The following is the Budget Advocates Report for the Los Angeles Animal Services Department, for fiscal year 2026-27, with the Addendum which starts on page 10.

ANIMAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Meeting of October 21, 2025

ATTENDEES

Los Angeles Animal Services Department (LAAS): Annette Ramirez, Interim General Manager; Curtis Watts, Assistant General Manager for Administration; Sharon Lee, Senior Management Analyst.

Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates: Jeffrey Mausner (Budget Representative and Shelter Volunteer); Michelle Cornelius (Shelter Volunteer); Lynne Chao (Shelter and Animal Advocate).

RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Fully fund the Animal Sterilization Fund and related spay/neuter programs; add an additional $4 million over amount requested by LAAS [Substantial long-term cost savings for the City]**
- **Increase funding for the Citywide Cat Program an additional $1 million over amount requested by LAAS [Substantial long-term cost savings for the City]**
- **Approve the full 2026–27 LAAS operational budget request of $31,869,100 with no cuts (less than one fourth of one percent of the City budget).**
- **Restore staffing, including Animal Care Technicians (ACTs), Animal Control Officers (ACOs), veterinarians, Registered Veterinary Technicians (RVTs), and supervisors, to adequately and humanely care for stray, homeless, and surrendered animals; to enforce the spay/neuter laws; and to provide safety in our neighborhoods.**
- **Continue full funding for Dogs Playing for Life (DPFL), to provide enrichment and exercise for the dogs as well as compile essential information (behavior notes) to facilitate adoptability of dogs.**
- **Support the volunteer program with a dedicated Coordinator and Volunteer Liaisons, and safe staffing levels. Recruit additional volunteers to care for, socialize, and exercise the dogs, cats, rabbits, small animals, and large animal livestock (including horses) [Substantial long-term cost savings for the City]**
- **Fund critical shelter facility repairs, replacement, and cleaning including continuous-flow kennel water bowls, HVAC, drainage, kennel repairs, and isolation medical space.**
- **Increase funding for food for the animals (see Addendum for Food and Medical Supplies, below).**
- **Augment funding for medicine and medical supplies (see Addendum for Food and Medical Supplies, below.).**

- **Allocate funds to support LAAS' expanded role in coordinated field response with LAPD for dogs and cats in the Skid Row district, ensuring humane treatment, protection from abuse, and safe placement resources.**
- **Cause the State Fish and Wildlife Department to develop innovative programs to effectively and humanely deal with the significant increase of coyotes in residential neighborhoods.**
- **Start the Reserve Animal Control Officer (RACO) program. [Substantial long-term cost savings for the City]**

DISCUSSION

The Los Angeles Animal Services Department ("LAAS" or "the Department") operates one of the largest municipal shelter systems in the United States, with six municipal shelters and additional leased facilities serving 60,000 animals annually and responding to approximately 20,000 emergency calls involving animals and public safety each year. LAAS promotes and protects the health, safety, and welfare of both animals and people.

Underfunding

Chronic underfunding remains the core cause of the current crisis in Los Angeles' shelter system. This Report evaluates LAAS' Requested Budget for the 2026-2027 fiscal year. The Budget Request for the Department of Animal Services for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 (LAAS Requested Budget) was posted on December 1, 2025 at: https://drive.google.com/file/d/15AwucSr_yeTDLbZ_JozHUVzQW_pXt5yM/view. The Mayor, City Administrative Officer (CAO), and City Council ultimately determine what the budget of the Animal Services Department will be.

For fiscal year 2023–24, the adopted operating budget of LAAS was $31,699,537, approximately one-quarter of one percent of the City's overall budget. That severely under-resourced allocation had to cover the care of animals in all six municipal shelters, field operations, medical care, food, licensing, and enforcement.

For 2025–26, the current fiscal year, the Adopted Department Budget for LAAS is approximately $28.5 million in departmental funding (see LAAS Requested Budget, Fiscal Year 2026-2027, page 42). LAAS had requested more than that - the Department's requested departmental budget for 2025–26 had been $34,884,699, meaning LAAS was underfunded by more than $6 million. This persistent pattern of budget reductions has directly contributed to worsened overcrowding in the shelters, unnecessary deaths and suffering of animals, deteriorating shelter conditions, staffing shortages, reduced enforcement capacity, and public safety risks.

For 2026–27, LAAS is requesting $3,371,685 in new departmental funding, resulting in a requested operating budget of $31,869,100. This is close to the 2023-24 budget but does not take into account significant inflation and increase in animal intake at the shelters. **Dog occupancy in all six LAAS shelters has hovered as high as 150% of capacity (737 kennels holding up to 1,103 dogs), with shelters consistently operating between 120% and 150%**

over capacity on a daily basis. The 2025-26 budget did not include $790,125 for funding for Dogs Playing for Life (which is being privately funded for six months); a reduction of $307,535 for animal food (which should be restored and is essential); and $307,535 for medical supplies (which should also be restored). So, it is clear that this very modest increase in requested operating budget from last year's adopted budget is both justified and necessary given the repeated reductions in previous fiscal years.[1] Given sustained dog occupancy levels consistently ranging from approximately 120% to as high as 150% of capacity across all six LAAS shelters, the Department is operating well beyond its baseline service assumptions. When intake volume and length of stay shift to this degree and persist at extreme overcapacity, funding levels should be increased to reflect materially changed operational demands rather than historical baseline conditions. ***And this overcrowding should definitely never be an excuse for the City to kill more healthy adoptable dogs to make kennel space!***

Sustained extreme overcapacity amplifies disease transmission risk and places heightened demands on cleaning and sanitation procedures and systems. Under these conditions, **reliable, manufacturer-compliant daily cleaning and weekly deep remediation of plumbed continuous-flow kennel water bowls— specifically including Nelson Model 1200 Dog Waterers and including full internal cleaning when new dogs enter kennels—is critical** to interrupt new and reinfection cycles, reduce length of stay, and preserve lifesaving capacity. **Adequate funding is therefore necessary** to support the level of sanitation required under materially changed operating conditions.

Because URI transmission has persisted at the South LA shelter, **an initial manufacturer-compliant baseline cleaning of all continuous-flow kennel water bowls is necessary** to remediate accumulated contamination and establish a sanitation baseline from which consistent daily maintenance can be effectively performed. *(See Addendum: Manufacturer-Compliant Sanitation of Continuous-Flow Kennel Water Bowls,* below, for technical detail.)

[1] This requested increase is not nearly enough to properly operate the Animal Services Department, but reflects the Department's evaluation of what is realistically achievable under current budget constraints. For example, consider the request for additional Animal Control Officers (ACOs). The Department reports that 19 ACO positions have been eliminated over the last two years. The National Animal Control Association's (NACA) recommended ratio of officers to population is one ACO for every 16,000–18,000 residents. With a City population of roughly 3.879 million, Los Angeles currently has approximately one officer for every 108,000 residents. LAAS would need 216–242 ACOs to meet the NACA standard. To achieve even the minimum NACA threshold, the Department would need to hire at least 179 additional officers, yet the 2026–27 Request asks for only 6. This very modest and reasonable request should unquestionably be granted. Understaffing is the main cause of extremely long response times: the average ACO response time is 46 hours, which is unacceptable, and the reported 4-hour response time even for urgent or life-threatening calls is intolerable.

