

ANIMAL ISSUES MOVEMENT
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J. White

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

November 11, 2010

Councilman Greig Smith, Chair
All Members, Public Safety Committee
Los Angeles City Council

Honorable Members:

RE: CF 10-0982 COMMISSION ACTION REGARDING - MODIFICATIONS ON RECOMMENDATIONS TO INCREASE LIMITS ON CATS FROM THREE TO FIVE (INDOORS) (General Manager Brenda Barnette's Report dated November 5, 2010)

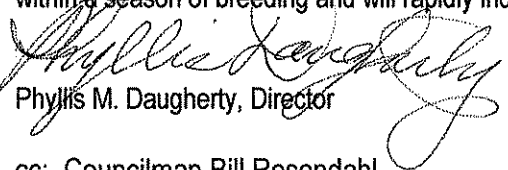
At its meeting on November 9, 2010, the Los Angeles Animal Services Commission approved the attached report by the General Manager, entitled "Modification on Recommendations to increase limits on cats from three to five (Indoors)." The Board also voted to "defer an exemption for animals in foster care under this proposal," which you may recall Animal Issues Movement contended was passed as a violation of the Brown Act.

While it is important to keep cats inside, we believe that, without a provision requiring a licensing/registration procedure and proof of spay/neuter and microchipping, this latest "modification" to an unplanned effort to increase animals in the City will only leave cats even more vulnerable to becoming strays and adding to our tragic feral cat population, which constitutes one of the major categories of impounded and euthanized animals in L.A. City shelters,

A letter from AIM (dated November 8, 2010) to the Commission suggested that, in particular, the following requirements be added. It was rejected by the General Manager and the Commission, but we still believe it is vital if this increase is considered by the Public Safety Committee and the City Council:

1. In order to have the privilege of two extra cats, they must be spayed/neutered and microchipped. Without these preconditions, this ordinance will merely allow breeders to maintain five indoor cats legally and can cause irresponsible or uneducated cat owners to increase the number of unaltered cats which may not receive proper care and/or be abandoned, relinquished to a shelter, or be placed outdoors when they reaching mating age or become a nuisance. Additionally, there is NO way to identify cat "ownership" without micro chipping and/or a license/registration (which also verifies sterilization). Therefore, this is essential to the foundation of even considering this increase and making it enforceable.
2. As discussed at the Spay/Neuter Forum on November 6, 2010, cat licensing/registration should be implemented. This is a proven revenue source, which is being instituted in many areas across the country and already has a track record of success. This is the perfect opportunity to initiate a program of requiring a license/registration for (at least) anyone owning more than three cats. If the owner is serious about the responsibility, this will not be a problem for them because of the safety benefits to the cat. If it is too much of a financial burden to license/register their cats, then perhaps they should not consider adding two more. Cat licensing also helps with a census of how many cats are in a certain household in the event of a fire or disaster where they must be evacuated.

Without the foregoing safeguards, the 66% increase in cats will merely exacerbate our current problems by a much greater number within a season of breeding and will rapidly increase our shelter euthanasia rate, as well as the inhumane deaths of cats in our streets.


Phyllis M. Daugherty, Director

cc: Councilman Bill Rosendahl
Councilman Paul Koretz
John White, Legislative Deputy, City Clerk's Office (CF 10-0982) ✓