



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

Correction on file number or previous email--item 13-1513

1 message

KathyARiordan@aol.com <KathyARiordan@aol.com>

Sun, Nov 17, 2013 at 1:34 AM

To: Adam.lid@lacity.org

Dear Mr Lid-

Would you please replace my prior email for public record (and Council file) with this one which provides the correct item number? I apologize for the inconvenience. .

Re: 13-1513 (cat limit code amendment)--please submit to the Council record

Greetings Councilmembers--Thank you for considering an amendment to LAMC 53.00 (cat limit). I support the amendment to increase the number of owned cats as moved provided if be further amended to include stricter spay/neuter requirements than LAMC 53.15.2, that the cats be microchipped and that the permit requirements for more than five include humane standards.

With regard to stricter spay/neuter requirements, please consider further amending the cat limit proposal with the following: that LAMC 53.15.2 applies to any household with three or fewer adult cats. However, any household with more than three adult cats should only be allowed a medical exemption as delineated LAMC 53.15.2 subsection (b) E which describes the medical exemption requirements. No further exemptions should be allowed.

Please include the additional requirement to microchip. Cats can sometimes "escape" from their homes and chipping is a beneficial aid for reuniting owners with their cats.

Attached is a 2006 LAAS board report that reflects the above request (with a personal footnote on page two of the report). The board reports do not mention the increase to five which I also support with the addition of microchipping and the aforementioned stricter spay/neuter requirements.

Thank you - Kathy Riordan.



**City of Los Angeles
DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL SERVICES**



**DOMESTIC CAT PERMIT
APPLICATION / AGREEMENT - FOUR OR MORE CATS**

Name: Last First Initial Driver's License No. _____ State ____	Address:
Home Phone:	Business Phone:
Other Information:	

Terms and Conditions

Applicant must comply with the following terms and conditions:

- (1) The cats shall not be maintained for any commercial purposes. No cats shall be boarded at or sold from the premises.
- (2) All cats must be microchipped, spayed or neutered, and vaccinated where necessary. Evidence of such must be presented upon demand.
- (3) All cats are maintained indoors, unless:
 - They are confined in an outdoors enclosure from which they cannot escape and that meets all humane requirements for shelter and safety; and
 - No such enclosure shall be placed or erected within 15 feet of any dwelling or living quarters of any person other than the Permit holder.
- (4) If maintained exclusively or for more than 50% of the time in a cage or similar enclosure, the cage or similar enclosure must be a minimum of 78 cubic feet per cat contained therein. Cats confined within such enclosures shall be fed at least once per day and have access to water in a spill-proof container at all times. Cats maintained in such enclosures must be kept in humane conditions, including comfortable temperatures. Each such cage or similar enclosure must be maintained in good sanitary conditions at all times, and must contain all of the following:
 - A cat den or nesting box.
 - Adequate bedding.
 - A litter box.
 - An object for the cat(s) to scratch on.
 - A shelf for the cat(s) to climb up on, large enough for each cat contained within the enclosure to stand upright upon.
- (5) Injured or sick cats must receive immediate veterinary medical care provided by a veterinarian licensed to practice in California. Written records of veterinary care shall be maintained on the premises and shall be furnished to the Department upon demand.

- (6) Litter boxes must be cleaned as frequently as necessary and maintained in a manner designed to insure sanitary conditions to prevent contamination and reduce health hazards and odors, and the ratio of cats to available litter boxes may not be less than 3 to 1.

If stored on the premises, soiled litter must be kept in closed (lidded) containers. Soiled litter must be removed from the premises and disposed of properly in the Permit holders' trash containers and shall not be washed into the gutter or storm drain.

- (7) Inspection by Department personnel is not required prior to the issuance of a Cat Permit, however, the Department may conduct an inspection when complaints are received or at other times as deemed appropriate.
- (8) Obey all laws of the State of California and ordinances of the City pertaining to the humane treatment of animals so that the animals will not be subject to needless suffering, unnecessary cruelty or abuse, and maintain the premises in a clean and sanitary condition and not constitute a menace to the peace, health and safety of the community.
- (9) The names and types of cats at the location are as follows:

Name	Breed	Color	Age
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			

THIS PERMIT MAY BE REVOKED UPON A VIOLATION OF ANY OF THESE REQUIREMENTS.

