



CARMEN A. TRUTANICH
City Attorney

REPORT NO. R 1 1 - 0 0 7 8
FEB 1 8 2011

REPORT RE:

**DRAFT ORDINANCE AMENDING VARIOUS PROVISIONS OF
SECTIONS 53.00, *et seq.* OF ARTICLE 3, CHAPTER 5 OF THE LOS ANGELES
MUNICIPAL CODE TO ENABLE THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL SERVICES TO
STREAMLINE ITS DOG LICENSING PROCESS**

The Honorable City Council
of the City of Los Angeles
Room 395, City Hall
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Council File Nos. 09-1064 and 10-1230

Honorable Members:

Pursuant to your request, this Office has prepared and now transmits for your consideration the enclosed draft ordinance, approved as to form and legality. The draft ordinance would amend various sections of the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) to enable the Department of Animal Services (Department) to streamline its dog licensing process.

Background and Summary of Ordinance Provisions

(1) Adding a new Subsection (j) to Section 53.11

All dogs and cats must be spayed or neutered prior to their adoption. The new Subsection (j) of Section 53.11 will allow the Department to collect an amount equal to the license tax and fee for a spay/neuter license even if a medical condition prevents

the dog from being spayed or neutered at the time of adoption. This will eliminate the additional step of collecting the license costs following receipt of proof of sterilization. The Department will continue its practice to enter into an agreement called the Animal Medical Advice Form, or Form D-300, requiring the new owner to spay or neuter the animal as soon as it is medically feasible. The license will not be valid until the Department receives acceptable proof that the dog has been spayed or neutered.

(2) Amending Section 53.13

Section 53.13 is modified by deleting the phrase “accruing up to the time of such redemption” at the end of paragraphs (a) and (b). The Department seeks this change due to concerns that some dog owners walk away and abandon their dogs when the redemption cost is too high. The proposed modification will not eliminate the requirement that the owner obtain a current dog license and pay other fees and charges in connection with the redemption.

(3) Amending Section 53.15 (a)

Amendments to the second paragraph of Section 53.15 (a) will allow owners to purchase dog licenses for one, two or three years, and will allow the Department to offer a \$5.00 discount for a three year license. The initial dog license will continue to be issued for one year, as the initial or primary rabies immunization, which is administered to dogs between the ages of four months and 12 months, is effective for only one year. Subsequent vaccinations are good for three years.¹

Amendments to the third paragraph of Section 53.15 (a) will allow the Department to issue a dog license with a retroactive start date so that it expires at the same time as the expiration date of the anti-rabies vaccination consistent with California Health & Safety Code Section 121690, which requires that the anti-rabies vaccination be in force for a license to be valid. The license cost will not be prorated. The expiration dates of subsequent licenses will then be in keeping with the expiration dates of subsequent anti-rabies vaccinations. This change will eliminate the necessity of mailing thousands of letters annually to notify dog owners that their license is invalid because their anti-rabies vaccination has expired.

The modification to the last paragraph of Section 53.15 (a) will allow the General Manager to accept satisfactory evidence of sterilization consistent with State law when State law is changed to permit proof of sterilization by facsimile or electronic copies. Currently, California Food & Agricultural Code Section 30804.5 requires that a copy of the spay/neuter certificate is to be signed by a veterinarian and presented to the Department before the Department may issue a license at a reduced cost for a dog that has been spayed or neutered.

¹ California Code of Regulations, Section 2606.4 (b)(1) and (3) and Section 2606.4 (b)(3).

(4) Amending Section 53.15 (d)

Section 53.15 (d) has been modified to reflect the recent change to State law enacted by the passage of AB 2689, on July 6, 2010, which added language to California Health & Safety Code Section 121690 (b) allowing a city or county to determine the proof it would accept of a dog's anti-rabies vaccination, including but not limited to electronic transmission or facsimile.