The 2026-27 Non-Departmental request for spay/neuter is $7,916,196 - $6,516,196 for spay/neuter in the Animal Sterilization Fund and $1,400,000 for spay/neuter in the Citywide Cat Program. This is less than was requested last year; last year's request for spay/neuter funding was for $12.2 million - $9.9 million for the Animal Sterilization Fund and $2.4 million for the Citywide Cat Program. The Budget Advocates believe the 2026-27 request for spay/neuter is not sufficient. There has to be more funding and more effective enforcement of spay/neuter laws, because without sufficient sterilization, dogs, cats, and rabbits reproduce exponentially, driving up shelter intake, overcrowding, euthanasia, and avoidable municipal expense. Failure to adequately fund spay and neuter programs is the very definition of being "penny wise and 'pound' foolish." This short-sighted approach will cost the City far more - in both taxpayer dollars and animal suffering. It already has. See: *Failure To Provide Adequate Funding For Spay/Neuter Is "Penny Wise And 'Pound' Foolish"* October 14, 2024, https://www.citywatchla.com/animal-watch/29704-failure-to-provide-adequate-funding-for-spay-neuter-is-penny-wise-and-pound-foolish

Crucial City Funding: Spay and Neuter Saves Money and Lives, December 2, 2019, https://www.citywatchla.com/369-budget-advocates/18933-crucial-city-funding-spay-and-neuter-saves-money-and-lives

In summary, the total requested budget for Animal Services for 2026-27, both operational budget and non-departmental budget (spay/neuter) is $39,785,296 (2026–27 LAAS Requested Budget, p. 43). The operational budget request is low but possibly the best that can be expected given the City's current financial situation; the budget for spay neuter is insufficient. At the very least, nothing should be cut from the Requested Budget by the Mayor or CAO (City Administrative Officer). The Budget Advocates completely agree with and support the following statement in the Requested Budget: **"We recognize that the current budget instruction calls for budget requests to be cost-neutral through the use of offsets, but as a small Department with limited resources seeking to address a number of shortcomings, we do not have the capacity to suggest offsets at this time."** (emphasis added). ***The Mayor and CAO should keep in mind that offsets will result in the continued euthanasia of healthy, adoptable dogs and cats[2] simply to make kennel space due to the already monumental overcapacity in the shelters in 2025.*** As LAAS itself stated in its May 1, 2025 press release regarding dog overcapacity, "Without immediate help, healthy, adoptable pets are at risk of euthanasia simply due to lack of space." That killing is taking place now.

[2] In last year's Budget Advocates report, in discussing the Cal Osha fine levied against the City because of dangerous shelter conditions, we stated that if the Department was not adequately funded, "the Department may have to kill for space, an outcome which is directly contrary to the City's No-Kill policy. That is the choice facing the City - adequately fund the animal shelters … or kill healthy adoptable animals!" Unfortunately, budget decisions in the current and previous fiscal years have resulted in the killing of healthy, adoptable animals. It is essential that this outcome not be repeated in the 2026–27 budget.

Public Support

Public attention to the shelter crisis remains high. *CityWatchLA*, the *Los Angeles Times*, *Daily News*, other media, advocacy organizations, and volunteers have repeatedly documented overcrowding; rampant URI (Upper Respiratory Infection) leading to pneumonia; resistant strains of URI; dogs confined for days, weeks, and even months due to illness without adequate exercise or enrichment; the resulting development of fear, anxiety, and stress (FAS) associated with prolonged kennel confinement; euthanasia of healthy, adoptable animals due to lack of kennel space; and failure to meet basic humane standards. City Councilmembers, Neighborhood Councils, and the public have called for increased shelter funding and reform. See, e.g., Los Angeles Times: *Mayor Bass Said She'd Save L.A.'S Shelter Animals. More Dogs And Cats Are Dying,* 11-22-2024: https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2024-11-22/la-animal-shelters-more-dogs-and-cats-are-dying

> "The number of dogs euthanized in animal shelters run by the city of L.A. has skyrocketed this year. From January to September [2024], 1,224 dogs were euthanized at the city's six shelters - a 72% increase compared with the same period a year ago, according to a Times analysis. … About 1,517 cats were euthanized through September [2024] - a 17% increase from a year ago. … The city's euthanasia list, available on its website, shows that Jake and some other dogs are being sentenced to death not because they are seriously ill or arrive with severe behavioral issues but because the chronically understaffed and underfunded shelters cannot meet their basic needs."

According to LAAS's animal welfare consultant Kristen Hassen, Los Angeles City's Animal Services Department is among the lowest-funded large shelter systems in the country. *Id.* See also L.A. Times Editorial: *Let's stop killing animals in shelters and get more of them adopted out,* 12-18-2024: https://www.latimes.com/opinion/story/2024-12-18/los-angeles-animal-shelters-overcrowding-euthanasia: "Los Angeles Animal Services … is one of the largest shelter systems in the country and shamefully underfunded, according to advocates and rescuers and some elected city officials."

Community Impact Statements from Neighborhood Councils across the City, speakers at the Animal Services Commission, and other sources have supported stronger funding for LAAS, spay/neuter, and enrichment programs, and have urged the City to prioritize animal welfare and public safety in the budget. See last year's 2025-26 Budget Advocate Report for the Animal Services Department for citations to some of these sources, https://www.tarzananc.org/assets/documents/1/committee679d5f2fdfd26.pdf; https://drive.google.com/file/d/12RTEVWyORm9wOBWmvDhPPuu_Z-OFv3ZN/view;

see also CityWatchLA, https://www.citywatchla.com/search?q=mausner, for articles regarding Mayor Bass' failures in this regard.

Overcrowding and "Euthanasia" (Killing of Healthy Adoptable Dogs and Cats)

LAAS reports that rising intakes, longer stays, and lack of capacity continue to drive overcrowding at many shelters to 120–150% of safe capacity. Some dogs are double-kenneled in kennels designed for a single animal; some dogs are confined for weeks with limited exercise, enrichment, or behavioral support. **It is therefore essential to support Dogs Playing for Life (DPFL) and other enrichment programs**, since limited exercise and socialization contribute directly to behavioral decline and the development of fear, anxiety, and stress (FAS) in confined dogs.

The Department acknowledges that this has led to increased euthanasia, including killing of healthy, adoptable dogs, due to lack of space. Overcrowding also increases illness, kennel fights, and the risk of serious bite incidents. LAAS reported nine severe bite incidents in 2025, which increase City liability and harm staff, volunteers, and the public. Without additional funding, this pattern will continue or worsen. (See pp. 5–7 of Requested Budget.)

Staffing and Volunteers

Over recent years, LAAS has experienced an approximately 18% reduction in staff positions (Requested Budget p. 4). This reduction has severely impacted shelter operations, field response times, cleaning and maintenance needed to ensure animal health, and enforcement of spay/neuter and licensing laws.

To compensate, LAAS relies heavily on volunteers. The Department reports that volunteers provided over 137,000 hours of service in the 2024 fiscal year (Requested Budget p. 5), equivalent to roughly 66 full-time positions. Volunteers walk dogs, clean kennels, feed dogs, cats, and rabbits, assist with adoptions, transport animals, and provide enrichment. While their contribution is invaluable and necessary, volunteers cannot and should not substitute for trained City staff, particularly given the high-risk nature of the work and the increasing behavioral challenges caused by disease-related sequestration of dogs for days, weeks, and sometimes months, as well as chronic overcrowding and prolonged kennel confinement. **The Budget Advocates strongly support the Department's requested staffing increases and recommend that all requested positions be funded in full**, including additional Animal Control Officers (ACOs), Animal Care Technicians (ACTs), veterinary staff, clerks, and supervisory positions for shelter oversight. Without staffing restoration, the Department cannot meet even basic operational and humane needs.

Equally important is funding for Dogs Playing for Life (DPFL). DPFL provides enrichment for dogs, taking them out of their kennels for play groups. This is essential for the well-being of dogs and their ability to be adopted. Dogs who do not receive this type of activity and are continuously confined to a kennel for days, weeks, and even months on end **develop fear, anxiety, stress (FAS) and are fast tracked to the Euthanasia List**. In addition to providing essential enrichment, DPFL also provides necessary behavior information for matching potential adopters and rescues with the right dog, such as whether a dog gets along with other dogs or should be the only dog in a household. DPFL also educates the public about

dog behavior, performs risk assessments on certain dogs, assists the medical staff with dogs who are difficult to handle, and participates in the training of new Animal Care Technicians (ACTs). For a part of this year, DPFL was not funded by the City but funding was provided by ASCPA. That should not have to happen this year – full funding for DPFL should be provided by the City.

