

CITY OF LOS ANGELES  
INTER-DEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

0590-00098-4185

Date: August 12, 2011

To: The Council  
The Mayor

From: Miguel A. Santana, City Administrative Officer

Subject: **Northeast Animal Care Center Proposal**

Over the past week, my staff has met with and briefed your staff on the proposal submitted by Best Friends Animal Society (BFAS) to operate the Northeast Animal Care Center (Northeast). The following questions were raised during these meetings:

**1) Will Best Friends promote Trap, Neuter, and Return (TNR) at Northeast?**

An existing injunction prohibits the City from supporting or subsidizing TNR until an appropriate environmental review by CEQA has been completed. The Northeast Care Center contract does not advocate or support TNR activities. The proposed contract was designed to enhance services currently provided by the City and expressly prohibits BFAS from engaging in TNR activities at Northeast. If BFAS engages in any form of TNR as part of the operation of Northeast, the City will terminate the proposed agreement.

**2) Will this agreement affect the employment of existing staff at the Department of Animal Services (Department)?**

The proposed agreement does not result in any layoffs or the transfer of existing Department personnel to other City Departments.

**3) How long is the proposed contract?**

Three years with two one-year renewal options.

**4) Will BFAS accept the Department's spay/neuter coupons?**

Yes, BFAS will accept spay/neuter voucher coupons.

**5) Who selects which animals will be housed at Northeast?**

The Department's General Manager shall determine which animals BFAS may select and transport to Northeast for adoption.

**6) How long will animals at Northeast be held? Will animals be euthanized by BFAS?**

BFAS will care for animals until a suitable placement occurs. BFAS does not view Northeast as a sanctuary or a long-term residence for animals, so animals will not be housed at Northeast for their entire lives. BFAS will not return animals to the City to be euthanized and BFAS will not euthanize animals in their care except in cases of irremediable suffering, disease or injury.

**7) Will BFAS license animals adopted from Northeast?**

Yes, BFAS will sell licenses to all City residents who adopt dogs from Northeast and remit the \$20 license fee and owner information to the City.

**8) What is the operational impact of Alternative Four?**

Alternative Four will reduce services and operating hours at the City's six operating Care Centers. This alternative will also increase the Department's current euthanasia rate.

**9) What is the minimum number of days an animal must be held prior to being euthanized?**

The Hayden Bill requires an animal be held for at least four business days before being euthanized.

**10) On average, how long are animals currently held before being euthanized?**

On average, animals are held for eight or nine days before being euthanized due to time and space constraints.

**11) Will BFAS provide animal control and law enforcement services?**

No, BFAS will not be taking on any of the Animal Control functions of the Department, such as picking up stray animals or responding to field calls. The Department will continue to provide these animal control services. The Department's filled and funded Animal Control Officer (ACO) authorities have not been modified and ACO positions will not be reduced in the future as a result of this agreement.

**12) Will BFAS accept owner surrenders at Northeast?**

No, City residents will be required to transport their pets for surrender to a City operated Care Center.

Should you have any additional questions, please contact Jason Killeen at (213) 473-7574.