The changes to Section 53.15 (d) will allow the Department to accept electronic or facsimile proof of an anti-rabies vaccination in lieu of an original certificate, which will assist the Department in implementing an online licensing process. Prior to the passage of AB 2689, California Code of Regulations Section 2606.4 (a)(1) and (2) required an anti-rabies vaccination certificate bearing the authorized signature of a veterinarian to be presented to the Department in order for a license to be issued.

The ordinance also deletes language which prohibited a license from being issued for any dog whose anti-rabies vaccination would have provided immunization for less than 60 days from the date of issuance of the license. In lieu thereof, the Department will now be able to issue the license retroactively or extend the license expiration date and charge a prorated amount, so that both the anti-rabies vaccination and the license expire on the same date.

(5) Amending Section 53.15 (f)

The amendments to Section 53.15 (f) replace the free license for a sterilized dog owned by a very low income person who is 62 years of age or older or a disabled person, with a license that is discounted 50%. The amendment also deletes the provision that allows the dog to be sterilized within 90 days and instead, allows a discounted license to be issued only after the dog has been spayed or neutered.

The very low income language is amended by deleting reference to a family of two persons and the specific dollar amount in place at the time the section was first enacted in 1986. The amendment retains the reference to the annual figures published by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. The definition of "disabled" also is updated by referencing the definition promulgated by the California Fair Employment and Housing Act or by the United States Department of Labor.

(6) Adding Subsection (g) to Section 53.15 - Puppy Certificate

The Department would like to license dogs under the age of four months. However, California Code of Regulations Section 2606.4 (a)(1) prohibits a license from being issued until a dog is immunized against rabies. The minimum age for rabies immunization is four months of age.

The new Subsection (g) will permit the Department to issue a "puppy certificate" for a dog under the age of four months at the time of adoption from an animal shelter and collect a fee equal to the cost of a license for a spayed or neutered dog even though the dog has not received an anti-rabies shot and even if it has not been spayed or neutered. This is modeled after the "young dog certificate" program utilized by San Francisco for dogs between two and four months of age adopted from animal shelters. Within 45 days after the dog attains the age of four months, the owner can present proof of rabies vaccination and the fee will be applied as full payment for the dog license consistent with California Code of Regulations, Section 2606.4 (b)(2) which requires proof of a rabies vaccination before the issuance of the dog license. The Department can also choose to enlarge the program and issue puppy certificates to owners of dogs under the age of four months, even if the dog was not adopted from the Department.

(7) Adding Subsection (h) to Section 53.15 - Late Fees

As part of the ability to effectively enforce licensing, including online licensing, Section 53.15 (h) will reduce the current \$500 late fee found in Section 53.15.3 if the dog license costs are not paid within 45 days after the fees are due, to \$20.00 for a sterilized dog and to \$100.00 for an unsterilized dog if the dog license tax and fee are not paid within 30 days of the due date. Although this amounts to a 100% penalty of the underlying cost of a license, it is lower than the \$500 penalty it replaces and the Department believes it will result in a higher collection rate, as the \$500 penalty was rarely if ever collected.

In addition, a \$25.00 field collection fee will be assessed when the license tax and fee are collected at the dog owner's property following a notice to pay by the Department.

(8) Adding Subsection (i) to Section 53.15 - Collection of Intact Fees

The new Subsection (i) permits the Department to collect a fee equal to the license tax and fee for any dog that has not been spayed or neutered when the owner claims that the dog meets one of the exemptions in Section 53.15.2 (b) but needs time to assemble the proof. The dog owner will be permitted to enter into an agreement with the Department and will have 60 days to provide proof of exemption or have the dog spayed or neutered. Failure to provide the required proof of exemption or sterilization within the 60 days will subject the dog owner or custodian to the penalties enumerated in Section 53.15.2 (b)(7). The license shall not be considered valid until satisfactory proof is provided to the Department. No portion of the license tax or fee shall be refunded in the event the dog is spayed or neutered thereafter.

