

ANIMAL ISSUES MOVEMENT

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All that is necessary for evil to prevail is for good men to do nothing. Edmund Burke

August 11, 2010

President Eric Garcetti
and all Councilmembers
Los Angeles City Council
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles CA 90012

PROTEST

Honorable Councilmembers:

CF #10-0982 – OPPOSITION to Increased Animal Limits (dogs/cats) in the City of Los Angeles

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Attached is a chart showing the animal limits of cities/jurisdictions in the immediate Los Angeles area and is submitted as a part of this file, which has been referred to LA Animal Services, the CAO and CLA. (Updated on 8/11/10 to add West Hollywood.)

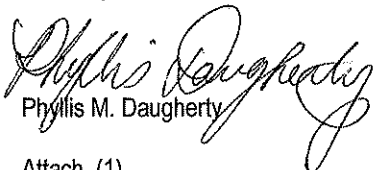
Increasing the legal limit of dogs, in particular, to this number would have a serious impact on the quality of life for both animals and humans in the community and also a negative impact on property values throughout the City, and we believe it should be opposed. It must be remembered that most pets are unaltered. Here are some of the concerns that have been expressed to Council and committees and in opposition by members of the public through the media:

- Animal safety will be endangered by "pack" behavior by dogs, which commonly develops when they are in large multiples.
- Barking/noise will be increased, not only within each residence which increases the number of pets, but throughout the community, because barking is "contagious." (One of the most frequent causes of dog barking is the presence of cats or squirrels in their sight.)
- Cats may be allowed to roam and create a nuisance on surrounding properties (including health/waste issues.)
- Emergency services and public-service personnel will be impaired from entering properties.
- Law-enforcement officers may face increased danger from aggressive-breed dogs maintained to protect criminal activity locations.
- It is reasonable to assume attacks by escaping dogs will increase.
- Sanitation/odor problems can be created by this large number of animals.
- Parasite/disease control (including airborne/contagious diseases) will increase.
- There will be increased risk for children, adults and motorists from unconfined dogs in the community and streets because of the difficulty of properly controlling/confining this number of animals. (We do not have fencing requirements specific to dogs.)
- Most pets in Los Angeles are not altered (spay/neuter ordinance is enforced only on complaint) and this could create increased accidental/intentional breeding in many backyards—creating, in essence, numerous "kennels" in residential zones.
- There is no guarantee that dogs/cats in these large numbers can live together without serious injury to each other.

It is an unnecessary and unwise proposal to place this large number of pets per residence and per block throughout the City, where many lots are less than 4,000 sq/ft. Some pet owners exceed the three dog/three cat limit already and there is no problem and no complaint; thus, no action is taken by the City, so there is really no compelling reason to increase the allowance for ALL pet owners to five dogs (or ten total dogs and cats) per resident.

There is no guarantee that this will increase adoption of shelter animals as indicated in the motion; and, because the majority of those who relinquish animals to city shelters report it is because they cannot afford care, there is no reason to assume that having more animals will guarantee greater quality care and longer retention.

Sincerely,


Phyllis M. Daugherty

Attach. (1)