

**AGENDA**  
BOARD OF ANIMAL REGULATION COMMISSIONERS  
CITY OF LOS ANGELES

Monday, January 25, 1999

5:00 p.m.

Lakeview Terrace Recreation Center  
11075 Foothill Blvd.  
Lakeview Terrace, CA 91342

- I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – DECEMBER 21, 1998
- III. WELCOME BY COUNCILMAN WACHS
- IV. PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION
- V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
  - A. Review of Requested Revision to Municipal Code §53.10 (Prohibition on Animals Residing Permanently in Vehicles) –Dan Knapp
  - B. Budget Update Report – Dan Knapp
  - C. Senate Bill 1785 Update – Bob Pena
  - D. Department Telephone System Update – Jerry Greenwalt and Jack Nylund
- VI. NEW BUSINESS
  - A. Appeal Extension of fifteen days for Case No. 98216WV
  - B. District and Special Enforcement Unit Update - Lt. Tim Goffa
  - C. Commission Retreat - Commissioner Hunter and Dan Knapp
  - D. Proposed State Legislation – Dan Knapp
- VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS
- VIII. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT
- IX. COMMENTS BY BOARD MEMBERS ON ITEMS NOT ON AGENDA
- X. ADJOURNMENT

NOTE: PUBLIC MAY COMMENT FOR ONE MINUTE ON AGENDA ITEMS. A MAXIMUM OF 15 MINUTES WILL BE PROVIDED FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD ON ITEMS OF INTEREST TO THE PUBLIC THAT ARE WITHIN THE SUBJECT MATTER JURISDICTION OF THE BOARD, BUT NOT ON THE PRINTED AGENDA. SAID 10 MINUTES SHALL BE EQUALLY DIVIDED AMONG SPEAKERS, NOT TO EXCEED 3 MINUTES PER SPEAKER. THOSE PERSONS WHO DID NOT SPEAK AT THE PREVIOUS COMMISSION MEETING WILL BE GIVEN PRIORITY IN ADDRESSING THE COMMISSION. ALL PERSONS WISHING TO SPEAK MUST SUBMIT A SPEAKER'S REQUEST FORM TO THE EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE COMMISSION PRIOR TO THE START OF THE MEETING.

As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and, upon request, will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services, and activities. Sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices, or other auxiliary aids and/or services may be provided upon request. To ensure availability, you are advised to make you request at least 72-hours prior to the meeting you wish to attend. For additional information, please contact the Executive Assistant to the Commission at (213) 893-8417.

MINUTES  
CITY OF LOS ANGELES  
BOARD OF ANIMAL REGULATION

January 25, 1999

5:00 p.m.

The Board of Animal Regulation Commissioners convened in a community outreach meeting held at Lake View Terrace Recreation Center, 11075 Foothill Boulevard. Lake View Terrace, CA 91342

**Commission Members Present:** President Afriat and Commissioners Avila, Barrett, Hunter, and Jackson.

**Staff Members Present:** Linda Gordon, Jerry Greenwalt, Margo Kennedy, Dr. Dena Mangeamele, Lt. Tim Goffa, Robert Pena

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Minutes of November 16, 1998 were unanimously approved. (5 ayes: Commissioners Afriat, Avila, Barrett, Hunter and Jackson)

**WELCOME BY COUNCILMAN WACHS**

Commission President, Steve Afriat welcomed Councilman Wachs and expressed his appreciation towards the Councilman for his commitment towards the animals of Los Angeles.

Councilman Wachs expressed his appreciation to the Board for holding an outreach meeting for the constituents of his community. He took the opportunity to point out to the Commission, the unique quality of the community and the role horsekeeping plays. The equestrian lifestyle is an integral part of the lifestyle of the Northeast Valley. That lifestyle should be preserved and protected for generations to come.

The councilman informed the audience that the City's shelters are full to capacity with only a 9% redemption rate. This translates to about 70,000 animals being euthanized each year. This is shameful. There is a lot that can be done through education, spaying and neutering, and increased funding for the Department of Animal Regulation. He supports increased funding, staffing and a new shelter in the Northeast Valley. These are realizable and obtainable goals in next year's City budget. However, there are less expensive ways to help the problem including using modern technology to reunite lost pets with their owners. Toward that end, Councilman Wachs has made a formal proposal, which will be presented in a motion to the City Council tomorrow. He asked for the support of his constituents and the Department in placing photographs of all lost and stray animals on the Department's web page.

