

**Information for Animal Welfare Committee Meeting
May 9, 2017**

Item 3: Assembly Bill AB 485, the Pet Rescue and Adoption Act, is currently pending before the California Assembly. Our Assembly Member, Matt Dababneh, is the principal co-author. The organization Social Compassion in Legislation is the sponsor. The bill will require that all dogs, cats and rabbits offered for retail sale (i.e. in pet stores) in California be obtained from public or private animal shelters and non-profit rescue groups. The purpose of the bill is to cut down the number of animals obtained from breeders and puppy mills, and thereby increase adoptions of shelter and rescue dogs, cats, and rabbits. As stated by Assembly Member Dababneh, "This bill is an important step in ending the inhumane and deplorable breeding practices of puppy mills, and fostering increased adoption opportunities for pets at local shelters." The bill is similar to the City of Los Angeles ordinance originally passed in 2012 and permanently extended in 2016, that makes this requirement applicable in Los Angeles; the bill will impose this requirement statewide. See:

<http://campaign.r20.constantcontact.com/render?m=1101925750350&ca=da494ee0-3686-4d71-ad92-6f478a722645>

Item 4: Los Angeles City Animal Shelters receive a large temporary influx of dogs (and to a lesser extent cats) over the 4th of July period. This influx starts in June, when people start setting off fireworks. Citizens who find run-away dogs, as well as City Animal Control Officers who catch them, bring them into the Shelters to care for them. Most of these animals are redeemed by their owners within several weeks. But while they are at the Shelter, they occupy a kennel, which can cause overcrowding at the Shelters. In the past, if the Shelter became overcrowded, dogs would be killed to make room for these new dogs coming in. Last summer, the West Valley Animal Shelter, in conjunction with the Tarzana Neighborhood Council, its Animal Welfare Committee (AWC), the Shelter Volunteers, and Councilmember Bloomenfield's Office implemented programs to find alternatives to the killing of animals because of overcrowding. Those programs were very successful.

On January 31, 2017, AWC Chair Jeff Mausner submitted a summary of those programs to the Los Angeles Animal Services No-Kill Subcommittee, on which he serves. The document is entitled "Proposals for Implementing No-Kill," and is posted on the TNC website.

Item 6: We received the VANC (Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils) “Best of” Award for “Engaging the City to Save the Lives of Hundreds of Animals,” as well as awards from the California Legislature and U.S. House of Representatives. Let’s take a group photo with the awards. See <http://northvalleyreporter.com/engaging-the-city-to-save-the-lives-of-hundreds-of-animals-tarzana-neighborhood-council/>

Item 7:

- a. On April 12, the decision of the South Valley Area Planning Commission (SVAPC), granting the variances necessary for Rockin’ Rescue to continue to operate, became final.
- b. Oscar the Wonderdog was adopted by a family from the rescue in Washington; he has found his forever home and family.
- c. On February 2, the City of Los Angeles issued an RFP (Request for Proposals) for a Rescue Organization to run the abandoned South Shelter (now called the Jefferson Park Animal Shelter). Update on status of responses to the RFP.
- d. Bella and Toffy, dogs who were transferred from the West Valley Shelter to the South L.A. Shelter.
- e. High attrition rate of new Volunteers at the West Valley Animal Shelter. Action was taken on this at the previous meeting. The Chairman will report on what actions have been taken and the results.

Proposals for Implementing No-Kill.

There are two aspects I see of No Kill:

1. Short term. Measures need to be taken so that there are no killings for space during high influx periods, around the 4th of July, to a lesser extent around New Years, etc. Temporary measures can be taken to deal with this:

1) Temporary foster program at all shelters; 2) Use all available kennels -- there are kennels that aren't used for various reasons. At West Valley, there were unused kennels that do not have running water bowls, were used for storage, have to be cleaned, etc. These kennels can be readied by employees and volunteers, and can be used for a month or two to handle the temporary influx. 3) Double up large dogs in kennels. This has to be done with care; dogs should be tested before this is done, so there are no fights. Dogs should be taken out to the play yard together and given some time before they are put into a kennel together. 4) Better communications among shelters for transfers of dogs and cats between shelters to ease overcrowding. Each shelter should send out an email to all the other shelters, every other day, stating how many vacant kennels they have or if they are overcrowded. 5) There should be a New Hope coordinator at each shelter, to get more Red List and Blue List dogs and cats rescued. 6) Dogs and cats with behavior issues have to be evaluated and worked with before they can be killed. Set specific standards for when a dog or cat can be killed for behavior. 7) Set specific, higher standards for euthanasia for sick and injured dogs. The New Hope coordinator should work to get these dogs rescued or to get a rescue to pay for medical that the shelter cannot provide. 8) Implement incentives for employees to reach No Kill at each shelter. This could be a monetary bonus or awards.

2. Long term. There have to be less dogs and cats coming into the shelters, and more people to adopt them. Spay/neuter has to be strictly enforced, advertised, and promoted. Puppy mills and unlicensed breeders have to be shut down. Adoption from shelters has to be advertised and promoted and there has to be better customer service at the shelters.

Best regards, Jeffrey Mausner
Tarzana Neighborhood Council

Submitted at Los Angeles Animal Services No-Kill Subcommittee Meeting,
January 31, 2017