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CITY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL REGULATION
ROOM 1650, 200 NORTH MAIN STREET
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012

CONTACT: Dyer Huston
TELEPHONE: (213) 485-5773

ADVISORY TO CITY HALL PRESS

NEW GUARD DOG ORDINANCE
EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 1986

The Department of Animal Regulation has encountered many problems during the past few years with dogs maintained on commercial and/or industrial properties throughout the City of Los Angeles. These are not the sentry-type dogs currently under control of the Department. They are those types of dogs maintained in auto wrecking yards, auto repair shops, clothing stores, storage facilities, equipment rental firms and other similar commercial/industrial activities.

Dogs are usually owned by the owner of the property or by an employee of the firm. In terms of cooperation, these firms have not attempted to improve the welfare of the animals to any great extent. Conditions of these animals do not meet today's society standards of humane treatment. As a result, the City of Los Angeles has enacted an Ordinance placing these dogs under the full jurisdiction of the Department of Animal Regulation.

L.A.M.C. Section 53.66, effective January 1, 1986, states that all privately owned dogs maintained on commercial/industrial property will be subject to certain requirements regarding: Posted Signs, Immunizations, Veterinary Examinations, License Tags, Tethering, and Shelter, Watering and Feeding minimums.

"This Ordinance finally gives clear-cut guidelines for the Department to more actively pursue humane investigations in this area," stated the General Manager, Robert I. Rush.

Attached is an extracted copy of the Ordinance for your information.

An ordinance adding Section 53.66 to the Los Angeles Municipal Code to regulate the use of guard dogs other than sentry dogs.

THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF
LOS ANGELES DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Article 3 of Chapter 5 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code is hereby amended by adding Section 53.66 to read as follows:

SEC. 53.66 GUARD DOGS

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

A. DEFINITIONS

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

(2) "Premises" means any industrial or commercial property, building, structure, business, firm, facility, or enterprise.

B. REQUIRED SIGNS AND INFORMATION

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

C. IMMUNIZATION

(1) No person shall keep, use or maintain any guard dog on any premises unless each dog has been vaccinated against rabies as required by Section 53.51 of this code and each dog has a current and valid certificate of rabies vaccination issued by a licensed veterinarian, nor shall any person keep, use or maintain any guard dog unless each dog has been immunized against distemper, hepatitis, leptospirosis and parvovirus and each dog has a current and valid certificate of such immunization issued by a licensed veterinarian.

(2) The current and valid certificate of rabies immunization and immunization against the common diseases required by Section C(1) must be issued by a licensed veterinarian and shall be kept on the premises and shown upon the request or demand of any authorized representative of the Department.

D. VETERINARY EXAMINATION

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

- (1) Any guard dog found not to be free of infections or disease process by the veterinarian shall be removed from the premises immediately.
- (2) A copy of the veterinarian's annual certification of health shall be kept on the premises and shown upon the request or demand of any authorized representative of the Department.
- (3) A copy of the veterinarian's annual certification of health shall be filed with the Department within 15 days of its issuance.
- (4) If an authorized representative of the Department has reasonable cause to believe

that a guard dog is injured, sick, diseased, unwell, or malnourished or constitutes a danger to the public health and safety, said representative may order the guard dog to be removed from the premises until a new certification of health is issued by a licensed veterinarian. The Department representative shall be notified prior to returning the dog to the premises.

E. TAGS

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

F. TETHER REQUIREMENTS

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

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

G. SHELTER REQUIREMENTS

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

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