Without objection, President Afriat took item VI A. off the agenda. It was a request for extension of an appeal. This matter will be handled administratively.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

#### **Review of Requested Revision to Municipal Code § 53.10 (Prohibition on Animals Residing Permanently in Vehicles).**

Mr. Knapp addressed the Councilman Wachs, the Commission and the attending audience in following up on an item that had originally been raised by Mr. Bill Dyer at an August 1998 commission meeting. Mr. Dyer had initiated an incident in which some dogs were rescued from van in over 100° weather. He had asked the Department to review and modify or update Municipal Code 53.10 to prohibit animals from residing in vehicles permanently. Staff agreed with the need to require that animals not be allowed to reside in vehicles permanently, but after consultation with the City Attorney's office such a requirement of the law would be very difficult to enforce. At present, State law as well as the City's Municipal Code provides for the removal of an animal from a vehicle, and the citation of an individual, if that animal is put at harm while in the vehicle. Staff is recommending not to revise 53.10 at this time.

### BUDGET UPDATE REPORT

Dan Knapp apprised the commission and meeting attendees that the budget for FY 2000 has been submitted to the mayor's office. He has been very pleased with the progress that has been made with the Mayor's budget team. The budget is unique this year due to the passage of SB 1785. This legislation requires extensive changes to the Department and how it provides services. The Department's budget team has expressed to the Mayor's office our lack of resources and staffing. Currently the department's operational budget is eight million dollars (8,000,000). The department is asking for an additional 5.1 million dollars to hire adequate staffing and to position itself in order to comply with the mandates of SB 1785. With benefits, our requested budget is 14.5 million. The give and take of the budget process has reduced this amount to 13.8 million. The average per capita tax dollars spent in California on animal issues is \$5.56. The City of Los Angeles currently only spends \$2.28 per capita on animal issues. The department wishes to increase staffing in all areas but primarily animal control officer staffing.

Commissioner Barrett cautioned Councilman Wachs to be on the watch as this goes through the budget process for how SB 1785 revolutionizes how animal shelters have to be managed. It dramatically increases that standard of care that has to be provided to the animals in the shelter. SB 1785 only addresses care and standards in the shelter. The bill does not consider the personnel that must be out on the streets collecting lost and stray animals.

Dan Knapp explained that the requested budget had been lowered from 14.5 million to 13.8 million because of cuts to the number of Animal Behaviorist positions. Originally six were requested. This figure has been reduced to three. Also, some requested

computer replacement equipment had been cut back. Additionally, some accounting support was cut back as well.

For the record, Dan Knapp stated that his staff is overworked and under stress, but one of the most quality staffs that he has ever worked with.

### **SENATE BILL 1785 UPDATE**

Bob Pena apprised the commission and audience of the some of immediate changes that passage of SB 1785 will have on the Department. Among them:

1. Requirements for the shelters to have lists of animals that have been impounded
2. Referral lists for people to look for their lost pets
3. Lost and Found Boards for posters and fliers of lost pets
4. Animal Seizure due process

Provisions of the ordinance that will become effective July 1, 1999 will include:

1. Attempts will be made to adopt all adoptable animals.
2. Animals that are injured will be treated and placed for adoption
3. Animals that are injured and in great suffering will be humanely euthanized.
4. In all six shelters, Un-weaned kittens and puppies will be placed with trained individuals until they are old enough for adoption.
5. Stray dogs and cats will be held for six business days.
6. Department Protocols will be developed to determine whether or not a cat is feral or tame.

Dr. Dena Mangeamele updated the Commission on the Harbor Shelter Pilot Program. The Harbor shelter is being used as a test model. If the policies described by Bob Pena are successful, these measures will be implemented shelter wide. The pilot program has been in effect since the beginning of January.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS ON SENATE BILL 1785**

The following individuals addressed the commission with concerns/comments regarding Senate Bill 1785:

Phyllis Daugherty (Animals Issues Movement) – Opposes 1785 because the law puts all of the responsibility of pet over population on the shelter and not on the owner.

