



John White <john.white@lacity.org>

Support of pet limit increase - Please add to public record of file number 10-0982

1 message

ssheffie@ca.rr.com <ssheffie@ca.rr.com>

Sun, Oct 17, 2010 at 12:11 AM

To: John.White@lacity.org

Mr. John White:

People who love animals do what they have to in order to provide them with quality care and nurturing. Currently a family can have 3 cats and 3 dogs in the home. Adding two additional dogs does not mean more noise and more mess. It means fewer dogs being piled into metal containers and gassed to death daily. I have met with staff at LA Animal Shelters, and they claim to be overflowing with animals, frequently at their max before they even take in strays for the day. Those of us who rescue animals ensure they have veterinary care, are spayed/neutered and try and help bring about a solution to the animal problem that we didn't create. Every animal I have ever had the privilege to care for was a rescue. Its absurd that we would rather kill a dog or cat then give one to a loving home that happens to already have 3 dogs or cats.

Please increase the limit by two more dogs, so that like Santa Monica and San Diego, those of us who want to help can do so legally.

Thank you for considering my letter of support.

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Stacie Blanton
126 W 65th Street
LA, CA 90003
(323)753-8990
ssheffie@ca.rr.com

MYTH	FACTS
Animal Control Officers (ACOs) will be afraid to go into a house/yard with 5 dogs to enforce laws.	If this were the case, all the "bad people", dog fighters, etc would already have 5 dogs because it would make them immune. Increasing the limits will not affect the behavior of those who do not obey the laws and are a nuisance; they are already either ignorant or have decided to flaunt the laws.
It will drastically increase the number of dogs in the City.	According to generally accepted guidelines, published by the American Veterinary Medical Association and the Pet Food Council, approximately 39% of household own dogs and 32% own cats. On average a dog household has 1.7 dogs and a cat household has 2.2 cats. So Angelenos have not increased numbers to meet the law. Most people do not have the time/space/money to have multiple animals but many are able to care for multiple animals. Yes, this will involve a slight increase as more adoptable animals move out of the shelters. But clearly it will not be a wholesale rush.
Barking dog complaints will increase.	Department records reflect that even in multiple dog households, it is typically one dog that is the "barker". Very often, it is an only dog that is the issue. And we have laws to deal with barking dogs.
The department cannot handle current barking dog complaints.	These do take a long time for resolution. With additional revenues and fewer dogs in the shelter, LAAS could ultimately re-assign personnel or be able to make a financial case to add personnel in this area.
It will penalize apartment owners.	As they do now, owners of property may set any conditions they like for pets when they rent/lease their properties. It does not affect them at all.
There will be more yowling cats by apartments which will decrease their appeal.	This recommendation is for indoor cats. It will not increase outdoor feral cats. And, indeed, may provide homes for some of those over time.
Animal complaints will increase.	That has not been the case in other municipalities with such laws.
The community has not been heard.	Actually this is the first time there have been community meetings to get input and it was overwhelmingly in favor. The meetings were well publicized on TV, newspaper and online.
Only breeders want this change.	The vast majority of the people attending meetings and speaking in favor were dog owners and people who rescue animals from the shelter and are frustrated with not being able to rescue more.
This will not really increase licensing revenues.	Los Angeles has developed a reputation as a dog "unfriendly" city and it has relied on its police powers to "make" people comply. As we all know, that is the most expensive way to gain compliance. This approach, coupled with an innovative marketing program - making licensing easy and affordable, can be a new start for Los Angeles. Discussions are underway for bi-lingual marketing campaigns to be developed and paid for with private funds and pro bono work so educate people about the benefits of licensing. In the 2010 legislative session, the AB2689 was passed to make licensing requirements easier to meet. This will increase revenues. How much depends on our ability to keep our eye on the goal - increase licensing of dogs so we can get them home and they do not end up at the shelter!
Concerned Dog Owners of California - 10/2010	