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## Cat limit increase - Nov 19 PAW Comm agenda - Necessary amendment please

1 message

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CatNose1@aol.com <CatNose1@aol.com>

Mon, Nov 18, 2013 at 11:20 AM

To: councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org, Councilmember.Koretz@lacity.org, councilmember.fuentes@lacity.org, adam.lid@lacity.org

Dear City Council and PAW Committee Members,

Although the cat limit increase is a necessary concept, the proposal requires one amendment to stop it from doing harm and allow it to do much good.

**To accomplish its goal of helping cats, the proposal requires this one simple amendment: Require that, if a home has more than three cats, then ALL cats in the home must be spayed or neutered. The ONLY exemption from spay/neuter of all cats when the total is more than three should be for medical necessity (certified by a licensed California veterinarian) preventing the cat from being safely sterilized.**

Without this amendment, you are, for all practical purposes, allowing five cats under one roof without any of them being spayed or neutered -- a recipe for increasing unwanted cat births -- making things worse not better.

Too much of animal services policy is determined by wishful thinking. PLEASE CONSIDER THE **REALITY**:

1. What happens with two, three, four or five unsterilized cats under one roof? Very soon, more cats happen. Soon thereafter, even more cats happen. Then still more. **The proposal without this strict spay/neuter requirement will increase cat births and make euthanasia worse, not better.**
2. The current proposal will allow more than five cats under the same roof without a strict spay/neuter requirement if a permit is obtained and an annual inspection is allowed. **As proposed, the permit and inspection will do nothing to ensure that more-than-three-cat homes do not quickly become a breeding factory.** (Also, LAAS lacks resources to have an effective permit and inspection program -- it can't even adequately staff existing needs.)
3. **NO, the spay/neuter ordinance does NOT prevent these problems!**
  - a. The Spay/neuter ordinance was written when the city's cat limit was three per home. **The**

**spay/neuter ordinance's exemptions were never intended to apply to more than three cats per home.** With more than three cats per home, the spay/neuter exemptions must be restricted.

b. Also, spay/neuter ordinance enforcement in Los Angeles is widely seen as ineffective and low priority for current management, undermining voluntary compliance. Violations go unabated, causing the spay/neuter ordinance to fall far short of its goal.

i. Exemption A to the spay/neuter ordinance involving breed registries recognized by the Commission is so ambiguous that most do not know how to find the registry or if there is one. With such uncertainty, enforcement is not possible.

ii. When I did a Public Records Act request, **LAAS did not even know about spay/neuter enforcement collections.**

iii. The administrative citation program that could greatly benefit spay/neuter enforcement has stalled, and appears to have no genuine advocate in LAAS management.

iv. LAAS still has not opened three (out of six) of its Proposition F spay/neuter clinics to spay/neuter the public's pets.

v. **LAAS has squandered at least \$600,000 of its spay/neuter funds.**

**I URGE YOU PLEASE: Amend the proposal to require that ALL cats in a home with more than three cats be sterilized -- with veterinary-certified medical necessity being the ONLY exemption.** Otherwise, please do not pass the motion.

I recognize and applaud the good intention behind the motion, but **without the strict spay/neuter requirement, the proposal will do more harm to the cats than good.**

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Laura Beth Heisen, M.B.A., J.D.

Past Commissioner of the Board of L.A. Animal Services

Chair, City of Los Angeles Spay/Neuter Advisory Committee

Founding Director and Officer, Animal Match Rescue Team, Inc. a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to reducing companion animal overpopulation and shelter euthanasia