

# Animal Services GM Greenwalt to Retire; Morris Becomes Acting GM

Jerry Greenwalt, general manager of the City's Animal Services Dept., announced his retirement. Mayor Jim Hahn appointed Sharon Morris as interim general manager until the permanent position is filled.

"Jerry Greenwalt has done an amazing job under extraordinarily difficult circumstances," Hahn said. "Pet adoptions have increased and euthanizations have decreased throughout the city. I thank Jerry for his dedication and wish him the best in retirement."

Greenwalt has served as general manager since October 2001, overseeing the department's six shelters located throughout Los Angeles, enforcing animal-related laws and acting to prevent cruelty to animals. During Greenwalt's tenure, Mayor Hahn announced the City's commitment to a no-kill policy for all adoptable animals by 2008 and introduced the Spaymobile, which provides thousands of free and subsidized surgeries to pets in low-income areas.

Morris, the executive director for the Department on Disability, has a long and distinguished record of City service, including a previous stint as interim general manager at Animal Services from 1997 to 1998. She also served as a deputy mayor from 1996 to 1997 and as a commissioner on the Board of Public Works from 1994 to 1995.

"I am absolutely confident that Sharon Morris will do an outstanding job as interim general manager," Mayor Hahn said. "She's got the experience and the know-how that will allow a seamless transition. We are lucky to have her in the city family."



Jerry Greenwalt, General Manager, Animal Services

"I am pleased and honored to be asked to return to the Department of Animal Services at this time," Morris said. "The Mayor and Jerry have begun several exciting initiatives, and I look forward to working with the department's committed and talented staff to move them forward."

Madeline Bernstein, president of SPCA LA, has agreed to chair the search committee for a permanent general manager. "I look forward to working with the Mayor's Office and Sharon Morris in locating a general manager who will be progressive, compassionate and committed to fulfilling the needs of the animals and the citizens of Los Angeles," Bernstein said.

Greenwalt's last day will be April 12. 📧

## Animal Services Staff Pays Tribute to Greenwalt, His Career

Who is Jerry Greenwalt? What's he like? These are questions often put to us — especially since L.A. Animal Services is frequently in the news.

Jerry Greenwalt is general manager of L.A. Animal Services and has been since his initial interim appointment in October 2001. He is retiring this April, after close to 33 years of dedicated City service.

Jerry's career has been illustrious, beginning with analyst work for the City administrative officer. From there, he became administrative officer for the Los Angeles Zoo before becoming zoo director and then general manager of L.A. Animal Services. He has a Bachelor's degree in political science from Occidental College. Oh, and here's a good one I found out: Jerry played football in college and tried out for the L.A. Rams before becoming injured.

Jerry Greenwalt got a lot done during the short time he was general manager at L.A. Animal Services. For the first time, in the City's history, the department's euthanasia rates have dropped to 50 percent. Adoption rates have shot up. Animals are getting spayed, neutered and microchipped. Officers are out there writing citations and taking cases to court. The number of animal licenses and permits has practically doubled.

It is because of Jerry and his leadership that we now have a great Website and a mobile spay/neuter clinic (here comes the Spaymobile!) and a customer service call center ([888]-4LA-PET1) and a bunch of other neat things going on. He's motivated everyone to work toward being life-oriented, i.e., saving the lives of animals, finding them homes, etc., as only Jerry can do. How does he do it? Shh ... Jerry motivates with kindness and enthusiasm. He trusts you to do a great job. He trusts you to do a great job! Just how in the world can you let a guy like that down? Great boss, huh!

Wonderful thoughts come to mind when asked to describe one of our favorite people ever ... and we really mean that from the heart. Above all, Jerry Greenwalt is the ultimate gen-

tleman and all that goes with that like integrity, kindness and a refinement that comes with a background that has traveled and enjoys the finer things life has to offer: fine wine, opera and, okay, golf. Should you decide to give him a bottle of wine, be aware that he's a connoisseur and truly enjoys a fine wine. Oh yes, martinis also work for him. He's a chef, and when Jerry describes what he plans to cook, he does it in such vivid detail and with such expression that it literally makes your mouth water.

Travel? The man's lived and traveled all over the world, an impressive visa record. In fact, he lived in Saudi Arabia for a while, where his daughter spent the first few years of her life. Stories? He can tell them from the utterly hilarious and ridiculous to the totally frightening.

The love of Jerry's life is his family. One of us asked him how long he's been married. His response was sweet: "As of today, 39 great years, 3 months and 3 days." His really attractive wife, Karen, is as sweet a lady as Jerry is a gentleman. She's a lawyer, as is their daughter. Again, just the nicest people anyone's gotta know.

Then, there's Jerry's sense of humor. During a difficult time, his wife called and asked us to pass a message on to him: "Why the long face?" That sure got him going. As it turns out, it is something a bartender once asked a horse. (Get it?)

This past year has been rough for the boss and the department, with people spewing what we consider to be vile lies about Jerry and L.A. Animal Services. It was difficult yet enlightening to see a good man at work amidst all that. His character and integrity shone bright. Jerry was unwavering and kept the ship steered right in the direction that he had mapped out: to save the lives of animals.

We at L.A. Animal Services are so very happy that Jerry gets to retire and go onto other things after so many, many years of service. We knew it was going to happen. It's just that, expecting it doesn't really make it much better.

We're gonna miss the man. Greenwalt's been good for the animals and the department and for all of us. I'm gonna miss the only person I've ever really looked up to enough to call "boss."

Enjoy your travels, boss! It's been an honor. —Jackie David and the Animal Services staff

**Wanna be heard?** What do you think about the Jerry Greenwalt situation? Let us know: talkback@cityemployeesclub.com

## Julie Butcher of SEIU Local 347 Supports Jerry Greenwalt's City Service Legacy

SEIU Local 347 today issued the following statement of strong support for Jerry Greenwalt, general manager of the Department of Animal Services, who recently announced his retirement from City service. Local 347 emphasizes that Jerry was not fired but announced a retirement that had been planned long ago but postponed in the name of public service.

"Jerry has been a great leader of the Department of Animal Services," said Julie Butcher of Local 347. "He did a thankless job that literally struck way too close to home. Despite being personally threatened, he maintained a deep commitment to the people and

animals he served. "We are proud of the gains that workers and management have made together under Jerry's leadership to respect the sanctity of all life, animal and human. We look forward to implementing the 'no kill' policy and making other critical improvements that will benefit people and animals alike. Together, we can pay tribute to Jerry's remarkable legacy by working towards a better quality of life for Animal Services workers and the communities and animals they serve.

"We wish Jerry all the best and salute him for his heartfelt public service." 📧

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