I CERTIFY THAT I HAVE READ, UNDERSTAND AND ACCEPT THE CONDITIONS SPECIFIED IN THIS AGREEMENT AND AGREE TO ABIDE BY THE TERMS OF THE PERMIT.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____

Office use only	
Fee Paid for _____, 20__	Total Received \$ _____
Received by:	Date Received:

**BOARD OF
ANIMAL SERVICES
COMMISSIONERS**

KATHLEEN RIORDAN
PRESIDENT

TARIQ A. KHERO
VICE PRESIDENT

MARIE ATAKE

GLENN S. BROWN

DEBORAH ANN KNAAN

City of Los Angeles
CALIFORNIA



ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA
MAYOR

DEPARTMENT OF
ANIMAL SERVICES
221 North Figueroa Street
5th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90012
(888) 452-7381
FAX (213) 482-9511

EDWARD A. BOKS
General Manager

Report to the Board of Animal Services Commissioners

Edward A. Boks, General Manager

COMMISSION MEETING DATE: March 28,
2006

PREPARED BY: Keith D. Kramer

TITLE: Senior ACO II

SUBJECT: Increase in Number of Cats
Per Household

REPORT DATE: March 22, 2006

SUMMARY:

The Board of Animal Services Commissioners (Commission) directed the Department of Animal Services (Department) to recommend changes in City Codes to allow an increase in the number of cats allowed in each household. Currently, City residents may have no more than three (3) cats, per household, without first obtaining a Department permit to operate a cat kennel. In order to allow residents to have more than three cats per household, the Department recommends the creation of a non-commercial, multi-cat permit. The permit will allow a household to have more than three (3) cats provided they meet the criteria and obtain the necessary Department permit.

BOARD ACTION RECOMMENDED:

It is recommended that the Commission request that the City Council direct the Office of the City Attorney to draft an ordinance amending the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) to enable the Department to issue permits for more than three cats in residential, commercial or manufacturing areas as long as all of the cats are spayed or neutered and micro-chipped, the location is not used for any commercial purpose with respect to cats such as breeding, sales of cats or boarding of cats and such other requirements as determined by the Department along the general guidelines contained in this report and the attached proposed draft Cat Permit. These permits would be in addition to Cat Kennel permits but not be limited by geographic restrictions. It is further recommended that the Commission request the City Council modify the existing language of the Cat Kennel definition in LAMC 53.00 to apply to any commercial purposes, including but not limited to boarding kennels, breeding locations, or locations where any sale of cats takes place.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Visit our website at www.LAAnimalServices.com

Report to the Board of Animal Services Commissioners

**Subject: Increase in Number of Cats
Per Household**

**Edward A. Boks
General Manager**

BACKGROUND / HISTORY (Including any current policies and procedures):

Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 53.00 defines a “Cat Kennel” as “any lot, building, structure, enclosure, or premises, where four or more cats are kept or maintained for any purpose.” Additionally, LAMC Section 53.50, states that no person may “keep, conduct or operate” any cat kennel in the City of Los Angeles without first obtaining a permit from the Department to do so.

DISCUSSION / OPTION

In order to allow City residents to have more than three cats, a permit from Animal Services should be required, which would allow the Department to enforce rules and regulations regarding ownership of four or more cats. This would also ensure that the animals are provided with proper care and attention, which is also required by the California Penal Code.

Historically, the Department’s concerns regarding residents maintaining excess cats center around alleged violations of the Penal Code (i.e., cruelty to animals, failure to provide proper food, water, veterinary care, sanitation, etc.). Enforcement and follow-up (including filing of criminal charges, if any) are almost always determined by the presence (or absence) of cruelty issues. And, unless these more egregious violations are alleged, investigating complaints of keeping excess cats without a permit is a low priority to the Department’s law enforcement personnel. The changes recommended in permit requirements will likely have no effect on these enforcement procedures.

Other than cruelty issues, uncontrolled breeding would be the Department’s next major concern in this area. However, LAMC Section 53.15.2 Breeding and Transfer of Dogs and Cats, which became effective on November 15, 2000, addresses this issue by regulating unaltered cats and requiring permits for breeding them.



Absent any cruelty or breeding issues, most households in the City could easily accommodate more than three cats. However, any decision to increase cat limits should also take into consideration that it may cause a possible increase in the number of stray cats in the City. Although, in most cases no action is taken, the Department does receive many complaints annually regarding cats straying off their owner’s property.

In researching this issue, representatives of several local agencies were contacted. The following information represents policies of animal care and control agencies located throughout the Los Angeles basin.

City of Santa Monica

The Santa Monica Police Department’s Animal Regulations Unit enforces animal-related laws and ordinances within the City of Santa Monica.

Because Santa Monica has no ordinance restricting the number of cats that may be maintained at a residence, complaints regarding residents maintaining too many cats are not investigated. Humane complaints related to maintaining excess cats are investigated as possible violations of the California Penal Code.

Report to the Board of Animal Services Commissioners

**Subject: Increase in Number of Cats
Per Household**

**Edward A. Boks
General Manager**

According to a senior official, the Santa Monica City Council has indicated that they are unwilling to address the issue of limiting the number of cats per residence because of the rarity of complaints, prosecutions, etc., relating to this matter.