(9) Amending Section 53.15.3 - Failure to Obtain or Renew a Dog License

The \$500.00 penalty for failure to obtain or renew a dog license is being deleted since, as noted in Controller audits, it has rarely if ever been collected. The Department believes that collecting the \$500.00 penalty would entail a cumbersome, time-consuming effort on the part of staff. It is therefore being replaced by the smaller penalties established in Section 53.15 (h), above, equal to 100% of the license tax and fee.

Also added is new language that subjects the owner or custodian to a criminal citation or civil penalty for failure to obtain or renew the license within 45 days. The amount of the penalty will be \$250 for the first offense, \$500 for the second offense and \$1,000 for the third offense, consistent with the penalties in the draft administrative citation ordinance. Existing language permitting the violation to be prosecuted as a misdemeanor remains.

(10) Amending Section 53.15.4 - License Applications and Sales

Presently, the Department may authorize a licensed veterinarian to distribute dog license applications and receive a fee not to exceed \$2.00 for each application processed and license issued by the Department. The ordinance would expand the list of organizations that the Department may authorize to distribute licenses for a fee to include pet hospitals, pet stores, licensed kennels or any persons engaged in the business of breeding, selling or otherwise transferring the ownership of dogs. In addition, Subsection (b) will authorize the Department to enter into agreements with these organizations to permit the sale of dog licenses and establish the conditions of the sales. The amount to be paid to distribute or sell licenses will not exceed \$2.00 unless increased by the Board of Animal Services Commissioners and the City Council.

(11) Deleting Section 53.16

Section 53.16 is repealed. Section 63.16 required each dog license to be signed by the City Clerk and countersigned by the Controller, and appointed all members of the Department to be Deputy City Clerks for the purpose of issuing a license.

(12) Amending Section 53.27

Dog hospitals, pet shops and any person engaged in the business of breeding or selling dogs must notify the Department in writing with the name of the person to whom the dog has been sold or transferred within five days of the sale. The ordinance adds the requirement that the seller shall also furnish the Department with the person's address, telephone number and an e-mail address, if known.

(13) Amending Section 53.53

The amendment will permit a veterinarian to present a copy of the vaccination certificate in a form prescribed by the Department and forward the information by electronic transmission or facsimile, consistent with AB2689, enacted on July 6, 2010, which amends Section 121690 of the California Health & Safety Code. Currently, Section 53.53 requires veterinarians to sign the certificate in triplicate.

(14) Amending Section 53.54

Section 53.54 requires an owner or any person having custody of a dog or cat, to retain a copy of the vaccination certificate. The language has been updated consistent with recently enacted State law, to require the owner or custodian to retain a copy of the certificate or other proof of vaccination in a form acceptable to the Department and adds the requirement that the owner or custodian also retain proof of sterilization.

Approval History

The Board of Animal Services Commissioners on April 27, 2010, approved additional amendments such as late fees and deleting the \$500 penalty, offering a 50% discount instead of a free license for disabled persons or low income seniors and granting a \$5.00 discount for three year licenses. These proposed amendments were approved by your Honorable Public Safety Committee at its meeting on July 26, 2010. The Board also approved a new \$25.00 field collection fee when the license tax and fee are collected at the dog owner's property following a notice to pay by the Department.

Fee Notice and Publication

We note that, because this ordinance would impose a new fee, notice of its proposed adoption should be given in accordance with the provisions of California Government Code sections 66018 and 6062a. Those sections of State law require that prior to adoption of a new or increased fee a public hearing be held and notice of that hearing be published in a newspaper with two publications at least five days apart over a ten day period. The notice period begins the first day of publication, and there must be at least five days intervening between the first and the second publications, not counting the dates of publication.