Tia Torres (Pit Bull Rescue) – Department of Animal Regulation has been very cooperative with her organization in rescuing pit bulls. The Department of Animal Regulation should not have to bear the brunt of irresponsible dog ownership.

Andrea Gutman - Can rescue groups help the shelters by holding some of the animals?

Marquita Waters.(Animal Rescue)- Thanked the Department for attempting to make changes.

Kathy Delson: Do the Department's have scanners to check lost animals for microchips?

President Steve Afriat responded that the Department is in the process implementing microchip scanning.

#### **DEPARTMENT TELEPHONE SYSTEM UPDATE**

The Department's citywide toll free telephone number is (888) 452-7381. The call management system is in the process of being fine tuned. The Department's telephone system has long been one of the department's main challenges.

#### **DISTRICT AND SPECIAL ENFORCEMENT UNIT UPDATE**

Lt. Tim Goffa gave the Commission and audience an update on developments in the East Valley District since he became District Manager on December 20, 1998. Two major humane investigations involving horses have occurred in the East Valley District. The Special Enforcement Unit is now based in the East Valley District.

#### **PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION**

Certificates of appreciation were presented to Bob Dunn (Animal Services), Robert and Tracy Michaels (Sylmar Equestrian Center), and Sungrow Commodities for their help in assisting with transporting and caring of horses seized in a humane investigation.

Also, Kidspointe Preschool for donating blankets and pennies to the City's Animal Shelters.

#### **COMMISSION RETREAT**

Dan Knapp said that the Commission should consider a retreat in which the Commission would focus on the Department's Mission Statement and developing this statement into a strategic plan.

#### **PROPOSED STATE LEGISLATION**

SB 103 speaks to mischievous animals. Currently the law states (penal code 399) that it is a felony for an owner of an animal that is known to have a propensity towards violence to not properly care for that animal, if said animal attacks and kills a human being. SB 103 would add injury to the misdemeanor or felony charges.

AB 72 is very similar except it addresses dog bites. Currently, if a dog has bitten a human being on two separate occasions it is considered a misdemeanor. This legislation would add a possibility of felony to the charges.

Staff is recommending that the Commission support these proposed changes to the penal code.

Commission Barrett made a motion to approve SB 103 and AB 72. The motion was seconded. The commission was polled (5 Ayes).

Commissioner Barrett requested that staff keep the Commission abreast of any significant changes to these bills.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The following individuals addressed the Commission during the public comments portion of the agenda:

Pat Kramer, Michelle Auzene, Jack Jarred, Joyce Pattenson, Patricia Davenport, Terry Kaiser, Miguel De La Mora, Kathy Delson, Gary Herwick, Tia Torres, Mary Phillips

### **GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

Dan Knapp thanked Councilman Wachs for his support of the Department. Mr. Knapp advised the audience as to how to report animal cruelty. If it is a violent crime committed against an animal, please notify the police. If it is a case of ongoing neglect, please contact the Department of Animal Regulation.

The microchip program has been deferred indefinitely. The department is using a scanning program in the meantime.

The web-page idea that Councilman Wachs introduced is very innovative. The Department is working on plans to have a lost and found web-page as well as an adoption web-page. Photographs of all animals housed the City's shelters will be downloaded onto the web-page.

The Municipal Code as it relates to animal issues is badly in need of updating.

In response to an audience member's comment regarding staff "burnout", Mr. Knapp said that "burnout" and stress is the number one disability. Euthanizing animals that could be adopted, seeing a public in crisis day after day, and expectations that staff will take all the blame for irresponsible pet owners; all take their toll on staff.

The Department will be working on a curriculum with local schools on empathy training.

Dr. Mangeamele updated the Commission on the Spay/Neuter Focus Group. The group is organizing a one day spay/neuter event at North Central. This event is a pilot test for expanding a spay neuter clinic. The Committee is also planning another two similar one day events. Mobil spay neuter vans are being looked into by the committee. The Department is on its way with regard to the mobil spay neuter clinic, as we have received over \$10,000 in donations for this cause.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

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ATTEST

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PRESIDENT

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COMMISSION SECRETARY