Los Angeles County

Section 10.08.090 of the Los Angeles County Code states that “Up to five cats may be kept at any residence without a kennel license, provided the cats’ owner or custodian licenses each individual animal, has each spayed or neutered and keeps all cats primarily indoors.”

The LA County Animal Care and Control Department enforces all state and local animal control laws for the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County and for 50 contract cities. While most of these communities have adopted the LA County Code, some have individually created similar ordinances restricting the number of animals in residential areas (Inglewood, for example, allows only two cats per household). Enforcement is similar to LAAS practices: initial violations observed result in the issuance of a notice to comply; violations observed during follow-up instigations result in the issuance of a citation.

City of Burbank

Section 6-101 of the Burbank Municipal Code defines a kennel as “any lot, building, enclosure or premises wherein four (4) or more dogs, cats, or combination thereof, four (4) months of age or over are kept.”

Section 6-1202 (Permit Required; Duration) states that “No one shall engage in the operation of a kennel without first obtaining a permit so to do from the License Division.” As in the City of Los Angeles, permits to operate a kennel are not granted in residential areas.

Animal control in the City of Burbank is a division of the Burbank Police Department. Enforcement is similar to LAAS practices (see LA County, above).

Pasadena / Glendale

The Pasadena Humane Society and Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, a private, non-profit organization, provides animal care and control services for seven communities, including Pasadena, Glendale, La Cañada Flintridge, San Marino, and Arcadia. The limit for maintaining cats in residential areas without a kennel permit varies (from three to five) within these communities. Enforcement is similar to LAAS practices (see LA County, above).

South East Area Animal Control Authority

Located in Downey, SEAACA provides animal care and control services for twelve contract cities, including Downey, Bellflower, Montebello, Norwalk, Paramount, Pico Rivera, Santa Fe Springs and South Gate. Each of these communities limits the number of cats that can be maintained in residential areas (from two to four). Enforcement is similar to LAAS practices.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that the Commission direct the Department to create a multi-cat permit (meaning more than three cats) following changes to the LAMC, requiring applicants to comply with the following terms and conditions:

- 1) The cats are not being maintained for commercial purposes. No cats shall be boarded at or sold from the location.
- 2) All cats must be micro-chipped, spayed or neutered. Evidence of such must be presented upon demand.
- 3) All cats are to be maintained indoors, unless:
 - They are confined in an outdoors enclosure from which they cannot escape and that meets all humane requirements for shelter and safety; and
 - No such enclosure shall be placed or erected within 35 feet of any dwelling or living quarters of any person other than the Permit holder.
- 4) If maintained exclusively or for more than 50% of the time in a cage or similar enclosure, the cage or similar enclosure must be a minimum of 78 cubic feet per cat contained therein. Cats confined within such enclosures shall be fed at least once per day and have access to water in a spill-proof container at all times. Cats maintained in such enclosures must be kept in humane conditions, including comfortable temperatures. Each such cage or similar enclosure must be maintained in good sanitary conditions at all times, and must contain:
 - A cat den or nesting box.
 - Adequate bedding.
 - A litter box.
 - An object for the cat(s) to scratch on.
 - A shelf for the cat(s) to climb up on, large enough for each cat contained within the enclosure to stand upright upon.
- 5) Injured or sick cats must receive immediate veterinary medical care provided by a veterinarian licensed to practice in California. Written records of veterinary care shall be maintained on the premises and shall be furnished to the Department upon demand.
- 6) Litter boxes must be cleaned daily, and with a ratio of cats to available litter boxes of not less than 3 to 1. If stored on the premises, soiled litter must be kept in closed (lidded) containers. Soiled litter must be removed from the premises and disposed of properly at least once per week.
- 7) Inspection by Department personnel is not required prior to the issuance of a Cat Permit, however, the Department may conduct an inspection when complaints are received or at other times as deemed appropriate.

A draft of the proposed permit application is attached.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Report to the Board of Animal Services Commissioners

**Subject: Increase in Number of Cats
Per Household**

**Edward A. Boks
General Manager**

The Department recommends a fee of \$50.00 is charged for any multi-cat permits. Income generated through the multi-cat permit process will help offset the Department's cost of permit issuance, complaint investigation and regulation of the new Ordinance.

Although it is difficult to predict the number of multi-cat licenses that will be issued, it is estimated that the revenue generated should be \$15,000 or more.

Edward Boks, General Manager

BOARD ACTION:

_____ Passed _____ Disapproved _____
_____ Passed with noted modifications _____ Continued _____
_____ Tabled _____ New Date _____