Spay/Neuter of Dogs, Cats, and Rabbits; Community Cat Program

Spay/neuter remains the key to reducing intake, overcrowding, and euthanasia. As noted above, **funding for the Animal Sterilization Fund and Citywide Cat Program must be increased.** Underfunding spay/neuter has always proven to be "penny-wise and 'pound' foolish," as it increases the number of dogs and cats entering the shelters, perpetuates higher medical, food, euthanasia, staffing, infrastructure, and other long-term costs, and continues the cycle of overcrowding and preventable deaths. It is essential to address the source of the problem, not merely try to react to its consequences. See *Failure To Provide Adequate Funding For Spay/Neuter Is "Penny Wise And 'Pound' Foolish"*. To reduce the rapidly growing stray population and achieve No-Kill in the shelters (i.e., no killing of healthy adoptable dogs for lack of space)[3] **before the World Cup and Olympics, the City must begin by adequately funding spay/neuter now. As the world's eyes are on Los Angeles during these events, failing to meet humane animal welfare standards will create a significant public-relations crisis which will be extremely difficult to repair.**

Field Operations and Public Safety

Field Operations have been hampered by staffing shortages and increased demand. With fewer Animal Control Officers, LAAS struggles to respond promptly to calls involving dangerous dogs, injured animals, cruelty and neglect, and stray dogs in neighborhoods. Enforcement of the mandatory spay/neuter ordinances and illegal breeding laws is almost non-existent. The Department's 2026–27 Budget Request includes additional positions for field services and oversight. Funding these positions is critical for both animal welfare and public safety. See Footnote 1, above.

Facilities and Capital Needs

The Department's Requested Budget details significant facility needs, including failing HVAC systems, cracked and uneven concrete, damaged kennels and fencing, poor drainage, and insufficient isolation and medical space. Also of particular concern are the continuous-flow water fountains in the dog kennels, which are not being cleaned according to manufacturer specifications - water collects beneath the metal plates and remains stagnant, creating algae growth. Algae and stagnant water can harbor bacteria and viral particles, creating a continuous source of pathogen exposure for dogs each time they drink, which is especially dangerous during URI outbreaks. These conditions contribute directly to the spread of

[3] "No-Kill" means assuring that no healthy, adoptable animals are killed because of lack of kennel space. Under No-Kill regimens, dogs that are dangerous and animals that are medically irredeemably suffering can still be humanely euthanized.

disease, including URI outbreaks that progress to pneumonia, leading to preventable euthanasia of dogs, staff and volunteer safety concerns, and an overall decline in humane standards. The Budget Advocates support the Department's facility repair and cleaning priorities. **See Addendum regarding suggested cleaning procedures for water bowls, to prevent URI (Upper Respiratory Infection) and other diseases, below.**

Coyotes in Our Neighborhoods

Past Budget Advocate Reports have detailed problems with coyotes in our neighborhoods. For years, the Budget Advocates have urged LAAS to work with the State Fish and Wildlife Department to develop programs that effectively and humanely address the increased presence of coyotes. See, e.g., https://www.tarzananc.org/assets/documents/1/committee679d5f2fdfd26.pdf, pages 9-10. There are daily reports of coyote sightings in densely populated areas in the San Fernando Valley; recently, there was a report of a pack of 7 coyotes. This poses significant risks to pets and public safety and warrants immediate coordinated response and mitigation efforts.

CONCLUSION

The Los Angeles Animal Services Department has been chronically underfunded for years. The consequences of that underfunding are now fully manifest in severe overcrowding, increased euthanasia of healthy adoptable animals, unsafe working conditions for staff and volunteers, and diminished public safety. The proposed 2026–27 operating budget request of $31,869,100 is not sufficient but is realistically the best that can be expected. There should be no cuts from that! Any reduction to this request would further jeopardize humane care and public safety. The spay/neuter budget of $6,516,196 for the Animal Sterilization Fund and $1,400,000 for the Citywide Cat Program is insufficient and should be increased by at least $4.5 million, to match the amount requested by LAAS last year. Please see above. This is an infinitesimal percentage of the City budget, to care for all of the animals in the City.

Staffing must be restored and expanded to address the 18% position loss, protect public safety, and provide humane care, given that the shelters have been 120% to 150% over capacity for dogs. Facility and capital needs identified in the 2026–27 Request should be funded to correct dangerous and deteriorating conditions.

Failure to fully fund the Department's operational request and failure to increase spay/neuter funding will prolong overcrowding and perpetuate the current crisis, increase euthanasia of healthy adoptable animals, intensify public safety risks, and lead to greater costs and liability for the City in future years. Fully funding the operational request and increasing spay/neuter funding represents not only a moral imperative for the humane treatment of animals, but also a fiscally responsible choice that will save money in the long run.

Addendum: An Addendum follows which provides additional background, data, and documentation in support of these recommendations. See also the Addendum to last year's report, https://www.tarzananc.org/assets/documents/1/committee679d5f2fdfd26.pdf.

ADDENDUM: FOOD AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES

Increase the Food Budget

Los Angeles Animal Services' food budget has been underfunded since FY 2020-21, forcing the Department to use nearly $871,000 in donations from the Animal Welfare Trust Fund simply to feed the animals in their care. The City only allocated $200,000 in the current fiscal year (2025-26), which did not even provide five months of funding – the Department has already had to use nearly $85,000 in donations to purchase animal food. This is unacceptable. The City must allocate enough funding to feed the animals living in City shelters.

The reduction in the food budget has forced a switch of brands which many animals do not like. At the West Valley Shelter in particular, volunteers have had to find alternative kibble for dogs who refuse to eat Avoderm (the current generic brand) and create a special feeding list for these dogs, which complicates the feeding process for an already understaffed shelter. The volunteers and staff at the shelter agree that most dogs like Canidae (and Felidae for cats) and for the benefit of their health and wellbeing, the Department should receive enough funding to return to that brand.

Table: Animal Food Budget Totals for FY 2014-15 through FY 2026-27

Fiscal Year	Food and Grain, Adopted Budget	General Fund Transfer	Transfer from Animal Welfare Trust Fund (Donations)	Total Expenditure
2014-15	$518,210	N/A	N/A	N/A
2015-16	$518,210	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016-17	$518,210	N/A	N/A	N/A
2017-18	$400,000	N/A	N/A	N/A
2018-19	$520,000	N/A	N/A	N/A
2019-20	$520,000	N/A	N/A	$520,000
2020-21	$400,000	$(300.000)	$89,635.61	$189,635.61
2021-22	$400,000	$135,000	$76,572.33	$611,572.33
2022-23	$304,000	$400,000	$167,969.90	$871,969.90
2023-24	$400,000	$744,891	$92,437.05	$1,237,328.05
2024-25	$300,000	$0	$359,394.90	$659,394.90
2025-26*	$200,000	$0	$84,887.22	$284,887.22
2026-27**	$400,000			

*Totals for FY 2025-26 are through November 16, 2025

**Requested Budget amount

General Fund transfers in were from salary savings (see LAAS Requested Budget for FY 2026-27).

Totals come from the White Books posted on the CAO's website and LAAS Requested Budget for FY 2026-27.

Increase the Medical Supplies Budget

According to the White Books posted on the CAO's website, the budget for medical supplies has not increased in over 10 years; in fact, in the FY 2024-25 budget the total amount was *reduced* by $100,000 and has not been restored (see table below for the budgeted amounts and number of animals treated in-house since FY 2014-2015). These reductions have forced the Department to use just over $744,000 in donations from the Animal Welfare Trust Fund since FY 2019-20 to meet the medical supply needs of animals in its care. This is unacceptable.

The Department's request for $488,591 is simply a return to the amount allocated in FY 2014-15, which is a *decrease* given that the cumulative inflation rate since 2014 is 37%. If this budget line item were to keep up with the rate of inflation, the amount requested would be just over $670,000.[4] The City should therefore, at the very least, fully fund this request.

Table: Medical Supplies Budget and Number of Animals Treated In-House FY 2014-15 through 2026-27

Fiscal Year	Medical Supplies, Adopted Budget	General Fund Transfer	Transfer from Animal Welfare Trust Fund (Donations)	Number of Animals Treated In-House
2014-15	$488,591	N/A	N/A	Data not available
2015-16	$488,591	N/A	N/A	46,696
2016-17	$488,591	N/A	N/A	46,555
2017-18	$488,591	N/A	N/A	47,307
2018-19	$488,591	N/A	N/A	48,868
2019-20	$488,591	N/A	$215,900.32	41,752
2020-21	$488,591	$(315,000)	$67,498.05	27,968
2021-22	$488,591	$72,548	$83,433.60	35,155
2022-23	$388,591	$0	$136,134.08	44,469
2023-24	$488,591	$185,380	$37,425.34	41,399
2024-25	$388,591	$70,128.05	$203,788.90	50,000 (estimated)
2025-26	$388,591	$0	$0	35,000 (projected)
2026-27*	$488,591			

*Requested Budget amount. General Fund transfers in were from salary savings (see LAAS Requested Budget for FY 2026-27). Totals come from the White Books posted on the CAO's website and LAAS Requested Budget for FY 2026-27.

