



February 17, 2015

Personnel and Animal Welfare Committee

Attn: Councilman Paul Koretz, Chair; Councilman Felipe Fuentes, Member; Councilman Mitch O'Farrell, Member
Los Angeles City Council
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: February 17, 2015 Item 4, Counsel File 13-1513, Increase the Cat Limits for Owned Cats

Gentlemen:

Actors and Others for Animals would like to voice our opposition to the recommendation to increase the cat limits for owned cats as currently written.

I cannot be there in person. After regularly checking the calendar for over a week prior to the holiday weekend and seeing nothing, I was taken by surprise when I checked it just now and saw that it was on the agenda today.

We are not opposed to raising the cat limit, but do have several serious concerns about the proposal. I am going to address our major concern here. We are opposed to the concept of "clowders" and the fee/inspection element of the proposal. I have been working closely with the Department for the last year on backyard breeders, and the one sticking point in moving forward is the lack of animal control officers to go out and do inspections. Now you are going to allow anyone in the City of Los Angeles to have more than 16 plus cats as long as they pay for a permit and will allow a once a year inspection. **Please tell me who is going to do those inspections?**

Recently Josh Grover did a report on the lack of follow-up inspections on dogs that had been deemed dangerous by the Department. Again, lack of animal control officers to do those inspections was listed as a cause. And the Council has asked the Department to increase dog licenses, but that too has had a hard go of it for lack of manpower. Couple this with all of the complaints we hear from citizens about the lack of animal control officers, and you are just asking for trouble. It seems incredulous that a proposal that requires so much manpower is getting serious consideration.

We strongly urge you to reject the proposal as written. The truth of the matter is that right now in the City everyone who wants more than three cats already has them. It is flawed thinking that this proposal will generate more public adoptions from the City shelters. What it will do is generate those people who already have a lot of cats to fill their homes with more cats for they know that the Department will be unable to enforce the requirements and restrictions of this ordinance.

A more reasonable approach would be to simply increase the number of owned cats say from three to six, and work on an ordinance for those who foster cats.

Thank you for your time.

On behalf of the animals,

Susan Taylor, Executive Director

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