

R-28

January 21, 2020

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
City of Long Beach
California

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive and file a presentation on the status of the implementation of the Long Beach Animal Care Services' Compassion Saves approach; and,

Request the City Attorney to prepare Ordinances amending Chapter 6.04 of the Long Beach Municipal Code (LBMC), increasing the number of pets from four to six for each household, and amending Chapter 21.51.210 of the LBMC, regulating the adoption of dogs and cats originating from outside Long Beach. (Citywide)

DISCUSSION

As a follow-up to the November 15, 2019 memorandum to the Mayor and City Council on the implementation of next steps for the Compassion Saves approach (Attachment), a detailed presentation will be provided as part of the City Council meeting. Included in the presentation will be rationale for the proposed Long Beach Municipal Code (LBMC) changes to help improve the management of unwanted dog and cat populations, as well as a Memorandum of Understanding with the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Los Angeles (spcaLA).

This matter was reviewed by Deputy City Attorney Arturo D. Sanchez on December 19, 2019 and by Revenue Management Officer Geraldine Alejo on December 20, 2019.

TIMING CONSIDERATIONS

City Council action is requested on January 21, 2020, to move forward with the proposed LBMC changes in a timely manner.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal or local job impact associated with this recommendation. This recommendation has no staffing impact beyond the normal budgeted scope of duties and is consistent with existing City Council priorities.

SUGGESTED ACTION:

Approve recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,



GERARDO MOUET
DIRECTOR OF PARKS,
RECREATION AND MARINE

APPROVED:



THOMAS B. MODICA
ACTING CITY MANAGER

Attachment



Date: November 15, 2019

To: Thomas B. Modica, Acting City Manager

From: Gerardo Mouet, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine *GM*

For: Mayor and Members of the City Council

Subject: **Compassion Saves Next Steps**

At its May 7, 2019 meeting, the City Council requested the City Manager to work with the Parks, Recreation, and Marine Department to (1) implement the Compassion Saves model as the operational approach for Long Beach Animal Care Services (LBACS) and ensure that this direction is reflected in the LBACS Strategic Plan; (2) provide a report on the existing relationship and recommendations for improvements in policies and practices between Los Angeles Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (spcaLA) and LBACS; (3) maintain facilities and financial conditions which are most conducive to promoting increased adoptions at the LBACS facility; and, (4) approve recommendations to implement the Compassion Saves approach, and have staff work with the Animal Care Visioning Task Force (Task Force) to assist developing the policy in items listed. The City Council requested that staff provide a report within 60 days.

In the memorandum to the Mayor and City Council on July 23, 2019 regarding LBACS Compassion Saves model, staff requested additional time to provide an update and additional information on the next steps (Attachment A). This report provides the requested information.

Three key steps are needed to continue to build on the successful Compassion Saves momentum and continue to build a positive relationship with spcaLA. The three recommendations are:

1. Amend Title 6 of the Long Beach Municipal Code (LBMC) regarding animals (Ordinance), increasing the number of pets for each household from four to six pets (all cats, all dogs, or a combination of the two);
2. Amend the Ordinance to add a provision that regulates bringing dogs and cats from outside Long Beach for the purposes of adopting them in Long Beach; and,
3. Negotiate and execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with spcaLA to ensure operational functionality is increased with the aim to maximize the effectiveness of the Compassion Saves approach.

A brief review on how LBACS evolved from an approach that relied heavily on euthanasia, in order to make room in the shelter, to the current Compassion Saves model is provided below. The LBACS evolution to a forward-looking approach of services reflects the recent City Council policy direction.

LBACS History

The LBACS approach to handling the City's animal population has evolved over the years. As recent as 2012, LBACS started seeing less animals coming into the shelter due to effective population control efforts. The key to this success was strengthening of the City's Ordinance regarding Spay and Neuter. At this same time, LBACS began developing partnerships with organizations that help adopt and place Long Beach homeless animals with loving new owners.

Still, there was a need to improve systems and efforts of animal care. Very useful insight on how to improve LBACS services was provided by Phase One and Phase Two of City Auditor's report on Animal Care Services (Attachments B, C). In October 2018, the City's Task Force was created, and the City Council approved the development of an LBACS Strategic Plan, which is scheduled to be completed by March 2020. The hiring of the new LBACS Bureau Manager in February 2019 was also instrumental in the City's animal care policies and vision.

At its May 7, 2019 meeting, the City Council directed staff to develop and implement the Compassion Saves approach as LBACS' day-to-day operations approach. This direction was a result of a discussion at the April 16, 2019 Study Session on the Compassion Saves approach. The Study Session presentation showed the direct positive impact of population control efforts (Attachment D). A key finding was the significant decrease of cat and dog admissions into the shelter from 2010 to 2018 by 49 percent. Similarly, the euthanasia numbers from 2010 to 2018 decreased by 82 percent. Direct LBACS adoptions also showed a dramatic 370 percent increase from 2010 to 2018. The chart below reflects these improvements:

LBACS Performance Improvements

Activity	2010	2018	% Change (-)
Admissions	10,113	5,208	(49%)
Euthanasia	5,651	1,044	(82%)
Adoptions	144	677	370%

As part of the FY 19 and 20 budgets, the City Council approved additional resources to add a full-time adoption/volunteer coordinator and a full-time Veterinarian. Additionally, \$100,000 of one-time funding was provided to help bring more private donations to LBACS to assist with adoptions, medical treatment, and improve shelter space. LBACS is working with Partners of Parks to develop a robust LBACS adoption web portal that will provide the community the opportunity to donate to benefit LBACS. This past summer, LBACS significantly invested in medical treatment in order that no healthy animal, nor any-treatable animal, was euthanized without an aggressive search for a positive outcome. Private donations will be very helpful to LBACS to help support these life-saving efforts.

The development of partnerships has also improved, with more than 100 animal welfare organizations placing approximately 2,700 animals in 2018. This number includes 1,369 dogs and cats relocated to spcaLA. This is an area that LBACS aspires to strengthen through the development of tools that help manage these partnerships

Continuing Proactive Population Management Efforts

LBACS staff has two recommendations to continue proactive efforts to manage the population of dogs and cats in Long Beach. The first recommendation is to amend the City's Ordinance, which currently limits each household to four animals, to increase the number to allow six licensed pets (all cats, all dogs, or a combination of the two). In comparison, the City of Sacramento's limit is ten dogs and cats per household, and both the City of Los Angeles and the County of Orange have a limit of six dogs and cats per household.

The second recommendation is to amend the City's Ordinance by adding a provision that regulates bringing dogs and cats from outside Long Beach for the purposes of adopting them in Long Beach. This will require individuals or organizations obtain City approval before doing so and encourage prioritization of adopting dogs and cats directly from within the City.

Historically, dog and cat overpopulation has been a challenge. Successful population management strategies must involve education and public policy. LBACS will continue to place emphasis on the importance of promoting spaying and neutering. Increasing the number of dogs and cats allowed per household and preventing dogs and cats being brought in from outside of Long Beach, would be two very effective new policies to help manage the population of dogs and cats.

Improving Coordination Between spcaLA and LBACS

LBACS staff recommend that the City enter into a MOU with spcaLA. There are currently two Lease Agreement documents between the City and spcaLA (included in Attachment A). The first is the 1998 Lease of City land to spcaLA where the P.D. Pitchford Companion Animal Village and Education Center was built. This Lease is scheduled to expire in 2053. The second agreement is the "lease back" between spcaLA and the City to provide shelter space to LBACS. Both agencies work in the same complex.

Although the Lease Agreements addressed how LBACS and spcaLA would share the facilities, they did not effectively articulate how animal services would be effectively delivered. As a result, staff recommend that a MOU be developed to specify how best to work together in a coordinated manner to benefit Long Beach animals and to advance the Compassion Saves approach. The MOU will ensure operational functionality is increased between the two agencies with many benefits expected from this outcome, including clear messaging and understanding provided to the public on how best to deal with homeless animals and how best to adopt Long Beach dogs and cats. This MOU will also address best practices for maintaining facilities and financial conditions, which are most conducive to promoting increased adoptions at the LBACS facility.

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Over the past year, staff has gained sufficient experience to better understand how to successfully proceed in advancing the Compassion Saves approach. Compassion Saves' policies continue to be developed in consultation with the Task Force, and will be a critical component of the LBACS Strategic Plan.