[4] Percentage and total from The U.S. Inflation Calculator: Inflation Calculator | Find US Dollar's Value From 1913-2025

In the Mayor's letter to departments in 2024, she encouraged departments to identify cost savings through new technologies and other innovative practices. The City Council may want to request a report back on how one-dose injectable medications like Convenia and Ivermectin and one-time ear infection treatments like Opti-pak could reduce the amount of time the Registered Vet Technicians currently spend dispensing medication once or twice a day to each sick animal. These one-time medications could also ensure the animal receives the medicine; currently the pills are left in food balls which the animal may or may not eat.

See also the Addendum to last year's Budget Advocates Report, which contains information about other issues and aspects of the Animal Services Department, which can be accessed here: https://www.tarzananc.org/assets/documents/1/committee679d5f2fdfd26.pdf.

Addendum: Manufacturer-Compliant Sanitation of Continuous-Flow Kennel Water Bowls to Control Disease Transmission

LA Animal Services (LAAS) — Facilities Sanitation & Disease Control Assessment
Priority Site: South LA / Chesterfield Square Shelter

For clarity, this addendum uses the term **"continuous-flow kennel water bowls"** to refer to plumbed kennel water bowls in which water flows continuously through internal piping and behind a fixed metal drinking plate, including **concealed internal channels and non-visible water-contact surfaces** not fully accessible during routine surface cleaning (including plastic float valve components that water passes through). These units are commonly referred to as "water bowls" in shelter operations but differ from manually filled bowls due to their continuous-flow, plumbed design.

See Figures A–C for photographic and diagrammatic evidence illustrating **sanitation requirements and operational limitations** associated with LAAS' current continuous-flow kennel water bowl design (**Nelson Model 1200 Dog Waterer**).

Legal and Operational Context

California Penal Code § 597e requires that any entity impounding domestic animals provide a **sufficient quantity of good and wholesome food and water** during confinement. This statutory duty establishes a baseline obligation for water delivery systems that reliably support **sanitary conditions and disease control** in shelter environments.

During prolonged disease outbreaks, infrastructure that does not support **consistent, manufacturer-compliant daily sanitation** undermines this obligation and contributes to **preventable illness, extended confinement, and reduced lifesaving capacity**.

Context: Active URI Outbreak & Facility Impact

From August 14 through December 11, 2025 (119 days), repeated on-site observations at the South LA / Chesterfield Square shelter documented sustained URI presence based on over 325 kennel-card URI notations observed on specific dates. These observations include repeated notations for dogs previously marked with URI as well as additional dogs newly marked with URI during the observation period.

Because observations were not conducted daily or weekly, these figures represent **minimum confirmed counts** and likely substantially understate the **true scope, duration,**

and recurrence of illness within the shelter population. This count does not include additional severe URI cases, pneumonia, parvovirus, or life-threatening conditions identified through medical records, Medical Orange Alert Lists, or Medically Euthanasia-Listed reports, and therefore **significantly understates the total disease burden**.

On September 25, 2025, South LA underwent a facility-level shutdown for deep cleaning in response to escalating URI cases, including dogs whose conditions progressed to pneumonia. **Despite this intervention, elevated rates of URI—particularly among newly entering dogs—have continued.** URI cases have also been observed at other LA Animal Services shelters, compounding **systemwide overcrowding**.

As kennel space becomes increasingly occupied by dogs requiring medical isolation or prolonged treatment, **placement pressure increases**. LA Animal Services has publicly acknowledged that healthy, adoptable animals are being euthanized due to lack of space. When dogs remain sick, foster placement is often not feasible and adoption timelines slow; when dogs are healthy, they can move more quickly into lifesaving placements, **relieving kennel space constraints**. Rescue organizations face similar limitations, as illness reduces placement options and **shifts medical and logistical costs outward**.

Effective control of an active URI outbreak requires that continuous-flow kennel water bowls (Nelson Model 1200 Dog Waterers) be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected daily in accordance with manufacturer instructions. This includes removal of the drinking bowl from the wall bracket and **full immersion and disinfection of all water-contact components**, including the bowl interior, float, float arm, and associated valve surfaces through which water passes before entering the bowl. During a disease outbreak, **consistent, manufacturer-compliant daily sanitation** of these components is essential to interrupt transmission and **protect newly entering dogs**. The Budget Advocates recognize that additional funding will be required for this, to either hire additional staff or contract with an outside company to conduct this cleaning on a regular basis. Because URI transmission has persisted at the South LA shelter, an initial manufacturer-compliant baseline cleaning of all continuous-flow kennel water bowls is necessary to remediate accumulated contamination and establish a sanitation baseline from which consistent daily maintenance can be effectively performed.

URI Is Not a Single Disease

URI in shelters represents **multiple respiratory diseases**, not a single infection, including canine infectious respiratory disease complex (kennel cough), Bordetella, parainfluenza, adenovirus, influenza, and related pathogens. Repeated exposure during prolonged outbreaks increases the risk of **recurring or sequential infections**, prolonging recovery and **shifting ongoing medical costs to the public and rescue partners**. The City has a

responsibility to **protect animal health while in its care** and to place **healthy, adoptable dogs** into the community.

Scope and Applicability

Continuous-flow kennel water bowls of the same design type have been observed and documented through on-site visits and photographic records at multiple LA Animal Services shelters. Where manufacturer identification was confirmed, the units observed are **Nelson Model 1200 Dog Waterers**.

South LA / Chesterfield Square is referenced as a priority site because it is the **largest City shelter** and the location where **repeated algae, biofilm, and mineral deposit accumulation** has been documented over multiple months beginning in August 2025, **coinciding with a sustained URI outbreak affecting a large number of dogs**. This documentation supports the need for **manufacturer-compliant remediation and sanitation as the immediate disease-control priority**. Where similar water bowl designs are installed at other shelters, the same sanitation considerations would apply.

Photo Documentation — Visual Evidence of Sanitation Limitations

Figures A–C present photographic examples and an annotated diagram illustrating **sanitation difficulties inherent in the current continuous-flow kennel water bowl design**. Images were taken on different dates at LAAS South LA / Chesterfield Square shelter and **are not intended to represent a linear progression**, but rather **recurring conditions observed during the outbreak period**.

- **Figure A:** Annotated diagram illustrating **concealed water pathways and pooling** behind the fixed metal plate (Float Cover) that require disassembly to access. These non-visible areas can allow contamination to persist during active disease outbreaks, underscoring the need for thorough cleaning and sanitation of both visible and concealed components. In this image, the metal drinking plate has been partially lifted to document algae present beneath the plate in concealed water-contact areas.
- **Figure B:** Example of **significant algae, biofilm, and mineral deposit** accumulation observed during the outbreak period on visible water-contact and exterior surfaces.

- **Figure C:** Example showing **partial surface cleaning** with residual algae, biofilm and mineral deposit persisting on visible water-contact areas, including the exterior and interior of the drinking bowl and the fixed metal plate Float Cover.
- **Figure D: Manufacturer Identification — Nelson Model 1200 Dog Waterer** Photograph documenting manufacturer labeling that identifies the continuous-flow kennel water bowl as a Nelson Model 1200 Dog Waterer, confirming the model associated with the sanitation conditions documented in Figures A–C.

The images show algae accumulation and scrape marks consistent with attempted surface cleaning. Water flows behind and beneath the fixed L-shaped drinking plate (Float Cover), contacting **internal surfaces not visible during routine cleaning**. These areas require **disassembly to clean to manufacturer specifications**, demonstrating why surface-level cleaning alone is insufficient.

During prolonged disease outbreaks, **failure to achieve manufacturer-compliant cleaning of all internal and external water-contact components** allows persistent environmental exposure, contributing to continued transmission and re-infection **despite surface-level cleaning efforts**.