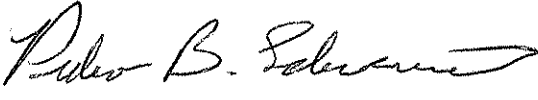
Council Rule 38 Referral

A copy of the draft ordinance was sent, pursuant to Council Rule 38 to the Department of Animal Services and the City Clerk, asking that they make any comments that they may have directly to the City Council when you consider this matter.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Assistant City Attorney Dov S. Lesel at (213) 978-8154. He or another member of this Office will be present when you consider this matter to answer any questions you may have.

Very truly yours,

CARMEN A. TRUTANICH, City Attorney

By 

PEDRO B. ECHEVERRIA
Chief Assistant City Attorney

PBE:DSL:fa
Transmittal

ORDINANCE NO. _____

Draft ordinance amending Sections 53.11, 53.13, 53.15, 53.15.3, 53.15.4, 53.27, 53.53 and 53.54, and deleting Section 53.16, of Article 3, Chapter 5 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code to streamline the dog licensing process of the Department of Animal Services including the online licensing of dogs and related changes.

**THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES
DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:**

Section 1. Subsection (j) is added to Section 53.11 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code to read as follows:

(j) Any person adopting an impounded dog of any age that has not been spayed or neutered due to a medical condition as determined by the Department shall in addition to and consistent with any other charges imposed by this Article, pay a sterilization deposit and a license tax and fee equal to that for a spayed or neutered dog, and enter into an agreement with the Department to spay or neuter the dog as soon as medically feasible and provide periodic updates and proof of spay/neuter to the Department as required by the agreement. The license shall not be valid until such satisfactory proof of spay or neuter is received by the Department.

Sec. 2. Section 53.13 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code is amended to read as follows:

(a) The owner or person entitled to the custody of any animal taken up and impounded under the provisions of this Article, may, at any time before the sale or disposal thereof as provided in this Article, redeem such animal by paying the Department the fees, charges, and, in the case of dogs which are unlicensed, by paying in addition thereto, the license tax and fee prescribed by this Article.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Article, a person who has relinquished a stray dog or cat to the Department may, until one hour after public operating hours begin on the first day the animal becomes available for sale and not thereafter, redeem such animal by paying to the Department the fees, charges, and, in case of dogs which are unlicensed, by paying in addition thereto, the license tax and fee prescribed by this Article.

Sec. 3. Subsection (a) of Section 53.15 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code is amended to read as follows:

(a) Any person owning or having custody or control of any dog shall pay a license tax of \$8.50 for each dog over the age of four months. For spayed females or neutered male dogs, or any dog certified by a licensed veterinarian to be incapable of breeding or being bred, the license tax shall be \$3.50. Such license tax shall not apply to any dog kept or maintained exclusively in any licensed dog kennel.

The license tax imposed hereunder shall be due and payable by the owner or custodian of such dog upon acquisition of said dog if the dog is four months of age or older, or once the dog reaches the age of four months, or upon expiration of any previously issued license, or upon notification by the Department that any previously issued license has expired and that such license tax is due and payable. Thereafter, except as otherwise permitted herein, such license tax shall become due and payable by such person on the date of expiration of any license previously issued for such dog. License taxes and fees shall be paid annually or every two or three years on or before the expiration date of a previously issued license. A three year license for an altered dog shall be discounted by \$5.00 off the cumulative fee amount due.

The Department is authorized to issue licenses for one, two or three years. The license may have a retroactive start date in order to expire upon the expiration date of the anti-rabies vaccination. The cost of the license shall not be prorated. In the event a license has been previously issued, subsequent licenses shall expire one, two or three years from the date of expiration of such previously issued license. Licenses shall be renewable upon payment of the appropriate license tax. The owner or custodian of a dog may choose the option of paying the license tax for said dog for a period of one, two or three years consistent with State law if such multi-year licenses are offered by the Department.

Upon payment of the license tax, the Department shall issue a license and a metal tag with the number thereof, together with the words "**L.A. Dog License**" plainly inscribed thereon. No portion of the license tax shall be refunded in the event ownership, custody or control of any dog is terminated during the license period or for any other reason.

