Draft

Department of Animal Regulation

Annual Report

1969-1970

Acceleration of service to meet growing demands of the populace together with innovations in planning, training and program execution keynoted the activities of the Department of Animal Regulation for the fiscal year, 1969-70.

During the period, the department-----

1. Reactivated a streamlined system of citation for violators of municipal codes governing the conduct and welfare of animals.

2. Improved training methods for Animal Control Officers and upgraded standards of personal qualifications to produce the well-balanced and public service-oriented individual needed for field work.

3. Dramatically increased the handling and processing of animals at City Animal Shelters.

4. Substantially increased department revenues through the sale of animals, licensing of pet shops, and the issuance of dog licenses, wild animal permits and permits for pet shows, animal acts and exhibitions.

5. Expanded the ~~xxxxxx~~ public low-cost anti-rabies clinics in the interest of public health and welfare.

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6. Launched an Animal Airlift in the interest of the local and national wildlife conservation program.

7. Investigated the rapid and serious increase in import-export animal traffic at Los Angeles International Airport and the Harbor, and formulated plans for necessary control.

8. Finalized plans for the dedication and opening of the new West Valley Animal Shelter.

9. Worked with the Office of Community Development in providing training and employment opportunities for the "hard core" uneducated and unemployed.

10. Accented Public Relations program.

The following division summaries of activity delineate department accomplishments and programs in areas of animal control during the fiscal period, 1969-70.

Personnel--Animal Control Officers

Animal Control Officers occupy the most sensitive positions in the department as they represent the department's physical and personal contact with the public. To assure maximum performance of these men in the field, training methods of Animal Control Officers were improved, and personal qualifications were upgraded to produce the well adjusted and public service-oriented individual needed for field work.

Applicants, seeking employment as Animal Control Officers, are closely screened concerning physical, mental and moral qualifications before accepted as candidates for these key positions.

Once selected as a recruit, the applicant undergoes six weeks of intensive training. The training curriculum

includes 62 subjects, ranging from the many aspects of animal handling to knowledge of civil ~~xx~~ liability and provisions of Municipal and State codes.

Coincidental with the restoration of police powers (see next division) sucessful candidates are qualified in the use of small arms on local Police ranges.

Public attention, through press releases, was directed toward the modern image of the Animal Control Officer, a man well trained, responsible, and dedicated to his chosen field of public service.

At the close of the fiscal year, the department had 34 Animal Control Officers and 2 substitutes.

(Insert Table I--Page 7, 1968-69 Report)

Police Powers

The power to issue citations to violators of municipal statutes in the realm of animal conduct and welfare was restored to Animal Control Officers and Animal License Inspectors April 7, 1970. Mayor Sam Yorty signed a City enabling ordinance implementing two provisions of State Law which had become effective Nov. 10, 1969.

The Police Officer status, as related to the department, was not new. The power to issue citations and carry firearms had been conferred on specified department personnel in _____, but had been revoked in 1968 by an amendment to the State Penal Code.

With the restored power, law enforcement, particularly, in reference to dog leash law vs violators, was expedited.

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No longer was it necessary to impound a stray dog, and then wait to issue a citation to the errant owner when he claimed the dog. Now, court citations could be issued on the spot of legal infraction. The owner, no longer, was separated from his pet, and was accorded an early opportunity to plead his case in court.

During the first four periods of 1968-69, 2,047 citations were issued, an increase of 10.5 percent over the corresponding period of 1967-68. However, the citation program was curtailed in November of 1968 due to the State legislation. During periods 11-13 of the 1969-70 fiscal year, 1,666 citations were issued by Animal Control Officers.

Animals Processed In Shelter Operations

Accompanying the steady increase in human population in the City was a pronounced rise in animal population and a corresponding increase in animal traffic at the Shelters.

A recent survey shows 1 dog for every 13 people in the City. There is 1 dog to every 4.6 occupied dwellings units.

There are approximately 350,000 dogs in the City, and an equal number of cats.

There has been a 40% increase in the dog population in the City during the past ten years.

In the total number of animals handled at the five City Animal Shelters in 1969-70, an increase of nearly 100% was noted in comparison with 1968-69.

