily basis.

Consideration of Status Report on Animal Sacrifice

Michael Burns, District Supervisor, North Central Animal Care and Control, spoke before the Board regarding Draft report dated March 9, 1990 to Councilman Alatorre regarding Ritual and Occult Killing of Animals. The report made recommendations to establish a special unit to investigate ritual killing of animals. Mr. Burns stated that a six-month pilot project should provide the necessary data to determine if ritual animal killings are increasing and if existing law addresses the problems associated with them. Commissioner Hoisch commended Michael Burns for his report on ritual animal killings. Some of the items discussed by the Board and Michael Burns were: recommendations to improve inter-agency cooperation for the investigation and prosecution of crimes pertaining to the ritual and occult killing of animals; religions and belief systems (Santeria and Satanism); the Statewide problem; and establishing and setting goals to ensure that Department personnel are prepared to properly conduct and report on investigations, and to ensure that Department of Animal Regulation Charter and statutory responsibilities are filled. Mr. Burns distributed pictures of various mutilated animals and talked about Witchcraft vs. Satonism. He believes there is an increase in Satonic abuse. The Police Department will work with the Department on ritual animal sacrifice.

After further discussion by the Board, Commissioner Robins made the following Motion and Commissioner Huntington seconded the Motion: "That the Board accept the Draft Report dated March 9, 1990 to Councilman Alatorre regarding Ritual and Occult Killing of Animals and all of the recommendations in the report." (Unanimous approval.)

Pat Bercel, Volunteer Services to Animals, recommended that there be a public hearing in order to bring to the attention of the general public the size of this problem regarding ritual and occult killing of animals.

The Board recessed at 2:30 p.m.

The Board reconvened at 2:40 p.m.

IDENTIFICATION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

President Putney requested that discussion of the Brown Act be placed on the Agenda and that a representative of the City Attorney's Office who is a specialist in this field attend.

STATUS REPORT ON NEWS ITEMS

Dyer Huston, Senior Public Relations Representative, gave a status report on news items.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

April 16, 1990

ATTEST

PRESIDENT

COMMISSION SECRETARY

a:3-19-90m

MINUTES

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

BOARD OF ANIMAL REGULATION

Monday, March 5, 1990

1:00 p.m.

The Board of Animal Regulation Commissioners convened in regular session on Monday, March 5, 1990, in Room 155, City Hall South, 111 East First Street, Los Angeles, California 90012.

Members Present: President Putney and Commissioners Hoisch, Huntington, and Robins.

Members Absent: Commissioner Hochman

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The Minutes of February 20, 1990 were unanimously approved. (Commissioner Hochman was absent.)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Consideration of Barking Dog and Dangerous Animal Ordinances
President Putney indicated that he received a communication request subsequent to the time that an appeal hearing when a decision was rendered. He asked the Board how they would like to handle inquiries, requests, or demands from those persons involved with appeal cases after a decision has been made by the Appeals Board. It was the Board's determination to write a form letter indicating that by Ordinance the decision of the Appeal Board is final and any new evidence must necessitate filing a new complaint.

Commissioner Hoisch asked the Board when is it necessary that the Board listen to tapes of Administrative Hearings. After discussion, it was requested that the Department notify the Board as soon as possible in advance of an appeal hearing schedule. In addition to reading the complete file for each case, the Board can then determine whether or not to listen to tapes.

In regard to Barking Dog Case No. 89457EV, regarding Arnold and Barbara Titan's request for the Board to listen to tapes, Commissioner Robins made the following motion and Commissioner Huntington seconded the motion: "That the Board does not find it necessary to listen to tapes in the case of Arnold and Barbara Titan." (Unanimous approval, Commissioner Hochman was absent.)

The General Manager handed out a proposed insert to be distributed with Water and Power monthly bills to the public four times a year. Commissioner Huntington indicated he was concerned about the second sentence of the last paragraph of the insert which reads: "We strongly recommend that you do not obtain a dog of this type for any purpose." He requested modification and rephrasing of the above-quoted sentence in order to eliminate the potential of man hours spent on a lawsuit against the City and Animal Regulation. The General Manager indicated he will talk to the City Attorney's Office regarding necessity for modification of sentence in question.

There was also discussion regarding the Department's policy of not allowing for adoption of Pit Bull-type dogs at the Shelters. The Board questioned the final disposition of Pit Bull-type dogs at the Shelters. Commissioner Huntington asked how can we be sure that Shelter staff won't take it upon themselves to make the same decision on other dogs as they would for Pit Bull-type dogs. He indicated there appears to be a potential for defacto implementation of the Department's policy by any Shelter employee. There were questions of who makes the determination on destruction of animals. The General Manager indicated normally the Senior Animal Care Technician. Michael Burns, District Supervisor, North Central Animal Care and Control, indicated to the Board that when an animal is sick, the Veterinarian makes the decision. If there is a temperamental problem with an animal, then the Senior Animal Care Technician in conjunction with the Senior Animal Control Officer or himself makes that decision. If it is an owner turned-in animal, destruction of that animal is based on what kind of animals the shelter has at the time, and the adoptability of the animal.

