

DRAFT

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

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**TARZANA
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**TARZANA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
MINUTES of ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE MEETING**

Tuesday, May 9, 2017 at 7:00 pm

Tarzana Child Care Center

5700 Beckford Ave., Tarzana, CA 91356,

Chairman - Jeffrey Mausner

Committee members

Mary Aratounian, Eva Brusa, Lynn Davis, Michael Gross, Shelley Gross, Janet Mausner,
Deanna Dylan Scott, Renee Shamloo, and Jennifer Varela

The public is requested to fill out a “**Speaker Card**” to address the Board on any item of the agenda prior to the Board taking action on an item. Comments from the public on Agenda items will be heard only when the respective item is being considered. Comments from the public on other matters not appearing on the Agenda that is within the Board’s subject matter jurisdiction will be heard during the Public Comment period. Public comment is limited to 2 minutes per speaker, unless waived by the presiding officer of the Board.

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 of services, please make your request at least 72 hours prior to the meeting you wish to attend by contacting Leonard Shaffer at (818) 921-4992 or by email at tnc@tarzananc.org.

Minutes of the Tarzana Neighborhood Council (TNC) Animal Welfare Committee (AWC) meeting, May 9, 2017, at the Tarzana Child Care Center, 5700 Beckford Ave., Tarzana, CA 91356.

1. Call to Order and Welcoming Remarks. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 P.M. Attending were the following committee members: Mary Aratounian, Lynn Davis (by telephone, due to dog medical emergency), Janet Mausner, Deanna Dylan Scott, Renee Shamloo, and Jeffrey Mausner. Also attending were Heidi Okuhara (West Valley Shelter Volunteer) and Paul Darrigo (Animal Activist, co-founder of CHULA).
2. Minutes from the February 21, 2017 meeting were approved, unanimously, 5-0. Moved by Mary, seconded by Janet.
3. Discussion of California Assembly Bill (AB) 485, the Pet Rescue and Adoption Act, which 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>

The following resolution was passed: **Resolved: The Tarzana Neighborhood Council Animal Welfare Committee (TNC AWC) requests that the TNC Board pass a resolution of support for AB 485, the Pet Rescue and Adoption Act, and send a letter to Assembly Member Dababneh informing him of its support and thanking him for his work on the bill.**

Passed unanimously, 6-0. Moved by Mary, seconded by Deanna.

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 attached hereto.

The following resolution was passed: **Resolved: The Tarzana Neighborhood Council Animal Welfare Committee (TNC AWC) requests that the TNC Board pass a resolution supporting the Proposals for Implementing No-Kill, at all of the City Animal Shelters, for the summer of 2017, and communicate its support of the Proposals to Brenda Barnette, General Manager of Los Angeles Animal Services, and Councilmembers Koretz and Blumenfield.**

Passed unanimously, 6-0. Moved by Renee, seconded by Mary.

5. Discussion took place regarding the killing of dogs at the West Valley Shelter. It was decided that the Chair would discuss this with the new Shelter Supervisor and LAAS General Manager.

6. We took pictures with our Award Certificates. 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. See: <http://northvalleyreporter.com/engaging-the-city-to-save-the-lives-of-hundreds-of-animals-tarzana-neighborhood-council/>

7. Comments by the Chair and discussion regarding:

a. Rockin’ Rescue. 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. Oscar was adopted by a family from the rescue in Washington; he has found his forever home and family.

c. RFP (Request for Proposals) for the Jefferson Park Animal Shelter. 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). We are still waiting for a rescue to submit a response to the RFP.

d. Bella and Toffy, dogs who were transferred from the West Valley Shelter to the South L.A. Shelter. Bella was rescued. Toffy is still at South LA and on the Red List. We are trying to find a rescue that will take her.

e. High attrition rate of new Volunteers at the West Valley Animal Shelter. Jeff Mausner discussed this with GM Brenda Barnette; she told him that LAAS will be hiring a Volunteer Coordinator which should deal with this and other issues regarding the Volunteers.

8. Public Comments – Comments from the public on non-agenda items within the Committee’s subject matter jurisdiction.

9. Committee member comments on subject matter within the Committee’s jurisdiction. Mary Aratounian noted that there is a bill pending in the California legislature, the Police-Canine Encounters Protection Act (AB 1199). Mary may propose a resolution to support this bill at the next AWC meeting. Deanna noted that a LAUSD student got the Los Angeles School Board to institute a daily vegan option in lunches at schools.

10. Future agenda items and other calendar events.

11. Adjournment at 8:40 PM.

For more information about the Tarzana Neighborhood Council and Animal Welfare Committee please visit our web site at www.tarzananc.org, http://tarzananc.org/committees.php?committee_id=25

For information about the Temporary Animal Foster Parent Program at the West Valley Shelter, and for an application to become a foster parent, please visit:

http://tarzananc.org/committees.php?committee_id=25 and

<http://tarzananc.org/docs/1307-1082.pdf>

For information about dogs, cats, and rabbits available at the West Valley Animal Shelter, please visit our Featured Shelter Animals page at

http://tarzananc.org/shelter.php?dbshelter_categories_id=1

Any materials that may be distributed to a majority of the Board less than 72 hours prior to the above scheduled meeting are available for review by the public at 19040 Vanowen Street, Reseda, CA 91335.

In compliance with Government Code section 54957.5, non-exempt writings that are distributed to a majority or all of the committee in advance of a meeting, may be viewed at our website by clicking on the following link: www.tarzananc.org/committees.php?committee_id=4, or at the scheduled meeting. In addition, if you would like a copy of any record related to an item on the agenda, please contact us at tnc@tarzananc.org or 818-921-4992

Process for Reconsideration – Reconsideration of Board actions shall be in accordance with the Tarzana Neighborhood Council bylaws.

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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