(Insert revised Table II--Page 8-1968-69 Report)

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West Valley Animal Shelter

As indicated in Table II (above) the East Valley Animal Shelter in North Hollywood was overburdened due to the great population, both human and animal, in that area.

During the fiscal year, work virtually was completed on the West Valley Animal Shelter in Chatsworth. The new Shelter, capable of processing 36,000 animals per year, was to be dedicated in August, 1970. It was to bring welcome relief to the East Valley Shelter.

Expand Public Low-Cost Anti-Rabies Clinics

The public low-cost anti-rabies clinics continued in popular demand. A total of 18,170 dogs received anti-rabies vaccinations at 27 clinics during the month of August (1969) and February (1970).. Cost per dog is two dollars.

Because of popular demand, plans have been implemented to schedule the clinics four times, yearly, in February, April, August and November.

During the August-February clinics in '69 and '70, 7,090 dog licenses were issued. (See dog license division)

California State Law requires that all dogs, four months and older, be vaccinated against rabies every two years.

Dog Licenses

Total dog licenses and applications issued in 1969-70 was 251,443. This represented a marked increase over the previous fiscal year when issued licenses and applications numbered 227,664. It's interesting to note that of the 1969-70 total, 7,090 dog licenses were issued at rabies clinics.

All dogs, four months and older, must be licensed. Cost of the license is four dollars.

Efforts, launched in 1968-69, to reduce and limit the number of house calls by increased usage of a mail-in license application program, was continued and encouraged in 1969-70. Department addressed envelopes were made available to the public in pet shops, kennels and veterinary hospitals. Enclosure of an anti-rabies certificate (returnable) together with a check or money order is required.

(Insert revised Table III--Page 10--1969-70 Report)

Animal Airlift

In the interest of wildlife conservation, an Animal Airlift was conceived and implemented September 11, 1969.

Small wild animals, non-poisonous reptiles and predatory birds, humanely trapped in the City, are loaded each week on a helicopter, provided by the City's Bureau of Transportation, and flown to Angeles National Forest (35 miles northeast of the City) and relocated in natural habitat.

In weekly flights during the first ten months of Animal Airlift operation (Sept. 11, 1969 to June 30, 1970) 455 specimens of wildlife were relocated.

The program, first of its kind in the world, has drawn national and international attention in the press. The program was reviewed nationally on television.

Import-Export Animal Traffic

The City appears to be rapidly approaching a

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saturation point in import-export animal traffic. During the calendar year of 1969, a total of 16,472,970 animals, including exotic fish, birds and reptiles, were processed (imported) at Los Angeles International Airport.

The Department of Animal Regulation is pressing for the establishment of a Federal Quarantine Facility and Animal Care Center somewhere in the City, preferably at the Airport or Harbor. Such a facility is deemed necessary for the humane treatment of animals in transit, and the health of the community.

Special Impact Program

In cooperation with the Office of Community Development, Division of Manpower Programs, the Department of Animal Regulation pursued a six months Animal Keeper Training Program (initiated in 1969) for so-called "hard core" uneducated or unemployed men from the areas of South and East Los Angeles. Success of this program is evidenced by several participants who have subsequently qualified for Kennelman positions in this department, or have been motivated to further their education.

Public Relations

In the field of public relations, a strong effort was made to acquaint the public with the positive aspects of the Department's services. Accent was placed on the plus services, underscoring placement of animals, protection and conservation of wildlife, and the need for the leash law and anti-rabies clinics for the welfare of the pet and the health of the community.

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All press media was used extensively in promoting a closer relationship between the public and the Department.

In a public service program, in cooperation with industry, 40 billboards were posted in the City, and 500 interior displays were placed in RTD busses, urging public visits to City Animal Shelters and adoption of pets.

Receipts And Expenditures

A 28.8% increase in revenue was reported for the 1969-70 fiscal year, compared to the similar previous period. Net receipts for 1969-70 totaled $1,124,755.31 compared with a previous fiscal year period of $873,409.91.

Expenditures for 1969-70 amounted to $1,459,415.09, an increase of 9.5% over the preceeding period.

Based on the ~~finances~~ financial statistics, it appears reasonable to assume that the Department is steadily reaching a level where it will be self-sustaining.

(Insert Comparative Summary of Receipts and Expenditures--Page 13--1968-69 Report)

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