Pat Bercel, VSA, spoke before the Board and indicated she was concerned about the Department's policy being discriminatory to the Pit Bull breed, and asked what breed would be next.

After further discussion, Commissioner Huntington requested that the Department do an analysis of the data concerning the sex, age, and whether or not an animal has been neutered to see if there is some kind of pattern set for potentially dangerous animals. If there is a pattern, then that would eliminate the outcry by the public once the pattern is known. If there are statistics that tell us something, then guidelines can be set. The General Manager indicated the Department would investigate and see what the County Health Department says.

Consideration of Department of Animal Regulation 1990-91 Proposed Budget

The General Manager indicated that the Department is still waiting to hear from the Mayor on what his recommendations will be for the Department. He mentioned that the City is moving ahead with moving various Departments to Spring Street. It looks like it will probably be sometime in the Summer and we will be there for approximately six years until the new City Hall Far East is built. He has a meeting with the City Administrative Officer and other Department heads on March 8 concerning the move to Spring Street. The General Manager indicated he would like to keep Room 155, City Hall South for Commission meetings. He mentioned as part of the budgetary process, Harbor and South Central Animal Care and Control facilities are in the budget for replacement under Capital Projects as of July 1990.

Status Report on News Items

Dyer Huston, Senior Public Relations Representative, gave a status report on news items.

The meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

April 16, 1990

ATTEST

PRESIDENT

Gisèlle Hauser

COMMISSION SECRETARY

a:3-5-90M

MINUTES

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

BOARD OF ANIMAL REGULATION

Tuesday, February 20, 1990

1:30 p.m.

The Board of Animal Regulation Commissioners convened in regular session on Tuesday, February 20, 1990, in Room 155, City Hall South, 111 East First Street, Los Angeles, California 90012.

Members Present: Commissioners Hoisch, Huntington, Hochman and Robins were present.

Members Absent: President Putney.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The Minutes of February 5, 1990 were unanimously approved by the Board. (President Putney was absent.)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Consideration of Barking Dog and Dangerous Animal Ordinances
The General Manager indicated the Council unanimously approved the revised Ordinance regarding the Barking Dog and Dangerous Animal Ordinances. He indicated in regards to Pit Bull-type dogs, he is waiting to converse with the City Attorney as to what the Department can or cannot do. He stated one of the City Attorney's indicated Senator Art Torres' Bill preempts the Department from establishing a program that attaches itself to a specific breed of dog. The City Attorney will look at the Department's proposal and consider other things the Department can do in terms of licensing requirements and gather information from other states. The General Manager stated there is a lot of work to do if the Department decides to do anything at all regarding Pit Bull-type dogs.

Consideration of Department of Animal Regulation 1990-91 Proposed Budget
The General Manager discussed memorandum dated February 13, 1990 to the City Administrative Officer regarding 10% Reduction List.

He indicated that the City Administrative Officer prepared a 10% reduction budget package for the Department. However the Department modified the CAO's 10% reduction package as indicated in memorandum to Keith Comrie dated February 13. Mr. Rush indicated 95% of the Department's budget is personnel or salary related. The General Manager and Commissioner Huntington will meet with the Mayor on February 26 regarding the Department's budget. Mr. Rush stated although a number of other departments have increased in size over the last few years, the Department of Animal Regulation has actually decreased the percentage of personnel. There is not fair application in terms of meeting City requirements and keeping up with the needs of the City as far as the Department is concerned. The General Manager will keep the Board apprised as to what the recommendations are from the Mayor.

Status Report - Sterilization Program for West Valley Animal Care and Control Center in Cooperation with SCVMA

Dr. Walter Ziegler, Chief Veterinarian, spoke before the Board and indicated that the SCVMA and Dr. Sullivan have 20 veterinarians signed up for performing low-cost spaying and neutering in the West San Fernando Valley. The project has been worked out between the Department of Animal Regulation and the San Fernando Chapter of the SCVMA. The kickoff day for the program is March 16, 1990, and it is anticipated that it will be quite successful. The General Manager indicated this program will be monitored. Commissioner Huntington asked for a comparative analysis of cost savings had the City done the spaying and neutering themselves.

Consideration of Report Regarding Owners' Relinquished Animals to the Department of Animal Regulation

The General Manager discussed memorandum dated February 19, 1990 to the Board regarding report on above subject. He discussed the following three options:

Option No. 1 - Require that owners surrendering their unwanted animals to the Department, do so without restrictions or conditions.