Key Findings

Sanitation requirement (manufacturer-based)

Nelson Model 1200 Dog Waterers require **removal of the drinking bowl and immersion of the bowl, float, float arm, and valve components** to achieve manufacturer-compliant cleaning. **Surface-level cleaning alone does not address all water-contact components.**

Public-health risk

During active URI outbreaks, **concealed stagnant water allows algae and biofilm to persist**, harboring pathogens that are repeatedly reintroduced through drinking water, **undermining disease control**.

Recommendation & Expected Impact

Purpose of Addendum (Revised)

The purpose of this addendum is **not to request replacement** of existing kennel water bowls, but to address the **urgent need for manufacturer-compliant cleaning, disinfection, and remediation** of continuous-flow kennel water bowls currently in use, including **Nelson Model 1200 Dog Waterers** where identified.

Despite months of sanitation concerns, a facility-level deep cleaning shutdown on September 25, and continued surface-level cleaning, **URI transmission has persisted for more than 4.5 months at South LA Shelter**, indicating that existing cleaning practices **have not been sufficient to interrupt disease spread**.

Requested Budget Action (Final)

Funding is required to retain a **qualified third-party sanitation contractor** with demonstrated experience in **manufacturer-compliant cleaning of plumbed kennel water systems** to:

- **Perform a one-time baseline "reset" cleaning** of continuous-flow kennel water bowls in accordance with manufacturer specifications, including:
  – Removal of drinking bowls from wall brackets
  – Thorough cleaning and disinfection of all components, including latch bar, float cover, exterior and underside of the drinking bowl, and mounting interfaces
  – **Full immersion and disinfection of all internal water-contact components**, including float, float arm, valve assemblies, and internal surfaces through which water passes
  – Inspection and replacement of any components (including plastic valve or float components) that cannot be adequately sanitized due to prolonged algae or biofilm accumulation
- **Restore water bowls to a manufacturer-clean baseline condition** prior to resumption of routine maintenance
- **Establish a documented sanitation baseline** that enables LA Animal Services to maintain **manufacturer-compliant daily and bi-weekly cleaning schedules**
- **Reinforce that once a compliant baseline is achieved, ongoing sanitation remains an operational responsibility of LA Animal Services** to prevent reinfection and protect newly entering dogs

---

Attachment A — Manufacturer Cleaning & Maintenance Requirements

Nelson Model 1200 Dog Waterer. Attachment A contains excerpts from the manufacturer's installation, cleaning, and maintenance instructions for the **Nelson Model 1200 Dog Waterer**, which is representative of the continuous-flow kennel water bowl design currently installed at LA Animal Services shelters where manufacturer identification has been confirmed.

Manufacturer documentation specifies that **manufacturer-compliant cleaning and sanitation** require:

- Removal of the drinking bowl from the wall bracket
- Disassembly of the metal drinking plate (Float Cover) and associated components
- Access to concealed internal channels, fittings, and plumbing surfaces through which water passes prior to entering the bowl
- Manual cleaning and disinfection of non-visible water-contact areas, including the float, float arm, valve components, and interior bowl surfaces
- Thorough rinsing and proper reassembly to restore correct operation

These requirements demonstrate that compliant sanitation involves **multi-step disassembly and full access to internal components**, beyond routine surface cleaning. During prolonged disease outbreaks affecting large shelter populations, achieving and maintaining this level of sanitation across hundreds of kennel installations requires **specialized labor, time, and oversight**, supporting the need for dedicated funding to establish a compliant sanitation baseline.

(Manufacturer documentation attached.)

Attachment B — Product Component Diagram & Close-Up Images

Nelson Model 1200 Dog Waterer

This appendix provides component-level diagrams and close-up product images illustrating the internal structure of the Nelson Model 1200 Dog Waterer.

Images and diagrams show:

- The **Float Cover** (metal drinking plate), including both top and underside surfaces
- The **Float Arm and valve assembly** housed beneath the fixed metal plate
- Concealed interior bowl and plumbing surfaces not visible during routine surface cleaning

These images illustrate that multiple water-contact components—including concealed internal surfaces—must be accessed and cleaned to achieve manufacturer-compliant sanitation. The presence of these components explains why **thorough cleaning requires removal and disassembly**, and why establishing a properly sanitized baseline is necessary before routine daily and bi-weekly maintenance can be effective.

Figure A. Continuous-flow kennel water bowls — LAAS South LA / Chesterfield Square
Algae and biofilm are visible on piping and concealed water-contact surfaces behind the vertical metal drinking plate, where water flows and pools in areas not accessible during routine surface cleaning. These non-visible areas can allow contamination to persist during active disease outbreaks, underscoring the need for thorough cleaning and sanitation of both visible and concealed components. In this image, the metal drinking plate has been partially lifted to document algae present beneath the plate in concealed water-contact areas.
Nelson Model 1200 Dog Waterer.

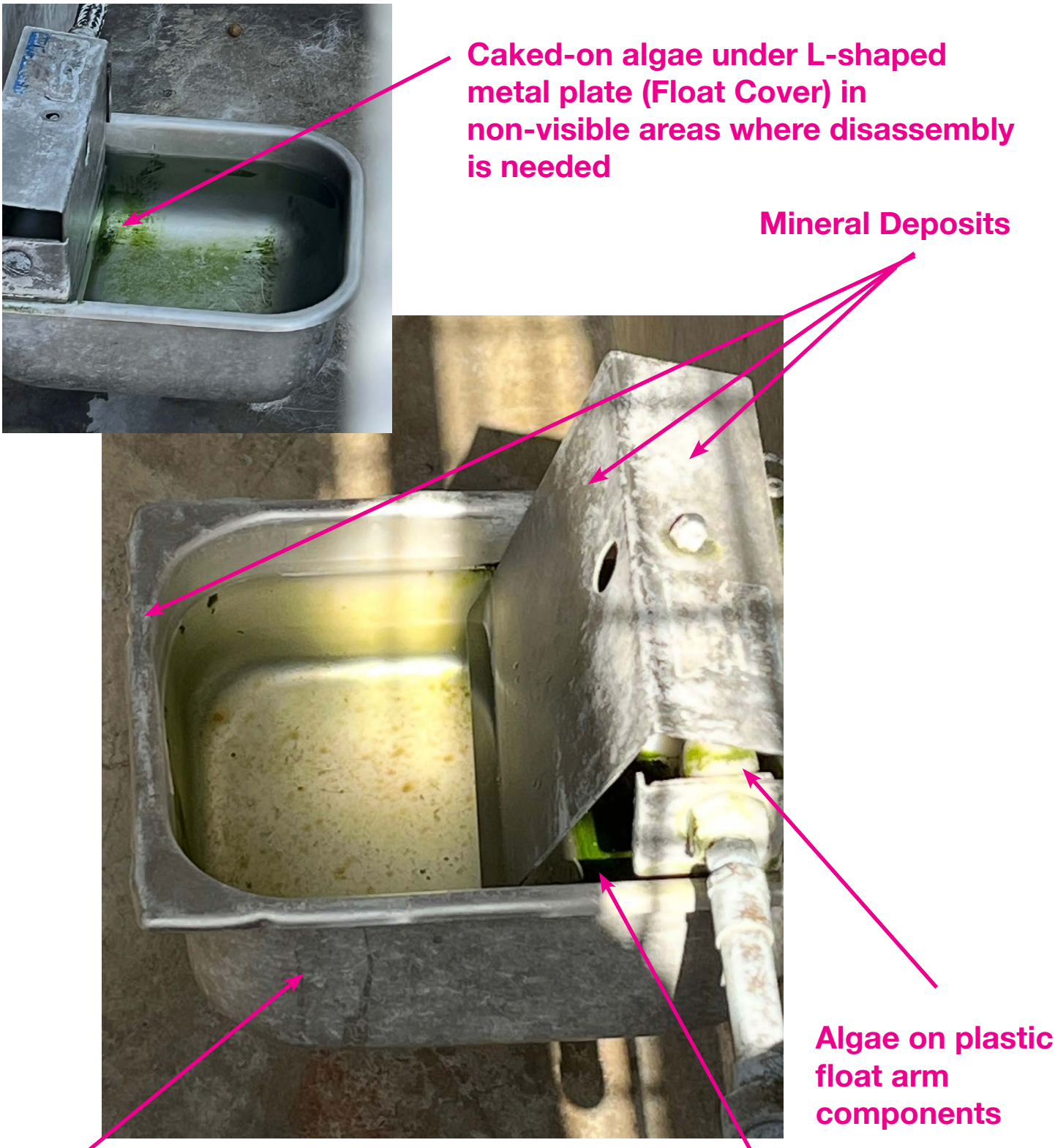
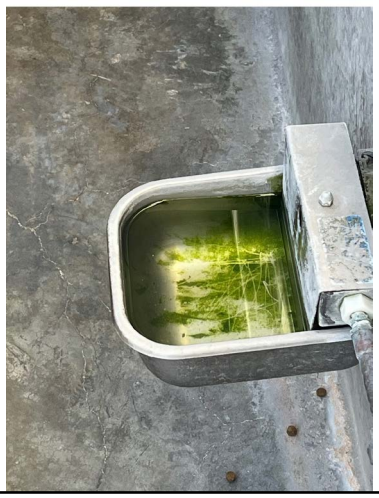
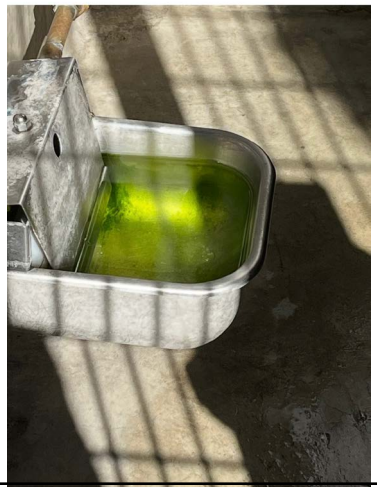
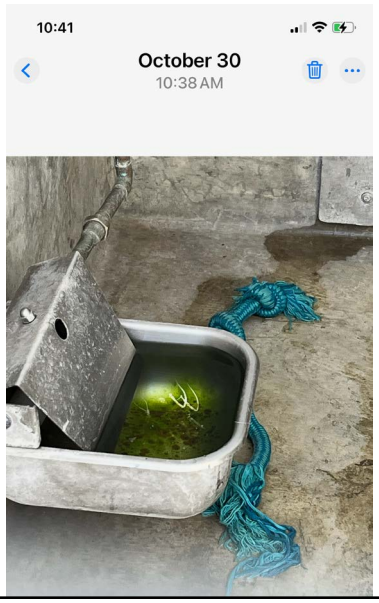


