

Date: May 7, 2019

Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council,

We want to thank you for listening to the community members and working toward a compassionate model for our Long Beach Animal Care Services. We understand that in the end, we all have the same goal, to decrease the number of unhoused pets and to end suffering of so many souls. We also understand and appreciate what a large task this is and the varied needs of reaching our goal.

The Compassion Saves Policy Direction by Councilwomen Pearce, Gonzalez, Price & Mungo is a step in the right direction. We would hope that that process looks like this:

- Implement the Compassion Saves model as the operational approach for Long Beach Animal Care Services (LBACS)
- Give the Task Force power to define how we reach the goals of Compassion Saves Policy
- Ensure that this direction is reflected in the LBACS Strategic Plan
- Provide a report on the existing relationship and practices between spcaLA and LBACS
- Provide recommendations for improvements in policies to maintain facilities and financial conditions that are most conducive to increasing adoptions at the LBACS facility.

We look forward to working closely with Staycee Dains and city staff to help implement and bring the number of live release rates up for all animals.

The City of Long Beach has the unique opportunity to affirm this Compassion Saves Long Beach approach to be implemented by the LBACS. The key principles of this model are:

1. Comply with the state law (California Food and Agriculture Code 17005) regarding animal care and the values of saving every life that is treatable. The Compassion Saves approach requires a strong commitment to saving lives through innovative programming.
2. Provide a report on the existing relationship and recommendations for improvements in policies and practices between spcaLA and LBACS to maintain facilities and financial conditions
3. Ensure LBACS remains open admission so that every unwanted or homeless pet has a safe place to go for shelter and care.
4. Support innovative spay and neuter programs to help control the pet homelessness crisis.
5. Foster a culture of data transparency, ethical decision-making, mutual respect, continual learning, and collaboration with the community.
6. Develop a strong active LBACS volunteer program.
7. Enhance the human-animal bond through a thoughtful sustainable adoption program, placements, rescue, foster programs, and post adoption support.
8. Formalize and enhance sustainable LBACS services with all partners including rescue organizations.

9. Maximize collaboration and clarity with our spcaLA partnership
10. Specifically increase adoptions of the City's homeless pets through partnerships and city wide programs
11. Develop ongoing opportunities for donations of private monies to go directly to support LBACS.
12. Establish innovative behavior, training, pet retention and education programs.
13. Develop a robust community communication program that uses social media and network to advance the effectiveness of LBACS Compassion Saves approach

We urge the full council to wholeheartedly support all items addressed in the compassion saves vision, and to work to identify funding through the budget process to ensure the success and Implementation of the Compassion Saves Program.

Signed,

Herlinda Chico, *Long Beach Animal Care Visioning Task Force Chair*

Carina Cristiano, *Long Beach Animal Care Visioning Task Force Co-Chair*

Jacqueline Case-Deming, *Long Beach Animal Care Visioning Task Force Secretary & Saving Long Beach Animals Founder*

Diana Kliche, *Long Beach Animal Care Visioning Task Force Member*

Kate Simon, *Long Beach Animal Care Visioning Task Force Member*

Ross Brown, *Long Beach Animal Care Visioning Task Force Member*

Pamala Machado, *Long Beach Animal Care Visioning Task Force Member*

Devon Deming, *Saving Long Beach Animals Founder*

Christa Indriolo & Kyle Einhorn, *Animal Rescuer*

Myrna Donahoe, *Friends of Bixby Dog Park President*

Kelly McHugh Lopes, *Wrigley Kittens*

Fix Long Beach Board of Directors

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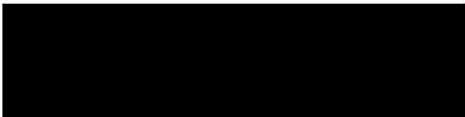
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Post Script: LBACS needs to handle its own adoptions and not through the SPCALA. The relationship between the two has been one sided for far too long in favor of the SPCALA. They need to be a true partner and not just cherry pick the most adoptable animals to increase their adoption rates which helps increase their donations. They need to step in and take some of the harder cases such as medical ones. The SPCALA needs to allow the LBACS side of the facility put up a sign indicating that the public can adopt animals from the LBACS side not just through the SPCALA. Animal advocates have been asking for this for a long time and to date have not had any real response from SPCALA.

LBACS needs to implement better methods for temperament (temp) testing dogs. A one time assessment of a scared and caged dog is not sufficient and leads to many dogs being labeled as aggressive and reducing their prospects of adoption. The shelter is a scary new environment and this can lead to stress which can lead to not normal behavior and therefore come off as aggressive instead of just scared. Perhaps temp testing can be done in one of the play yards with a real person and not the rubber hand sometimes used when staff doesn't feel comfortable with a dog.

Overall, I believe this a good start in a much needed overhaul.

Signed,



Nadith Schuster

Active animal volunteer / rescuer / foster in the Long Beach Community



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F.O.B.D.P
(Friends of Bixby DogPark)

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The Fix Long Beach Board