Option No. 2 - That a charge be made to owners relinquishing animals in the form of a fee; the exceptions being those dogs that are currently licensed and cats that possess a current Departmental I.D. Tab.

Option No. 3 - That the owners of unwanted animals be allowed to pay for the cost of holding the unwanted animals for "X" number of days.

The General Manager's conclusion was to opt for Option No. 1 for the following reasons: The problem of owners' pet destructions will always be with us. Given the facts that our shelters are open to the public, we have excess numbers of both stray and owned animals being relinquished to us each day, and we have excess pet populations external to our operations. We also believe that none of these proposals will significantly reduce animals impounded, but Option No. 1 will allow the Department to make the final determination for impounded animals.

Joyce Forrest spoke before the Board and indicated she was happy with Option No. 1. She inquired about guidelines to be used by the Department for placement and salability of animals.

After discussion by the Board, Commission Hoisch made the following Motion and Commissioner Huntington seconded the Motion: "That the Board support Option No. 1 - requiring that owners surrendering their unwanted animals to the Department do so without restrictions or conditions." (Unanimous approval, President Putney was absent.)

The meeting recessed at 2:20 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 2:30 p.m.

IDENTIFICATION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Commissioner Robins asked for future items to be considered on the Agenda. The General Manager indicted that on March 10, 1990, United Friends of the Children is hosting its Annual Celebrity Day for the abused and neglected children at MacLaren Childrens Center. The Board was invited to attend.

The meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

March 19, 1990

ATTEST

PRESIDENT

Giselle Hauge

SECRETARY

A:2-20-90M

MINUTES

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

BOARD OF ANIMAL REGULATION

Monday, February 5, 1990

1:00 p.m.

The Board of Animal Regulation Commissioners convened in regular session on Monday, February 5, 1990, in Room 155, City Hall South, 111 East First Street, Los Angeles, California 90012.

Members Present: President Putney and Commissioners Hoisch, Huntington and Robins.

Members Absent: Commissioner Hochman.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: None.

NEW BUSINESS

Consideration of Proposal of General Manager Concerning Recent Dog Attacks and Considerations of Action

Kenneth Williams, District Supervisor, West Los Angeles Animal Care and Control Center, spoke before the Board regarding Draft Letter No. 3 dated February 5, 1990 to James Hahn, City Attorney. This letter discussed a proposal to amend the Los Angeles Municipal Code to require that persons owning Pit Bull, Staffordshire Bull Terrier or American Staffordshire Terrier dogs obtain a permit from the Department of Animal Regulation. The proposal was necessitated by the numerous injuries and killings of human beings by these breeds, specifically within the past few years.

Mr. Williams indicated that the Department has in its permit regulations the rules necessary to implement a Pit Bull-Keeping Permit, and that it would not be too difficult to enforce. He distributed a proposed revised permit booklet to the Board.

After lengthy discussion, the Board indicated that they would like to see more specifics relating to Pit Bulls in the proposal and more research on the subject. Commissioner Huntington suggested possibly looking into limiting the number of Pit Bulls that can be kept, and President Putney asked about the possibility of banning Pit Bulls. The General Manager indicated that it would be very difficult to ban Pit Bulls because of State law. The Board wanted to know if any other cities had a permit system like the one Los Angeles is proposing and how many cities have banned the Pit Bull. Commissioner Robins asked if the Department couldn't do what it is proposing right now without the proposed permit system. It was requested that the Department come back to the Board at a later date with more research, and to expand and enhance the proposal.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Consideration of Barking Dog and Dangerous Animal Ordinance

Linda Gordon, Administrative Analyst, discussed the General Manager's ability to deny appeals which are filed contrary to provisions of Section 53.18.5(q)3 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code. After discussion by the Board, President Putney made the following motion and Commissioner Robins seconded the motion: "To withdraw the Board's previous motion that would require the General Manager to send to the Board all appeals he made a determination on to deny." (4 ayes, Commissioner Hochman was absent.)

It was requested that the Department advise the Commission on those matters concerning evidentiary considerations, directly or remotely related.

Consideration of Department of Animal Regulation 1989-90 Proposed Budget

The General Manager indicated that he and Commissioner Huntington will be attending a preliminary budget hearing with the City Administrative Officer. He indicted that so far the CAO has provided a 4.7% increase in the budget which is status quo.

