

CITY OF LOS ANGELES  
CALIFORNIA



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When making inquiries  
relative to this matter  
refer to File No.

07-1212

February 29, 2008

Councilmember Alarcon  
Councilmember Smith  
City Attorney  
Department of Animal Services  
Board of Animal Services Commissioners

RE: ESTABLISHING A PROGRAM TO REQUIRE SPAYING AND NEUTERING OF DOMESTIC CATS AND  
DOGS AND CREATING A SPAY/NEUTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

At the meeting of the Council held February 1, 2008, the following action was taken:

Attached report adopted .....	<u>          X          </u>
Attached motion (Alarcon - Smith) adopted.....	<u>          X          </u>
To the Mayor FORTHWITH.....	<u>          X          </u>
Ordinance adopted .....	<u>          02-12-08          </u>
Ordinance number .....	<u>          179615          </u>
Date posted.....	<u>          02-28-08          </u>
Effective date .....	<u>          04-08-08          </u>
Mayor approved .....	<u>          02-21-08          </u>

City Clerk  
jr



**VERBAL MOTION**

I HEREBY MOVE that Council ADOPT the following recommendations with respect to amending Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) Section 53.15.2 (b) requiring all dogs and cats in the City to be spayed or neutered unless exempted as provided on today's Council agenda (Item No. 39, CF 07-1212), SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE MAYOR:

1. PRESENT and ADOPT the accompanying ORDINANCE amending Subsection (b) of Section 53.15.2 of the LAMC to require all dogs and cats within the City of Los Angeles to be spayed or neutered unless the owner has obtained a breeding permit or unless the dog or cat is exempt by reason of one of the listed exemptions and is implanted with an animal identification device and to establish a Spay/Neuter Advisory Committee to advise the Board of Animal Services Commissioners on the impact of the spay/neuter policies on the City's low income residents.
2. INSTRUCT the Spay/Neuter Advisory Committee to report back to Council on an annual basis.

PRESENTED BY \_\_\_\_\_  
RICHARD ALARCON  
Councilmember, 7th District

SECONDED BY \_\_\_\_\_  
GREIG SMITH  
Councilmember, 12th District

February 1, 2008

CF 07-1212

*Motion*

**ADOPTED**

FEB 1 2008

LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL

*Ordinance OVER ONE WEEK TO February 8, 2008*

FEB 0 8 2008 - *Continued to February 12, 2008*

*SD*  
**ADOPTED**

FEB 1 2 2008

**LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL**

TO THE MAYOR FORTHWITH

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**TO THE COUNCIL OF THE  
CITY OF LOS ANGELES**

**File No. 07-1212**

**Your**

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

**reports as follows:**

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT** relative to establishing a program to require spaying and neutering of domestic cats and dogs, and creating a Spay/Neuter Advisory Committee.

Recommendation for Council action:

REQUEST that the City Attorney prepare and present an ordinance relative to establishing a program to require spaying and neutering of domestic cats and dogs by the age of four months, with certain exemptions, and creating a Spay/Neuter Advisory Committee, substantially as shown in the proposal for a draft ordinance presented at the Public Safety Committee meeting held January 28, 2008, attached to the Council file.

Fiscal Impact Statement: None submitted by the Department of Animal Services. Neither the City Administrative Officer nor the Chief Legislative Analyst has completed a financial analysis of this report.

SUMMARY

In a report to the Mayor dated July 26 and November 26, 2007 (attached to the Council file), the Department of Animal Services recommends that a request be made for the City Attorney to prepare ordinances to enable the Department to spay or neuter animals taken in or subject to enforcement, and also to strengthen breeding regulations by requiring animal transfer permits and other related actions. The recommendations were approved by the Board of Animal Services Commissioners at meetings held July 23 and November 13, 2007. The Department believes that a spay and neuter program will help control the over-population of unwanted pets, reduce the number of roaming dogs, and save the City money. The Department goes on to report that rules for controlling backyard and hobby breeding are inadequate. Strengthening these requirements will also help control the number of unwanted pets and address the problem of improperly bred aggressive dogs. The Department's reports were transmitted by the Mayor to Council for consideration.

In a report to the Chair of the Public Safety Committee dated January 24, 2008 (attached to the Council file), Councilmember Alarcon presents a proposal for a draft ordinance to mandate the spaying and neutering of domestic cats and dogs. The Councilmember believes that the proposed ordinance will prevent the problem of pet overpopulation.

At its meeting held January 28, 2007, the Public Safety Committee discussed this matter with representatives of the City Attorney and the Department of Animal Services, as well as Councilmember Alarcon. Mr. Alarcon expressed support for the proposed spay and neuter program. The proposal includes a number of exceptions: licensed breeders, dogs and cats competing in shows and contests, service dogs, and in instances when a spay or neuter procedure may harm the animal's health. The ordinance includes an enforcement schedule for violators as well as provisions for a citizen's advisory committee. The Councilmember believes

the proposal is compassionate and fiscally responsible.

The General Manager, Department of Animal Services stated that the proposal is better than what was originally introduced in state legislation, AB 1634. The City's proposed ordinance, while implementing a spay and neuter program, is less onerous and also includes exceptions for local breeders and addresses other local needs. Additional financial resources may be required to operate this program. The City Attorney's representative presented a revised proposal for a draft ordinance with several technical modifications. It was indicated that the operative date for the program is October 1, 2008.

The Committee went on to conduct a public hearing relative to this matter. During that time, members of the public expressed support for the proposed spay and neuter program. Proponents indicated they were glad the proposal was not a mandatory spay neuter requirement. It was stated that, under this program, pet population would be controlled and irresponsible breeders would be stopped. Comments were also made relative to how the ordinance will protect the public from roaming aggressive dogs, and the failure of voluntary spay and neuter programs.

The Public Safety Committee concluded the public hearing then recommended that Council request that the City Attorney prepare an ordinance to establish a program to require spaying and neutering of domestic cats and dogs by the age of four months, with certain exemptions, and creating a spay/neuter advisory committee.

Respectfully submitted,

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE



<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
WEISS:	ABSENT
SMITH:	YES
PARKS:	ABSENT
REYES:	YES
ZINE:	YES

JAW  
1/30/08

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Report  
**ADOPTED**

FEB 01 2008

**LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL**