

PRESS-TELEGRAM

LOCAL NEWS

Long Beach animal shelter manager announces additions to staff, changes to come to facility

The updates come after a city audit report that made 186 recommendations to the facility



A stray 1-year-old female pit bull mix at the City of Long Beach Animal Control on Spring Street in Long Beach. 2009 file photo. (Press-Telegram staff photo)

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Long Beach's animal shelter is adding staff positions and looking to change its policies for animals, Animal Care Services manager Staycee Dains told the Mayor's Animal Care Visioning Task Force on Tuesday, March 26.

Following a two-part city [audit that made 186 recommendations](#) on how the shelter should improve, Animal Care Services is developing a long-term strategic plan that involves gathering input from the community. The audit report covered many areas of the facility, including [findings that it is understaffed](#) and its adoption procedures could use some tweaking.

Dains, who [earlier this year came](#) to the position, told the task force that the shelter is going through “growing pains.” There’s been a shift in shelters everywhere to save animal’s lives, opposed to “catch and kill,” she said.

“This is an evolution to the animal welfare field,” Dains said, adding that there have been some unintended consequences.

The short-term plans are:

- Hiring a full-time veterinarian and a full-time volunteer adoption coordinator.
- Starting volunteer recruitment in May.
- Creating an adoption program.
- Collaborating with rescue groups.
- Creating a “second chance” program for animals, mainly dogs, who may be deemed “not safe” and need extra care.
- Implementing a training program for everyone, including staff and volunteers.
- Looking into the reasons and collecting data on why certain animals are euthanized.

Dains also asked the task force to help come up with ways to make kitten admission to the shelter more efficient, in which members came up with ideas such as giving owners more resources on taking care of kittens. Resources could include training for bottle feeding and education, task force members said.

While many in the crowd of some 30 attendees seemed pleased by the updates, others expressed concerns of euthanasia rates and the shelter’s relationship with spcaLA because it is not a [“no kill” shelter](#). spcaLA is a nonprofit that puts animals up for adoption from the shelter’s animals, and the Long Beach animal shelter have a landlord-tenant relationship, respectively.

While both the city and spcaLA have their own staffs at the facility on Spring Street, their operations are separate and, by contract, cannot tell one another how to operate, Dains said. She added that while the animal shelter will aim to increase its adoptions, she aims to grow the relationship between the city and spcaLA.