

APR 18 2007

Public Safety

MOTION

Each year, almost 50,000 unwanted and abandoned cats and dogs are born in the City of Los Angeles. Left un-spayed and un-neutered, these animals propagate far beyond the capacity of the local shelters, animal rescue groups and the community to accommodate them. Shelters are often forced to euthanize young and healthy animals to make room for more; puppies and kittens are euthanized at the highest rate, twice as many cats than dogs. The financial cost to tax payers, and the emotional toll suffered by shelter employees and the communities who take care of these animals are extremely high.

The California State Legislature is currently considering AB 1634 (Levine) also known as the "California Healthy Pets Act 2007" requiring the spaying and neutering of most cats and dogs by the time the pet is four months old. Pet owners who have not spayed or neutered their pet would be cited and given time to spay or neuter their pets before a fine would be assessed. Local animal control agencies would be responsible for enforcing the California Healthy Pets Act. A portion of the fines collected would be used to expand the availability of free or low cost-spay or neuter programs and other outreach efforts.

The City Council, on April 17, 2007 adopted a resolution in support of AB 1634. However, the City should not wait for Sacramento to act on the pending legislation and instead should take a more proactive stance by adopting an ordinance with the provisions of the California Healthy Pets Act customized for Los Angeles.

Currently, the City of Los Angeles Animal Services Department maintains a budget of \$22 million and it is estimated that \$12 million of that money is used by pets that end up dying. The Department also offers \$2.2 million in vouchers for spaying and neutering services for low income pet owners.

I, THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE CITY COUNCIL, instruct the Los Angeles Animals Services Department, to submit a proposed ordinance that would mandate the spaying and neutering of domestic cats and dogs by the time the pet is four months old, with specific exceptions for licensed breeders. The proposed ordinance should be consistent with provisions of AB 1634 but adapted to the specific needs of Los Angeles, including an expanded program to assist pet owners earning less than 300% of the Federal Poverty Level spay and neuter their pets.

PRESENTED BY Richard Alarcón Tony Cardenas
RICHARD ALARCÓN TONY CARDENAS
Councilmember, 7th District Councilmember, 6th District

SECONDED BY Herb Wesson
Herb Wesson

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Refer to CF

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