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**DEPARTMENT OF
ANIMAL SERVICES**
221 N. Figueroa Street
6th Floor, Suite #600
Los Angeles, CA 90012

(888) 452-7381
FAX (213) 482-9511

BRENDA F. BARNETTE
GENERAL MANAGER

TAMMY WATSON
ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER
Administration

MELISSA WEBBER
ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER
Lifesaving

DR. JEREMY PRUPAS
CHIEF VETERINARIAN

January 10, 2020

Council File 19-1584
Council Districts: All
Contact Person and Phone Number:
Brenda Barnette, (213) 482-9558

The Honorable Eric Garcetti
Mayor, City of Los Angeles
Room 303, City Hall
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

The Honorable City Council
c/o City Clerk
Room 395, City Hall
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Attention: Ms. Heleen Ramirez, Office of the Mayor

TRANSMITTAL: REPORT BACK ON ANIMAL SERVICES CENTER (SHELTER) CONDITIONS

The General Manager of the Department of Animal Services respectfully requests that the Mayor and City Council:

NOTE AND FILE this report.

SUMMARY

The Department of Animal Services is to report on the conditions of all of the City's animal shelters, with an emphasis on the Chesterfield Square Animal Services Center (Shelter) in South Los Angeles, during this year's rainy season.

BACKGROUND

This report back provides the department's response to the allegations of two former volunteers from the South Los Angeles-Chesterfield Square Animal Services Center who distributed a form email listing concerns regarding unsuitable conditions at the shelter. It will also address the allegations of one former volunteer from the West Los Angeles Animal Services Center.

DISCUSSION

Every shelter has a medical team consisting of a Veterinarian and Registered Veterinary Technicians. In addition; private veterinary clinics are contracted for services during the hours when

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Transmittal: Report Back on **L. A. ANIMAL SERVICES CENTER (SHELTER) CONDITIONS**

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in-house medical staff is not on shift. We are very fortunate in Los Angeles as there are animal shelters in California that have no veterinary services at all.

All animals are fed a balanced diet based on needs and are fed twice a day. All animals are provided with water at all times and treated humanely. Although all animals are not walked daily, we have implemented playgroups and in-kennel enrichment programs.

Dog Beds Inventory by Shelter:

	Beds	# Runs	No Beds
East Valley	42	122	80
West Valley	88	94	6
West LA	62	77	15
Harbor	27	64	37
Chesterfield Sq/SLA	214	218	4
North Central	144	162	18
		737	160

Our staff requested permission to ask the Board of Animal Services Commissioners (Board) for funding from the Animal Welfare Trust Fund to purchase additional Kuranda beds. This request was delayed because we have submitted a grant request to obtain more beds and we know that donating a bed for a shelter dog is a favorite holiday gift from our supporters. If the grant is not approved or does not fully furnish the needed beds, we will proceed with requesting funding approval from our Board.

SOUTH LA CHESTERFIELD SQUARE:

SLA Chesterfield Square has 218 large dog runs and 214 are equipped with beds. Over the years, there have been multiple projects to provide beds for all of the dogs who can have them without danger of chewing and swallowing fabric or bed parts that could cause serious digestive issues up to and including surgery. From time to time we must replenish the beds and that has been in process thanks to the help of volunteers who are soliciting bed donations through Kuranda Beds and who are also assembling the beds for the dogs. During the holidays, people often choose to donate a bed for a shelter dog.

On Thursday, December 5, 2019 after seeing the emails and social media posts with allegations about conditions at SLA Chesterfield Square, staff from the Mayor's Office made an unannounced visit to SLA Chesterfield Square Animal Services Center and found that the dogs had beds and the kennels were clean.

HARBOR:

No facility complaints at this time.

EAST VALLEY:

No facility complaints at this time.

WEST LOS ANGELES:

Caulking repair was done in February 2019 to keep kennels dry during rain.

All heaters are working and the ACTs and Supervisors were instructed to check the functionality daily. During the rainy season, the animals are removed from the puppy kennels and blankets are changed as needed.

The Department of General Services (GSD) December 2019 inspection of the kennels concluded with no finding of leaks that may occur during the rain; the caulking is all intact and awnings on each cubby are in working order.

WEST VALLEY:

No facility complaints at this time.

NORTH CENTRAL: Still under construction. Operating in modular units.

No facility complaints at this time.

Respectfully submitted,



Brenda F. Barnette
General Manager

Addendum: Related Statistical Data and other Information continued below.

December 2019 From WoofStat (12 months calendar year)

Cat and Dog Live Intake: Overall population up 6%

Cat and Dog Live Intake	Dec-19	Dec-18	% Chng	YTD 2019	YTD 2018	% Chng
Cats	892	750	19%	12,336	10,952	13%
Kittens	220	145	52%	13,054	10,894	20%
Dogs	1,639	1,789	-8%	21,435	22,533	-5%
Totals	2,751	2,684	2%	46,825	44,379	6%

We are very grateful for our volunteers. In fact, the City has increased their investment in volunteers and even added youth volunteer programs.

Volunteers and Fosters (11 Months Calendar year)

	YTD 2019	YTD 2018	% Chng
Volunteers			
# of Volunteers Worked	11,949	9,263	29%
% Female Volunteers	74.79%	0.00%	75%
# of Volunteer Hrs Worked	108,574	77,772	40%
# of Orientations	71	69	3%
# attended	2,897	1,771	64%
Animals Sent to Foster			
Cats	187	215	-13%
Kittens	3,299	2,538	30%
Dogs	633	507	25%
Others	6	3	100%
Rabbits	0	1	-100%
Totals	4,125	3,264	26%

LAAS has 2,800 active volunteers. From November 2018 through November 2019, the number of volunteers who worked was up 29% and the number of volunteer hours worked was up 40%.

Since LAAS hired our Volunteer Coordinator (March 2018) the active volunteers increased by 1,378 or 97% increase.

78 Volunteers have more than five years of volunteer service with LAAS,

The number of volunteers who initiated these concerns on social media is 3 or 0.00001071% of our active volunteers.