The metal tag issued with the license shall be a permanent tag and shall be replaced only upon proof of loss or change of ownership.

A written certificate, signed by a licensed veterinarian, containing a full description of such dog as to its breed, color, sex, age and name, and reciting the fact that the female dog has been spayed or the male dog neutered or reciting the reasons why the veterinarian otherwise deems the dog described therein incapable of breeding or being bred, shall be exhibited to the person issuing a license in order to qualify for the lower tax and fee specified herein. The General Manager may accept other satisfactory evidence of spaying or neutering in lieu of such certificate where it is unavailable, or when provided in a manner prescribed by the Department, including but not limited to electronic transmission or facsimile, consistent with State law.

Sec. 4. Subsection (d) of Section 53.15 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code is amended to read as follows:

(d) No license for a dog shall be issued unless the owner shall have paid the applicable license tax provided therefor, and shall have exhibited to an authorized employee of the Department a certificate of anti-rabies vaccination of the dog, signed by

a duly licensed veterinarian, or provided other satisfactory evidence of current anti-rabies vaccination in a manner prescribed by the Department, including but not limited to electronic transmission or facsimile, consistent with State law, except as provided in Section 53.52 of this Article.

Notwithstanding the provisions of Subsection (a) of this Section, any license issued by the Department shall expire on the date upon which the anti-rabies vaccination ceases to immunize the dog for which the license has been issued. A license may be issued for one, two or three years, and commence retroactively in order to expire on the expiration date of the anti-rabies vaccination. The cost for such retroactive license shall not be prorated. In the event such immunization ceases to be effective prior to the expiration of the license, the owner shall be notified in writing that the license is not valid, at the address last known to the Department prior to the date upon which the immunization ceases to be effective. Said license may become valid for the balance of the licensing period, without payment of any additional tax, upon presentation to the Department of a new certificate of vaccination or other satisfactory evidence of a current anti-rabies vaccination showing effective immunization for the balance of such licensing period. For licenses issued before the effective date of this Subsection, in order to align the expiration date of the license and the expiration date of the anti-rabies vaccination, the Department may extend the license period for a dog license in less than a one year increment and charge a pro-rated amount therefor.

Sec. 5. Subsection (f) of Section 53.15 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code is amended to read as follows:

(f) The Department shall issue one license at 50% of the current altered license tax for one dog to any disabled individual or to any individual 62 years of age or older who owns and maintains said dog, provided that the combined adjusted gross income of all members of the household in which such individual resides is less than the "very low income" limitation for residents of the City of Los Angeles, as determined by the United States Housing Act of 1937, as amended, using the figure in effect on the preceding first day of April as published by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

For the purpose of this Subsection, an individual shall be considered to be disabled if he or she meets the definition promulgated by the California Fair Employment and Housing Act or by the United States Department of Labor.

The dog for which application for a discounted license is made must be a spayed female, a neutered male, or a dog certified by a licensed veterinarian to be incapable of breeding or being bred. Evidence that a dog is spayed or neutered, or incapable of breeding or being bred shall be provided by the owner to the Department in the same manner and form as it is specified in Subsection (a) of this Section.

No individual may apply for, be issued, or possess more than one discounted license provided for by this Subsection at any given time, and no more than one

discounted license per household shall be issued. The provisions of this Subsection shall not eliminate the duty of any individual to apply for and obtain a license for each dog owned by said individual.

Any individual who is entitled to a discounted license under the provisions of this Subsection may file an application with the Department for such a license. The license shall be automatically rendered invalid by any change in ownership of said dog. It shall be a misdemeanor for any person to knowingly receive the benefits of the discounted license provided for by this Subsection when the basis for such a discounted license either does not exist or ceases to exist.

