CITY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL REGUALTION
111 EAST FIRST STREET

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Review Department of Animal Regulation Activity--1971-72
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The Los Angeles City Department of Animal regulation logged major successes in the fiscal year, 1971-72, in an effort to become self-supporting while improving services.

A 21.8 percent increase in revenue was reported for 1971-72 compared to the similar previous year. Gross receipts for the past fiscal year totaled $1,497,936.81 compared with the previous fiscal year period of $1,221,551.41. Expenditures for 1971-72 amounted to $1,898,890, an increase of 12.3 percent over the preceeding year.

According to Robert I. Rush, department general manager, the animal regulation agency seeks a financial posture at which level pet owners will pay the total cost of the department's operation. At this level, persons receiving services will pay for the services rendered.

Foremost involved in the department's operation are the East Valley Animal Shelter in North Hollywood and the West Valley Shelter in Chatsworth, In the past fiscal year, the department processed 132,254 animals. Of this number, 34,912 animals were handled at the East Valley Shelter, and 25,362 at the West Valley facility.

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Humane animal care and control programs, some new and others established, continued to dominate the department's activity. A new Humane Education Program in the elementary schools of the city's Unified School District was initiated. Animal Control Officers, indoctrinated in teaching techinques, will reach apporximately 80,000 school children in kindergarten through grade six with lessons on kindness to animals.

"The program objectives are basic," says Rush, "If we can instill a feeling of animal ownership responsibllity in the children who won pets and a humane attitude towards all living creatures in all youngsters, we'll have made substantial strides in humane education."

Of equal importance to Valley pet owners is expansion of Los Angeles' public low cost spay and neuter clinic program. Plans were completed in 1972 for construction of spay-neuter clinic at the East Valley Animal Shelter. The clinic, staffed with expert licensed veterinarians and housing the finest modern equipment, will be opened in March, this year. Simultaneously, a similar clinic will be opened at the Eleventh Avenue Animal Shelter in south central Los Angeles. A third public clinic has been in operation at the Ann Street Shelter since February, 1971. The established spaying fee in the public low cost clinic system is $17.50; the neutering fee, $11.50.

Law enforcement pertaining to Valley animal control was sharply enhanced in 1972. Valley animals, caught and picked up by request, totaled 13,721. A Special Enforcement Unit, comprised

of eight animal control officers, each mobile in an animal collection vehicle, provided a new patrol service in Valley areas with acute animal problems. Errant pet owners who failed to comply with the city's leash law and other control ordinances were cited for their lack of pet ownership responsibility. Citations were issued to 2324 violators of animal regulation codes, most of whom were guilty of leash law violations.

In the area of animal control related to community health, 11,855 dogs were vaccinated against rabies at public low cost Valley clinics during the 1972 calendar year. Anti-rabies clinics are conducted each year at selected recreation centers during the months of February, May, August and November. Valley clinic information may be obtained by calling 765-7553.

Animal control in Los Angeles doesn't relate solely to dogs and cats. A major program within the action framework of the Department of Animal Regulation is the unique Animal Airlift, conducted in the interest of wild life conservation. Each week, small wild animals, humanely trapped in the city, are loaded aboard a helicopter and flown to Angeles National Forest where they are relocated in a natural habitat, safe from the perils or urban civilization. The hub of the Animal Airlift is located at the West Valley Animal Shelter where District Supervisor George W. Mason coordinates the cargos and makes the weekly trips to the forest. The airlift pilot is Ray Schutte. Since the inception of conservation program in 1969, 1,580 wild creatures--raccoons, opossums, foxes, hawks, owls, non-poisonous snakes--have been transported to safety in the wilderness.

Not all of the wild animals captured in the Valley, however, are placed on the Arilift manifest. A moutain lion, captured in Granada Hills, was released in rugged Mono County; a female black bear, taken in Canoga Park, was transferred to an animal compound in South Dakota; a bengal tiger, impounded from a Tarzana household, was moved to a wild animal complex in Riverside County; a 10½ foot, 40 pound python found sunning itself in the backyard of a Panorama City home was impounded and redeemed by its owner; and a gibbon ape, found in a North Hollywood bedroom, was restored to its owner, who was fined for allowing an animal to run at large, and ordered to renew a lapsed wild animal permit. These were only some of the wild animals handled by department personnel at the Valley animal shelters.

The Department of Animal Regulation envisions a new service facility for the San Fernando Valley. A bond issue expected to be placed before the city electorate on the April 3 primary ballot will provide, in part, for the replacement of the East Valley Shelter, constructed in 1950, with a modern facility designed to relieve overcrowding and outmoded accomodations.