Michelson Found Animals

A (Brief) History of Pet Laws in the City of Los Angeles
But First, A Word of Thanks to Michel Holland and everyone at the Archives at the City Clerk’s Office for helping with the research into this fascinating topic!
Evolution: Even Laws Do It

- Laws protecting human health.
- Laws designed for human convenience.
- Laws protecting pets.
Meeting of March 12, 1857.
Council convened, Prefect, Alexander, Wheeler, J.B. Wilson, Requa and John Jones being present.

The foregoing minutes were read and approved.

Mr. Requa was appointed a Committee of one to give Jos. Apuleius possession of the property granted to him as an indemnity at the last meeting.

The Finance Committee reported back the Treasurer's statement without remarks, and it was resolved that it be publicly posted during three days and afterwards filed.

The Finance Committee reported back the Recorder's statement of fines for the month of February, and recommended that it be filed.

which was referred to the Finance Committee.

A petition was read wherein several citizens call the Council's attention to the number of vagrant dogs found in the streets. The matter was reserved for another occasion.

The Recorder presented his state-
“No dog or slut shall run at large in the City of Los Angeles unless the owner thereof shall keep upon the neck of such dog or slut a collar made of some durable substance, on which the name of such owner shall be inscribed in plain letters, and unless such owner shall give his name and description of such dog or slut to the City Marshal...”
More From the 1800s

- Registration fee was $1.50 for every male dog and $3.00 for every female dog.
- Every dog running at large would automatically be declared a nuisance.
- If a female dog was roaming while in heat, the owner could be fined up to $10.00, and the dog would be killed.
- If the Marshal or his subordinates negligently failed to enforce these laws, the Marshal could be fined.
### Early 1900's

<table>
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<th>Make and Breed</th>
<th>Owner</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1903</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>White Horse</td>
<td>Johnson</td>
<td>Portrait</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1904</td>
<td>456</td>
<td>Bay Horse</td>
<td>Smith</td>
<td>Portrait</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1905</td>
<td>789</td>
<td>Grey Horse</td>
<td>Brown</td>
<td>Portrait</td>
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### Michelson Found Animals
The Humane Department

- In the early 20th Century the City established a Humane Department, a precursor to our current Board of Animals Services Commissioners.
- Most of the issues the Department dealt with had to do with Livestock, but dog and cat issues were considered as well.
- They kept copious notes...
The Humane Department

Mr. Johnston, Assistant Production Manager at Paramount, and Mr. Freydenner; also Mr. Martin Murphy of the Universal, came before the Commission at their request to discuss the making of pictures in which animals are used. The Commission explained objections against certain methods for making animals act, or obtaining desired effects; and the gentlemen present explained how many effects are obtained without cruelty of any kind to the animal involved. Representatives of both studios promised to let the Commission know when they contemplate making pictures in which they use animals.

Dr. James Lloyd Woodruff, Philharmonic Auditorium, came before the Commission to ask if he could get dogs from the Shelter to ascertain the effects of a "cold" ultra violet ray, stating that great results can be obtained from this light, but that he wished to observe the effects after the dog has been killed. The Commission explained that we could not let anyone go out for experimental purposes of any kind, that only way we could let animals leave the Shelter is place them into good homes where they would be properly cared for.

Sawdust

Rabies Situation

Mrs. Wright of the Anti-Vivisection Society came to the Commission to discuss the handling of the stray dog situation, so that a definite plan could be set before the meeting in the City Attorney's Office this afternoon.

It was finally decided that we do not need an ordinance restricting dogs to their own premises, but that during the "clean-up" people be advised to keep their dogs on their own premises or under close supervision, or else they would be picked up.

After further discussion of the matter it was put to the meeting adjourned.

Stray Cats

An article by Mrs. Lindsey, complaining of stray cats, which appeared in the Express a day or so ago, was read, and the Commission discussed the matter of catching stray cats and having cat traps made for that purpose.

Mrs. Terrell moved, seconded by Mr. Bradbury, that we ask Mr. Soberson to have a model cat trap constructed and investigate into the handling of money deposited by individuals when borrowing these traps. Ayes:-- Mrs. Terrell, Mrs. French, Mr. Line, Mr. Bradbury, Mrs. McIntire.

The meeting then adjourned.

Attested

[Signature]

President
The Chair suggested that we have pictures taken of good-looking dogs which are brought into the pound.

Mr. Robeson explained that it is difficult to take animal pictures; and various suggestions were made about securing pictures of animals.

Mrs. Terrell moved, seconded by Mr. Bradbury, that we get pictures from time to time of dogs that are brought to the pound to create a picture file. Ayes:—Mrs. Terrell, Mrs. French, Mr. Line, Mr. Bradbury, Mrs. McIntire.

It was also suggested that we send a letter...
“Dogs” are defined as “all dogs of either sex over three months of age.

Still largely concerned with farm animals.