Sec. 6. Subsection (g) is added to Section 53.15 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code to read as follows:

(g) Puppy certificate. For a dog under the age of four months old, the Department shall, in addition to any other fees charged at the time the dog is adopted by the Department, charge an amount equal to the annual license tax and fee for a spayed or neutered dog and issue a puppy certificate for such dog. The puppy certificate shall expire when the dog is four months old. Within 45 days of the expiration date of the certificate, if the Department is provided with satisfactory evidence that the dog has been sterilized and has received an anti-rabies vaccination, the owner shall be provided with a valid license at no extra charge. The one year license shall expire on the expiration date of the anti-rabies vaccination. Any person adopting or purchasing a dog from any other source may also purchase a puppy certificate from the Department or from any person or organization authorized by the Department to issue a puppy certificate.

Sec. 7. Subsection (h) is added to Section 53.15 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code to read as follows:

(h) Late fees. If the license tax imposed hereunder is not paid within 30 days of the time required hereunder, a late fee of \$20.00 for a sterilized dog or \$100.00 for an unsterilized or intact dog or such other amount as determined by the Board of Animal Services Commissioners and approved by the City Council, shall be due and payable in addition to any other civil or criminal penalties imposed by this Article. A \$25.00 field collection fee or such other amount as determined by the Board of Animal Services Commissioners and approved by the City Council, shall be due and payable when the tax for a license is collected at the property where the dog or dogs are maintained following previous notice to the owner by the Department.

Sec. 8. Subsection (i) is added to Section 53.15 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code to read as follows:

(i) The owner of any dog that has not been spayed or neutered and meets one of the exemptions in Section 53.15.2 (b)(2) shall pay a license tax equal to that of an intact dog. In the absence of such immediate proof of exemption, the owner shall

enter into an agreement with the Department to provide proof that the dog is exempt and is or will be in compliance with Subdivisions (3) and (4) of Section 53.15.2 (b), or have the dog spayed or neutered and provide satisfactory proof to the Department within 60 days that the dog is exempt in compliance with Section 53.15.2 (b) or that the dog has been spayed or neutered. Failure to provide the required proof shall subject the dog owner or custodian to the penalties enumerated in Section 53.15.2 (b)(7). The license shall not be valid until such satisfactory proof is provided to the Department. No portion of the license tax shall be refunded in the event the dog is spayed or neutered during the license period.

Sec. 9. Section 53.15.3 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code is amended to read as follows:

(a) Any person owning or having custody or control of any dog shall pay, in addition to a license tax, a fee in the sum of \$91.50 for the processing and related costs of issuance of a dog license, except that for spayed female or neutered male dogs, or any dog certified by a licensed veterinarian to be incapable of breeding or being bred, a fee of \$16.50 shall be paid. The provisions of Section 53.15 of this Code with respect to eligibility for the lower license tax specified there shall be equally applicable to eligibility for the lower fee specified in this Section. Any person eligible under the provisions of Section 53.15 of this Code for a lower license tax shall also be eligible for the lower license fee imposed by this Section and any person exempt under the provisions of Section 53.15 of this Code from paying the license tax shall be exempt from paying any the license fee imposed by this Section. License fees shall be paid at the same time and in the same manner as the license tax.

(b) In the event any dog license tax and fee required by this Article is not paid within 45 days from the date of acquisition of a dog four months of age or older, within 45 days of the dog reaching the age of four months, within 45 days of the date of expiration of any previously issued dog license, within 45 days from the date of mailing of notice to secure a license to the owner or custodian of any previously unlicensed dog, or within 45 days of the expiration date of the anti-rabies vaccination, the owner or custodian may be subject to a criminal citation or an administrative penalty in the amount of \$250.00 for the first violation, \$500 for the second violation and \$1000.00 for the third violation through an Administrative Code Enforcement program established by ordinance. A violation of the license requirement of this Article may also be prosecuted as a misdemeanor.