Figure B. Continuous-flow kennel water bowls — LAAS South LA / Chesterfield Square
Example of significant algae, biofilm, and mineral deposit accumulation observed during the outbreak period on visible water-contact and exterior surfaces. ***Nelson Model 1200 Dog Waterer.***







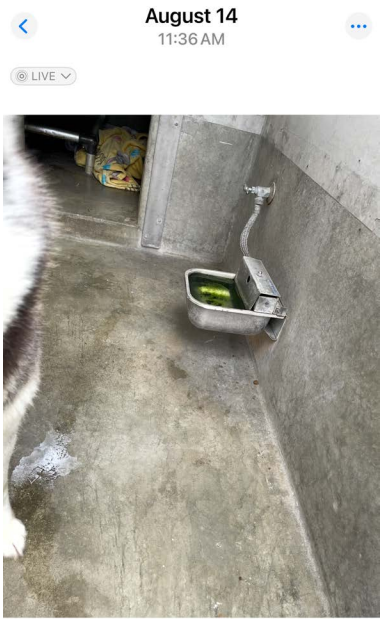
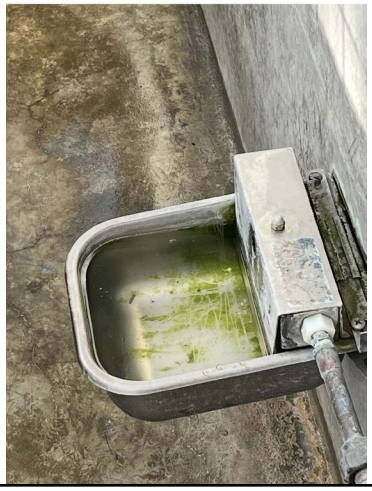
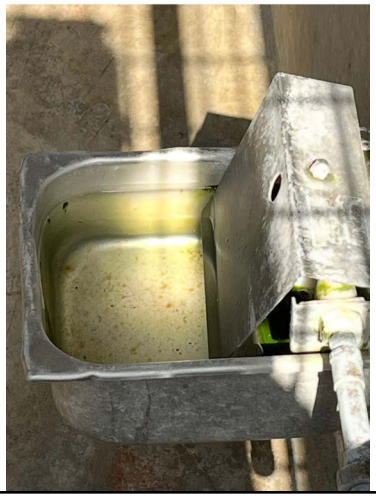


Figure C. Continuous-flow kennel water bowls — LAAS South LA / Chesterfield Square
Example showing partial surface cleaning, with residual algae, biofilm, and mineral deposits persisting on visible water-contact areas, including the exterior and interior of the drinking bowl and the fixed metal plate Float Cover. ***Nelson Model 1200 Dog Waterer.***

October 23
11:46 AM



October 23
11:50 AM



October 30
8:59 AM

October 23
12:13 PM

October 23
12:46 PM

October 30
9:40 AM

October 23
12:49 PM

October 23
11:19 AM

October 30
9:22 AM

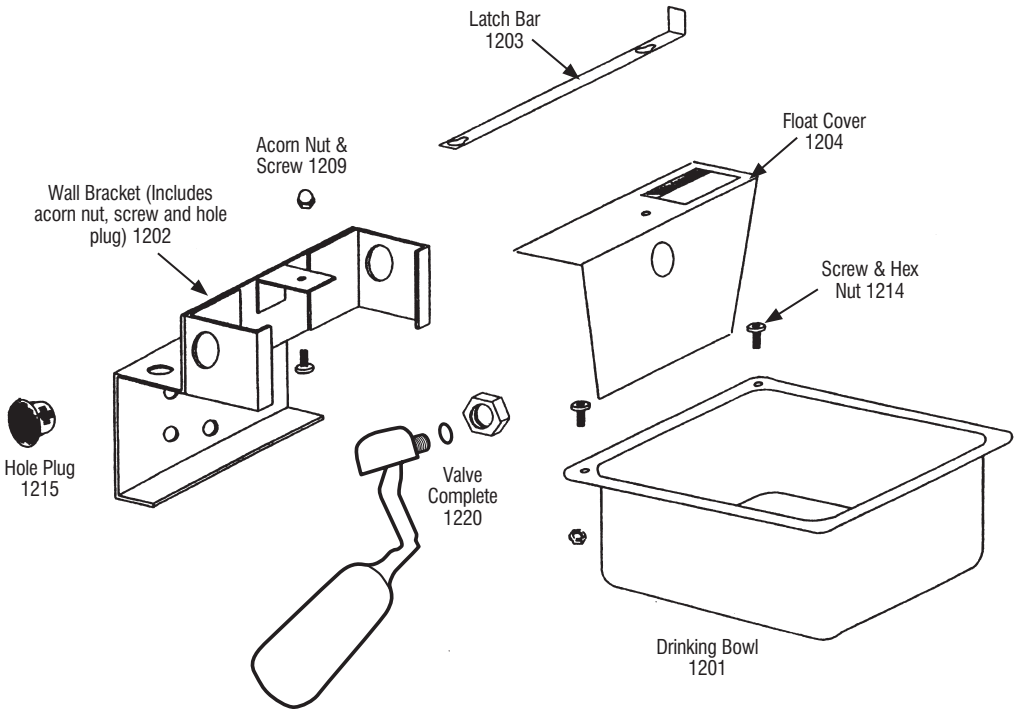
Figure D. Manufacturer Identification — Nelson Model 1200 Dog Waterer
Photograph documenting manufacturer labeling that identifies the continuous-flow kennel water bowl as a Nelson Model 1200 Dog Waterer, confirming the model associated with the sanitation conditions documented in Figures A–C.