Dogs are regulated, cats are barely mentioned.
THE 1936 MUNICIPAL CODE

- The “hold” period for livestock is three days, but only one day for a dog.
- After the hold period for a dog, the Humane Department was authorized to sell the dog at auction. This is the first form of “adoption” in Los Angeles.
- Dog license fee was $2.00. The city issued physical license tags.
- Female dogs in “copulating season” had to be kept enclosed.
- Criminal prohibition of poisoning domestic animals.
Then in 1950...

WARNING!

"An atomic attack is a possibility and the results of any such explosion would be so terrible that we must prepare NOW*"

—Governor Earl Warren

*Quotation from speech at Tri-State Governor's Conference, August 22, 1950
SPECIAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION PROPOSITION C

AN ORDINANCE ADDING SUBSECTION (h) TO SECTION 53.11 OF THE LOS ANGELES MUNICIPAL CODE RELATING TO THE REGULATION OF THE SURRENDER OF UNCLAIMED IMPounded ANIMALS FOR PURPOSES OF MEDICAL RESEARCH.

The People of the City of Los Angeles do ordain as follows:

Section 1. Subsection (h) is hereby added to Section 53.11 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code, to read:

(h) Whenever any reputable institutions of learning, hospitals, research laboratories or their allied institutes in the City of Los Angeles shall make application to the Health Officer of the City of Los Angeles for permission to use humanely unclaimed impounded animals for the good of mankind and the increase of knowledge relating to the cause, prevention, control and cure of disease, the Health Officer, on being satisfied that the said animals are to be so used, shall, from time to time, certify to the Department of Animal Regulation the names and addresses of said institutions of learning, hospitals, research laboratories and their allied institutes which he is satisfied will use animals humanely for the purposes above specified.

It shall be the duty of the Department of Animal Regulation to surrender unclaimed impounded animals for such uses only when applied for by institutions of learning, hospitals, research laboratories and their allied institutes which have been certified by the Health Officer as herein provided. No animal shall be surrendered except as authorized by law.

In order to give the owners of impounded animals time within which to reclaim the same, no animal shall be surrendered for such uses until it has been impounded for a period of at least five days.

No animal shall be surrendered for medical research, the owner of which has turned over such animal to the Department of Animal Regulation for destruction. Any such request for destruction of an animal by the owner thereof shall be complied with by the Department.

The Department of Animal Regulation shall adopt and enforce rules and regulations providing for the care of animals so surrendered comparable to Supplement 211 Public Health Reports, 1949, Federal Security Agency, entitled, "Care of the Dog Used in Medical Research."
HELP SAVE A LIFE
It May Be Your OWN!
Vote YES
On C

ARGUMENT AGAINST PROPOSITION "C"
Authorizing Surrender of Impounded Animals

This proposition betrays the animal owners of Los Angeles. The city pounds have never cost the general taxpayer one cent. Pet owners have contributed in license fees over two million dollars more than the amount required to operate and maintain these pounds.

If your dog were lost, would you have time to visit the sixteen pounds in this vicinity day after day until found? If unfound, would you want it turned over for vivisection by the very institution established to protect him?

Proposition "C," if enacted, will change the City Pounds from a haven into a procurement agency for so-called "scientists" and their cruel experiments on living, feeling animals. From Dr. Crile's "Psychological Shock": "He tarred some of them (over 148 dogs), set five to room. He cut others open and poured boiling water into the cavities. He held their paws over Bunsen flames, deliberately crushed the most sensitive organs of the male dogs, broke every bone in a dog's paws with a mallet. In others he poked their eyes out with a tool, and scraped the empty sockets."

Penicillin, sulfas, atabrine, red vitamin — the so-called "wonder drugs" in benefits to humanity—were not discovered through vivisection. However, your vote is not for or against vivisection; it records only that you believe the pet owners who support the pounds have the right to protection of their lost pets.

Congress decreed that Washington, D.C. pounds shall not release animals even for Army and Navy experiments. Pound bills have been defeated in Massachusetts, California, Pennsylvania, New York, Illinois, and our own sister cities of San Francisco and San Diego.

SEIZURE OF POUND PETS FOR VIVISECTION IS UNCONSTITUTIONAL.

Your vote against this proposition is the voice of humanity, lifted in defense of man's best friend who has no vote, and cannot speak for himself!

PLEASE VOTE "NO" ON PROPOSITION "C"
ANIMAL ALLIES, INC.
4521 HAZELTINE AVENUE
Sherman Oaks, California.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>YES</th>
<th>NO</th>
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<td>C. CITY OF LOS ANGELES MUNICIPAL PROPOSITION. ANIMAL REGULATION.</td>
<td>366,267</td>
<td>265,515</td>
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But it wasn’t All Bad...
The 60’s

- In 1964 the city established its first public spay and neuter clinic, charging $17.50 to spay a female dog or cat, and $11.50 to neuter a male dog or cat.
- For the first time a statute was enacted prohibiting a pet owner from allowing their pet to “commit any nuisance upon the sidewalk”. Although it’s vague, this provision is arguably the earliest law requiring the removal of pet waste.
- And the city enacted it’s first law requiring pet owners to adequately care for their pets.
The 70’s

“whoever can solve the dogshit problem [in the city] can be elected mayor of San Francisco, even president of the United States.” Harvey Milk
The 21st Century!