Sec. 10. Section 53.15.4 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code is amended to read as follows:

**SEC. 53.15.4. VETERINARIANS AND OTHERS AUTHORIZED TO DISTRIBUTE
DOG LICENSE APPLICATIONS OR SELL DOG LICENSES.**

(a) The Department may authorize a duly licensed California veterinarian, pet hospital, pet store, licensed kennel or any duly licensed person engaged in the business

of breeding, selling or otherwise transferring the ownership of dogs, to distribute dog license applications or puppy certificate applications to persons residing in the City of Los Angeles, and be paid for such services a sum not to exceed \$2.00 or such other amount as determined by the Board of Animal Services Commissioners and approved by the City Council, for each application processed and license issued by the Department.

(b) The Department may also authorize a duly licensed California veterinarian, pet hospital, pet store, licensed kennel or any duly licensed person engaged in the business of breeding, selling or otherwise transferring the ownership of dogs, to sell dog licenses or puppy certificates to persons residing in the City of Los Angeles and be paid for such services by entering into an agreement with the Department establishing the conditions of such sale. The amount to be paid for such services shall not exceed \$2.00 or such other amount as determined by the Board of Animal Services Commissioners and approved by the City Council.

Sec. 11. Section 53.16 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code is hereby repealed.

Sec. 12. Section 53.27 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code is amended to read as follows:

The owner or operator of any dog hospital or pet shop, and any person engaged in the business of breeding dogs or a veterinarian who sells, gives away or in any manner causes the ownership or permanent possession of any dog, whether over four (4) months of age or not, to be transferred to any person, shall notify in writing the Department of that fact within five (5) days after the date of such sale or transfer. Such notice shall state the kind of dog, the name of such dog, if any, and the name, address, telephone number and if known, the electronic mail address, of the person to whom such dog has been sold or transferred.

Sec. 13. Section 53.53 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code is amended to read as follows:

Each duly licensed veterinarian, after vaccinating any dog, shall sign a certificate containing the following information:

1. The name and address of the owner or custodian of the vaccinated dog;
2. The kind of vaccine used and the date of the vaccination;
3. The year and serial number of the dog tag;
4. The breed, age, color and sex of the vaccinated dog; and
5. Such other information as the General Manager may require or such other information as may be required by State law.

The veterinarian shall immediately present one copy of the rabies vaccination documentation to the owner of the vaccinated dog. A second copy shall be forwarded to the Department of Animal Services within five (5) calendar days after the end of the month in which the vaccination was administered, on a form and in a manner prescribed by the Department, including but not limited to electronic transmission or facsimile, consistent with State law. A copy of the certificate shall also be retained by the veterinarian.

Sec. 14. Section 53.54 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code is amended to read as follows:

SEC. 53.54. VACCINATION CERTIFICATES, PROOF OF STERILIZATION AND OTHER PROOF TO BE RETAINED BY OWNER.

A copy of the vaccination certificate or other proof of vaccination and proof of sterilization or proof of exemption from sterilization, in a form acceptable to the Department, shall be retained by the owner or custodian of any dog and where applicable, for any cat, for inspection by the authorized representatives of the Department.

Sec. 15. The City Clerk shall certify to the passage of this ordinance and have it published in accordance with Council policy, either in a daily newspaper circulated in the City of Los Angeles or by posting for ten days in three public places in the City of Los Angeles: one copy on the bulletin board located in the Main Street entrance to the Los Angeles City Hall; one copy on the bulletin board located at the Main Street entrance to the Los Angeles City Hall East; and one copy on the bulletin board located at the Temple Street entrance to the Los Angeles County Hall of Records.

I hereby certify that this ordinance was passed by the Council of the City of Los Angeles, at its meeting of _____.

JUNE LAGMAY, City Clerk

By _____
Deputy

Approved _____

Mayor

Approved as to Form and Legality:

CARMEN A. TRUTANICH, City Attorney

By 
DOV S. LESEL
Assistant City Attorney

Date 2/18/2011

File Nos. 09-1064 and 10-1230