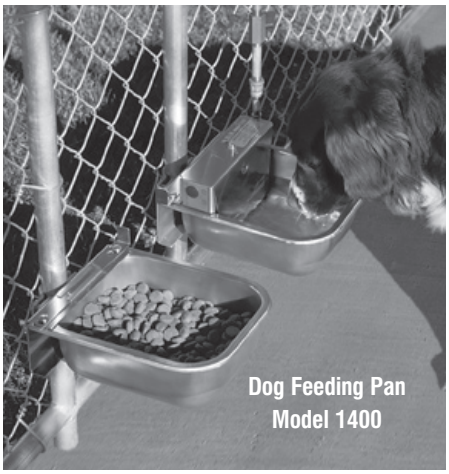
INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS
MODEL 1200 DOG WATERER

READ OWNER'S MANUAL CAREFULLY BEFORE INSTALLING.

Nelson Model 1200 Automatic Waterer provides a constant supply of fresh water and eliminates the hassles and expense of manually watering. The Model 1200 is made from tough 304 stainless steel, is virtually maintenance-free and is designed for easy cleaning.

WARNING! Install waterer near floor drain when locating waterer in a building - homes, garages, etc. Locate waterer near a floor drain so that if waterer overflows, water will go down floor drain and not damage building. Failure to locate waterer near a floor drain could result in water damage to building if waterer overflow occurs.





Questions?
or to place an order:

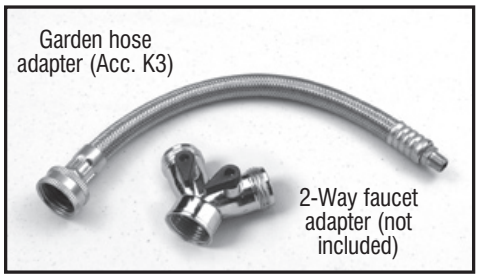
Phone: 888-844-6606
www.nelsonmfg.com
Monday-Friday 7:30-5:00 CST

OPERATION

Water passes through float valve into the drinking bowl. As the bowl fills with water, the float rises until water is shut off due to action of the float arm. When the animal drinks, water is removed from the bowl lowering the float. This reduces the pressure of the valve seat on the valve orifice, allowing water to enter the bowl.

WATERLINE CONNECTION

Faucet Connection. Mounting the waterer next to an outdoor faucet is a popular installation. Nelson's garden hose adapter (Accessory K3) provides a fast and easy connection. The garden hose adapter consists of a one foot length of stainless steel braided garden hose with fittings on each end for easily connecting to an outdoor faucet. The faucet also serves as a handy shut-off valve to be used when cleaning the drinking bowl. To utilize a single faucet for multiple purposes consider obtaining an inexpensive 2-way faucet adapter available at most home improvement centers and hardware stores.

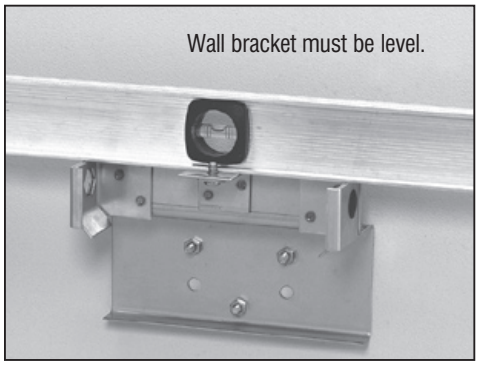


Pipe or Tubing Connection.

More permanent waterline materials may include iron pipe, copper pipe, brass pipe, copper tubing and plastic tubing. Connect waterline making certain to locate a pipe union or a compression connector in the line near the valve as it may be necessary to disconnect the water line to remove float valve for maintenance. It is recommended that a waterline shut off valve be installed in the waterline where it is handy to reach. Water can then be easily shut-off when cleaning or performing maintenance. Waterline can be brought to the waterer from above, below, behind or straight out, which ever is convenient. Use Teflon thread sealing tape on the Nelson Garden Hose Adaptor (Acc. K3) or your 1/8" male NPT fitting before connecting the waterline to valve.

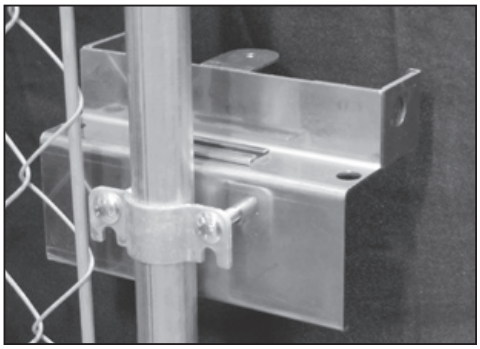
ASSEMBLY

Step 1. Mount Wall Bracket on Wall or Kennel Pole



Mount on Wall - Three 5/16" diameter bolts are required for mounting wall bracket to wall. Two carriage bolts (1 1/2" long X 5/16" diameter) and nuts are included with the Nelson's pole mounting kit (Accessory K2). The carriage bolts may or may not work with the type and thickness of your wall. It may be that 5/16" lag bolts are desirable. Lag bolts can be obtained at a local hardware store. Locate waterer such that the top holes in the wall mounting bracket are a minimum of 9 inches above the floor. This allows enough room to remove the drinking bowl for cleaning. Attach wall bracket to wall using two top holes and center bottom hole. The wall bracket must be level, requiring the use of a level when locating the holes on the wall. If the waterer is installed inside, locate it near a drain for cleaning convenience.

Mount on Kennel Pole - The pole mounting bracket kit (Accessory K2) contains the necessary bolts, nuts and brackets to mount the waterer to most kennel poles. Attach wall bracket to pole using top two holes. Locate waterer such that the top holes in the wall mounting bracket are a minimum of 9 inches above the floor. This allows enough room to remove the drinking bowl for cleaning. If the waterer is installed inside, locate it near a drain for cleaning convenience.



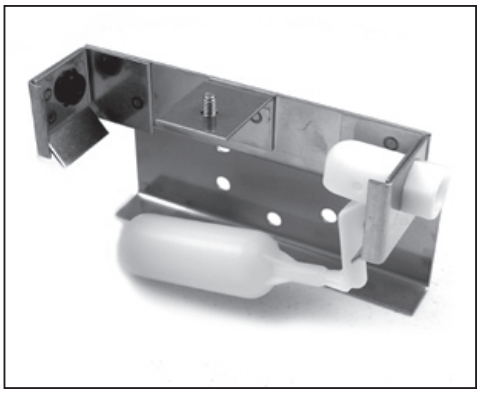
Pole Mounting Kit (Acc. K2)

Step 2. Attach Valve to Wall Bracket

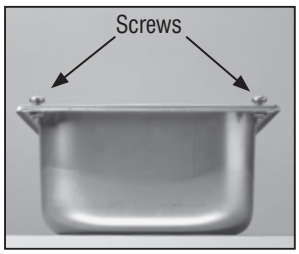
1. Remove washer and valve nut located on valve.

2. Valve can be located on either right or left side of wall bracket. Place valve body through hole such that valve body fits in hex hole on bracket. Secure valve to wall bracket with the washer and nut removed earlier. Valve should be installed with float arm hanging directly downward. Push black hole plug in hole on opposite side of valve.

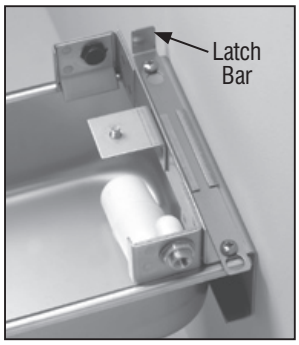
Step 3. Attach Drinking Bowl to Wall Bracket



1. Mounting drinking bowl to wall bracket requires the hardware in the plastic pack (2 Phillips head screws, 2 hex nuts and 1 acorn nut).



2. Thread both screws into holes in back two corners of drinking bowl. Thread screws from the top with screw heads up. Tighten screws so that screw heads just make contact with surface of bowl then back out 2 ¾ complete rotations. The length the screws are backed out of drinking bowl determines how tight the latch bar operates. The latch bar locks and releases the drinking bowl from the wall bracket. The further the screws are backed out the looser the latch bar operates. Conversely, the further the screws are set into the drinking bowl the tighter the latch bar operates. Some experimentation may be required to find the optimal setting.



