

**BOARD OF  
ANIMAL SERVICES  
COMMISSIONERS**

LARRY GROSS  
PRESIDENT

OLIVIA E. GARCIA  
VICE PRESIDENT

COMMISSIONERS

JILL COHEN

ALISA FINSTEN

JOSE SANDOVAL

**City of Los Angeles**

CALIFORNIA



**ERIC GARCETTI**  
MAYOR

**DEPARTMENT OF  
ANIMAL SERVICES**

221 N. Figueroa Street  
6<sup>TH</sup> Floor, Suite #600  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

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

ANNETTE G. RAMIREZ  
INTERIM GENERAL MANAGER

CURTIS R. WATTS  
ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER  
Administration

DR. JEREMY PRUPAS  
CHIEF VETERINARIAN

May 25, 2022

Matthew Rudnick  
Assistant General Manager &  
Chief Sustainability Officer  
Department of Recreation and Parks  
221 N. Figueroa Street, Suite 350  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Mr. Rudnick:

The Department of Animal Services issues permits to animal related businesses within the City of Los Angeles and performs yearly inspections to verify compliance with state and local ordinance. The Department of Animal Services has routinely conducted yearly inspections of the Griffith Park Pony Rides located at 4730 Crystal Springs within Griffith Park. The Griffith Park Pony Rides is a children's attraction to provide affordable access to ponies for riding and farm animals for petting. In addition to the yearly permit inspections conducted, the Department of Animal Services will also conduct inspections when complaints are received regarding handling or maintenance of the animals at any animal related business with a permit issued by the Department of Animal Services.

The Griffith Park Pony Rides has been issued two animal related business permits by the Department of Animal Services: a Petting Zoo Permit which expires in July 2022 and a Pony Ride Permit which expires in March 2023. Prior to the issuance of the Pony Ride and Petting Zoo Permits, inspections were conducted and all local and state ordinances enforced by Animal Services were in compliance.

The Department has received complaints from an animal advocacy group and similar complaints from individuals. In response the Department has conducted numerous inspections and requested an inspection by two Certified Equine Animal Cruelty Investigators: a Veterinarian and an Animal Control Officer. The Veterinarian stated: "In conclusion, at the time of my inspection of the Griffith Park Pony Rides, the ponies appeared healthy, well-kept and cared for, and appropriately utilized in the riding program; there was no evidence of neglect or abuse." The Department of Animal Services has found no grounds for a permit revocation or any further action at this time and will continue to evaluate any further complaints.

Sincerely,

Annette G. Ramirez  
Interim General Manager

"Creating a Humane LA"

**AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER**

Visit our website at [www.LAAnimalServices.com](http://www.LAAnimalServices.com)