Consideration of Cost Study for Sunday Operation of Animal Care and Control Centers

Michael Burns, District Supervisor, North Central Animal Care and Control Center, discussed and reviewed with the Board memoranda dated January 23, 1990 regarding seven-day operation of all Animal Care and Control Centers. The Board also reviewed three charts submitted to them regarding all of the Animal Care and Control Centers' remittances, redemptions and licenses issued from January 2, 1989 to January 19, 1990. The Board indicated that their primary concern and goal is for the public to adopt more animals. It was requested that if the Board has any individual questions regarding the above-mentioned report, that they contact Michael Burns directly for answers.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Lois Newman spoke before the Board regarding shelters being open on Sunday. She indicated that she wants shelters to be open on Sunday and that she will go directly to Council to push for it.

The meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

March 5, 1990
ATTEST

PRESIDENT

COMMISSION SECRETARY

A:2-5-90M

MINUTES

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

Tuesday, January 2, 1990

1:30 p.m.

The Board of Animal Regulation convened in regular session on Tuesday, January 2, 1990, in Room 155, City Hall South, 111 East First Street, Los Angeles, California 90012.

Members Present: Commissioners Hochman, Hoisch, Huntington and Robins.

Members Absent: President Putney.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Commissioner Hochman made a motion to approve the Minutes of December 18, 1989 and Commissioner Huntington seconded the motion. (Unanimous approval, President Putney was absent.)

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Lila Brooks, Director, California Wildlife Defenders, Hollywood, California, spoke before the Board and submitted a report dated January 2, 1990 regarding alternatives to steel-jaw traps. Ms. Brooks recommended two compromises if the ban of steel-jaw traps in Los Angeles is not possible. Those two compromises are as follows: The Trap Tab. Ms. Brooks indicated this trap works by using 10 mgs. of Valium in petroleum jelly wrapped in gauze which is attached to the trap jaw. When a coyote ingests the tab, it is tranquilized for several hours, thus the trauma and injury is greatly reduced. The second compromise Ms. Brooks discussed was use of the Novak leg-snare used in Canada. This trap has been field tested in several locations. It is inexpensive, easy to operate and efficient. Ms. Brooks urged the Commission and Department consider California Wildlife Defenders recommendations and that the use of the steel-jawed traps be discontinued. She requested that it go on record that she does not like any trap, but that the Novak foot-snare is a compromise only. She only recommends use of the Box Trap. Ms. Brooks indicated the County of Los Angeles has banned steel-jaw traps and recommended that the City of Los Angeles also ban steel-jaw traps. Mr. Rush advised the Commission that the Department only

uses box traps and offset padded steel traps. The Department does not use steel-jaw traps. It was requested that this item be placed on a future agenda.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Consideration of Barking Dog and Dangerous Animal Ordinances

The General Manager indicated revision to the Barking Dog and Dangerous Animal Ordinances is being calendared before the Public Safety Committee, and the Commission will be notified when the date is set.

Consideration of 1989-90 Budget and 1990-91 Proposed Budget

The General Manager indicted that the Mayor will hold his annual revenue hearings sometime in January. He requested that a representative from the Board attend with the General Manager. The General Manager indicated next year's budget is about a 13 percent increase over the current year's budget. He also indicated back in 1987 the Department submitted a report to the CAO recommending a fee schedule change. Recently the requested fee change was acted upon by the CAO. The Department does not agree with the CAO's report. It was requested this item be placed on the next Board agenda.

There was discussion regarding Sunday operation of the Animal Care and Control Centers. The General Manager indicated he has requested Michael Burns, District Supervisor, North Central Animal Care and Control Center, submit additional considerations regarding this subject. The Board discussed such options as a pilot program for one shelter for one year; use of overtime; and use of high traffic areas in Malls for placing animals up for adoption. The General Manager indicated he will prepare a report and submit it to the Board. It was requested this item be placed on the next Board Agenda.

Consideration of Telecommunications for the Department of Animal Regulation

The General Manager indicated that in September he met with the General Managers of Information Services and Telecommunications. Subsequently he sent letters to Telecommunications and requested a program be established to automate the Animal Management Information Services to video display. He also indicated Information Services has designated two people to work on the project. Once the program is written, it will be run in the afternoon and during prime time. It will be on public service channels under cable services in the City of Los Angeles.

Mr. Rush indicated a communication has been sent to Irene Server, Volunteer Services to Animals, to serve on the Committee. It was also mentioned that volunteers would be needed to help service the calls that come in. The Department will require a dedicated line for all the calls that come in as a result of the video display program. Eventually, a studio will be created in the Los Angeles Mall and then we can have in-house personnel give a regular program for adoption of animals.

The meeting recessed at 2:30 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 2:43 p.m.

STATUS REPORT ON NEWS ITEMS

Dyer Huston, Senior Public Relations Representative, gave a status report on news items.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

February 5, 1990
ATTEST

Mimi Robbins
PRESIDENT

Gisèlle Knaupf
COMMISSION SECRETARY
a:L-2-90M