3. Once proper setting of screws is determined, lock the screws in place by installing a hex nut on bottom of each screw.

4. Slide latch bar into retainer on wall bracket, handle up or down, whichever you prefer. The latch bar will go either way with the handle on the right or left side of waterer, whichever is convenient.

5. Lift drinking bowl upwards onto wall bracket such that screw heads on bowl pass through bracket and through latch bar. Slide latch bar so as to capture screw heads in slots on latch bar.

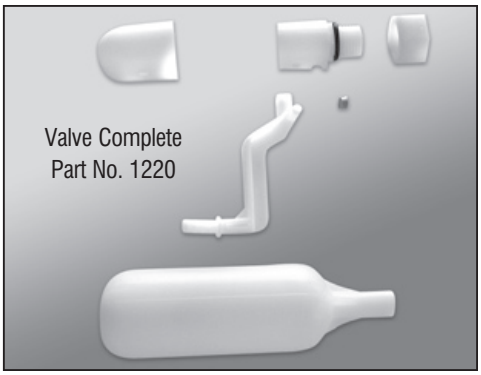
6. Place float guard over screw in center of mounting bracket and secure with acorn nut, hand tighten.

Cleaning and Sterilizing. Clean drinking bowl as required. To remove the drinking bowl from the wall bracket, line up latch bar so that bolts on the back of the drinking bowl slide through wall bracket. Bowl may be sterilized with a disinfectant solution, but make certain the float and float arm are also immersed in the disinfectant. After disinfecting, thoroughly rinse with water.

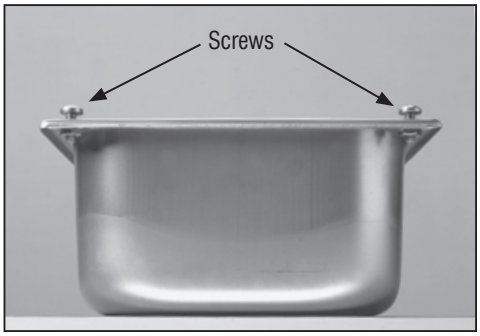
Removing Mineral Deposits. Mineral deposits can be removed from the drinking bowl by soaking the bowl in a water-vinegar solution. Remove the drinking bowl from the wall bracket. Fill the drinking bowl up with enough water to cover the mineral deposits. Mix in one cup of vinegar. Let the bowl soak for 24 hours and wipe clean.

Replacing Rubber Valve Seat. Over time, rubber seat can harden and tear. If wear on rubber valve seat causes valve to leak, resulting in overflow, replace rubber valve seat.

1. Turn off the water supply at shut-off valve.
2. Remove the Acorn nut and the Float Cover.
3. Place your index finger inside the front of the valve cap and pull gently towards the front of the waterer. While pulling out on the valve cap, use the index finger of your other hand to push the valve cap away from the valve. This will allow the Float arm assembly to release from the valve body.
4. Remove the Rubber seat from the Float arm assembly and replace with a new Rubber seat.
5. Replace the Float arm assembly into the Valve body.
6. While holding the float assembly in place, slide the Valve cap over the Valve body until you hear and feel the Valve cap snap into place.
7. Replace the Float Cover and Acorn nut.
8. Turn on the water supply.



Tightening / Loosening Bowl Latch. The length the screws are backed out of drinking bowl determines how tight the bowl release latch operates. Tighten screws so that screw heads just make contact with surface of bowl then back out 2 ¾ complete rotations. The further the screws are backed out the looser the bowl release latch operates. Conversely, the further the screws are set into the drinking bowl the tighter the bowl release latch operates. Some experimentation may be required to find the optimal setting.

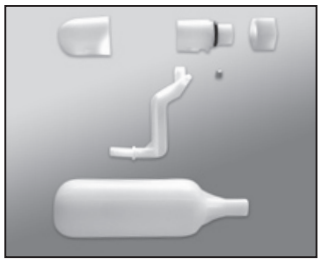


Warranty

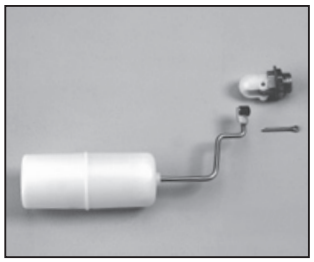
Nelson Model 1200 Automatic Waterer is guaranteed against defects in workmanship and/or materials for One Year. Nelson Manufacturing Company will repair or, at its option, replace without charge, any parts found defective upon examination at the factory if returned within the guarantee period, transportation charges prepaid. Replacement shipment will be made transportation charges prepaid by Nelson.

NELSON

Part No. 1201



New Valve (Part No. 1220)



Old Valve (w/ Brass Arm)

MODEL 1200 PARTS LIST

Part Number	Description
*1201	Drinking Bowl with square corners (includes Mounting Fasteners, Part #1214)
*1201R	Drinking Bowl with two round corners and two square corners (includes Mounting Fasteners, Part #1214)
1202	Wall Bracket with Screw, Acorn Nut, and Hole Plug
1203	Latch Bar
1204	Float Cover
1220	NEW Valve Complete (white plastic) for waterers shipped after Sept. 2009
1223	Rubber Seat and O-Ring (qty. 6 ea.) for NEW Valve Complete (Part # 1220)
1209	Screw & Acorn Nut for Mounting Float Cover (Part #1204)
1214	Mounting fasteners for Mounting Drinking Bowl to Wall Bracket. Includes (2) 1/4 - 20 x 5/8" Phillips Head Screws and (2) 1/4" Hex Nut.
1215	Black Hole Plug (for waterers shipped before Dec. 31, 2010)
1225	Black Hole Plug (for waterers shipped after Jan. 1, 2011)
1221	Float Arm for Valve (Part # 1220)
1222	Float for Valve (Part # 1220)
1224	Valve Body for Valve (Part # 1220) Includes Valve Body, Hood, Nut and O-Ring
Acc. K1	Brass Shutt-off Valve 1/4 Turn
Acc. K2	Pole Mounting Kit
Acc. K3	Garden Hose Adapter
	Old Valve Complete (brass w/ plastic float). **No longer available**.
911	Float for OLD Valve (Part # 1207)
1206	Float Arm (brass) for OLD Valve (Part # 1207)
1208	Rubber Seat, Cotter Pin and Washer (qty 6 ea.) for OLD Valve (Part # 1207)

*The drinking bowl with the square corners was replaced with the bowl with round corners in May 2002.

To Order Parts Call 1-888-844-6606
or go online www.nelsonmfg.com

Nelson Manufacturing Company
3049 12th St SW
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52404

Phone: 319-363-2607
Phone: 1-888-844-6606
Fax: 319-363-3601

E-mail: support@nelsonmfg.com

Buy Direct from Nelson.
Our goal is to make it easy for you to purchase and own Nelson products. Our expertise comes from taking care of our customers for over 60 years.

NELSON 60 YEARS OF QUALITY

Dog Feeding Pan Model 1400

Nelson Model 1400 Dog Feeding Pan is the practical, cost-effective solution for feeding dogs. The Model 1400, a companion to the model 1200 automatic waterer, is made from the same tough 304 stainless steel. Like the 1200, the bowl is attached to the wall bracket by a slide latch, making removal easy and fast for cleaning.

Automatic Horse & Livestock Waterers

Nelson Automatic Livestock and Horse Waterers provide a constant supply of fresh clean water and are available with optional heaters to prevent freeze-up, even in the coldest climates. Nelson 300 & 700 Series Automatic Waterers are available in several configurations. They're ideal for livestock, horses, exotic animals and, yes, even dogs.

Water Bucket Heaters for Dogs

With a Nelson Water Bucket Heater your dog's water never freezes. You never have to knock ice out of the bucket, and your dog never goes without water. The thermostatically controlled heater costs just pennies a day to operate. Both models work in all types of buckets – plastic, metal and rubber – up to 5 gallons, 3 year warranty.

Attachment B
Product Component Diagram & Close-Up Images (Float Cover, Float Arm, concealed bowl surfaces)

Nelson Automatic Dog Fence Watering System

EXTREME DOG FENCE | SKU: WF-NELSON-1200B

- Chewproof stainless steel