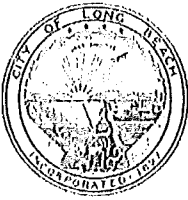
Next Steps

In December, staff will bring for City Council's consideration and approval an Ordinance amending Title 6 of the LBMC, increasing the number of pets for each household from four to six pets (all cats, all dogs, or a combination of the two), and adding a provision that regulates bringing dogs and cats from outside Long Beach for the purposes of adopting them in Long Beach. Staff will also work with spcaLA to negotiate a MOU to ensure operational functionality is increased with the aim to maximize the effectiveness of the Compassion Saves approach.

Should you have any questions regarding the next steps outlined in this memorandum, please contact me at (562) 570-3170.

ATTACHMENTS

CC: CHARLES PARKIN, CITY ATTORNEY
LAURA DOUD, CITY AUDITOR
DOUG HAUBERT, CITY PROSECUTOR
REBECCA GARNER, ACTING ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER
KEVIN JACKSON, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER
TERESA CHANDLER, INTERIM DEPUTY CITY MANAGER
ANDREW VIALPANDO, ACTING ADMINISTRATIVE DEPUTY TO THE CITY MANAGER
DEPARTMENT HEADS



City of Long Beach Memorandum

Working Together to Serve

Attachment A

Date: July 23, 2019

To: Patrick H. West, City Manager *[Signature]*

From: *[Signature]* Gerardo Mouet, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine

For: Mayor and Members of the City Council

Subject: Long Beach Animal Care Services

At its May 7, 2019 meeting, the City Council requested the City Manager to work with the Parks, Recreation, and Marine Department to implement the Compassion Saves model as the operational approach for Long Beach Animal Care Services (LBACS) and ensure that this direction is reflected in the LBACS Strategic Plan; provide a report on the existing relationship and recommendations for improvements in policies and practices between Los Angeles Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (spcaLA) and LBACS; maintain facilities and financial conditions which are most conducive to promoting increased adoptions at the LBACS facility; and approve recommendations to implement Compassion Saves approach, have staff work with the task force to assist developing the policy in items listed. The City Council requested that staff provide a report within 60 days.

Staycee Dains, Manager of Animal Care Services, and her staff have been making progress on the research and policies requested by the City Council. LBACS has had to place priority, as it does every summer, on responding to the higher admissions of dogs and cats that come into the facility at this time. With the Department's new Compassion Saves approach, LBACS staff has been very busy preventing our facility from being overcrowded and have been focusing on saving animals. In addition, Staycee, her staff, and the LBACS Task Force have been meeting regularly and are making progress on developing the Strategic Plan. For these reasons, staff requires additional time to prepare the report requested by the City Council. The report is anticipated to be complete in October.

Pursuant to the complaint that spcaLA did not possess the appropriate business licenses, a business license inspector visited the spcaLA location, 7700 E. Spring Street, on May 8, 2019 (the day after the City Council meeting). The inspector found there was a retail operation occurring at the location as stated in the complaint, and informed spcaLA they needed to apply for a retail business license as soon as possible. spcaLA complied and submitted their application for retail sales on May 29, 2019. A license was issued after the Development Services Department approved the use and the Fire Department conducted its inspection. spcaLA had previously obtained licenses for its other operations

The licenses currently held by spcaLA at the location are:

- Veterinary Clinic with Boarding
- Social Services without Food Distribution (pet adoption, dog training, pet grooming and pet hotel)
- Retail Sales

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As requested, a copy of spcaLA's lease has been attached. The lease is in effect until July 31, 2053. Several related documents have also been attached for your reference.

Please let me know if you require additional information. I can be reached at (562) 570-3172.

GM:gh

ATTACHMENTS

LEASE - 25915

AGREEMENT - 25914

LEASE-BACK - 25916

FIRST AMENDMENT TO LEASE-BACK - 25916

CC: CHARLES PARKIN, CITY ATTORNEY
LAURA L. DOUD, CITY AUDITOR
DOUGLAS HAUBERT, CITY PROSECUTOR
TOM MODICA, ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER
KEVIN J. JACKSON, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER
REBECCA GARNER, ASSISTANT TO THE CITY MANAGER
MONIQUE DE LA GARZA, CITY CLERK (REF. FILE #9-0451)