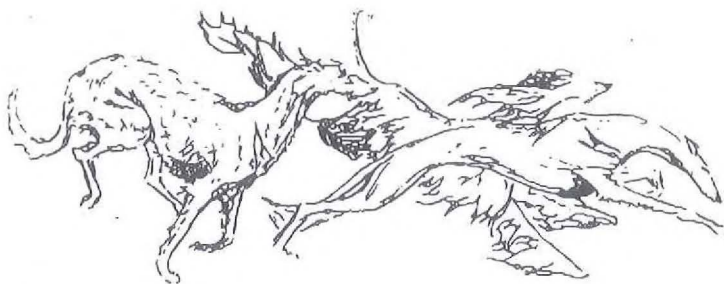


Carol Esterkin



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October 21, 2010

John White
Fax: 213-978-1079

Dear Mr. White,

Would you please place this letter in Council File 10-0982. Thank you.

As a long time responsible dog owner I urge you to support the increase to 5 dogs (or cats) which will be voted on soon.

This increase will enable people to legally give homes to more animals which will reduce the numbers now in shelters. This would reduce the costs to the city shelters and increase revenues to the city by more animals getting licenses.

The argument has been made that there are too many dogs/cats in the city which led to the present problem. I do not believe this is factual. The main problem is irresponsible ownership. Limit laws punish responsible dog owners and do nothing to those that cause the problem. Scofflaws do not license their animals. House to house inspection would be the only way to determine the number of pets per residence and doing this type inspection would add an extreme financial burden to the city.

I have been involved in pure-bred dog activities since 1956, am an American Kennel Club Judge, President of an all-breed kennel club and a member of Concerned Dog Owners of California. It is refreshing to see the L.A. Department of Animal Control want positive legislation to deal with a problem instead of the punitive direction such legislation usually takes.

The breeder/exhibitor of pure-bred dogs makes sure the puppies they produce go into proper homes. Statistics show that pups that is sold as pets (not as show dogs) are neutered or spayed by their new owners. Organized kennel club member rescue pure-bred dogs from shelters and find them suitable homes. Sadly, these are the people who suffer from the 3 dog/cat limit.

Officials should target the irresponsible owner. It is not the number of dogs/cats that matter; it is how they are cared for.

Thank you for your attention.

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