

MOTION

This summer's heat waves have placed a strain on the Department of Animal Services' (LAAS) ability to provide adequate respite for the animals in its possession and care, especially in the kennel and other shelter holding areas.

The various shelter facilities constructed with Proposition F monies included indoor-outdoor dog kennels which were intended both to provide the dogs with a small shaded indoor area and an outside area where they could get fresh air and where the sunlight would literally serve as a disinfectant and help keep the kennels more sanitary. A system of plumbing ("mistlers") intended to provide a cooling water spray on hot days was installed in each of the new shelter kennels. At the West Valley shelter, however, pre-existing indoor-outdoor shelters with "swamp coolers" in the indoor areas were left in place and no other equipment added to mitigate high heat.

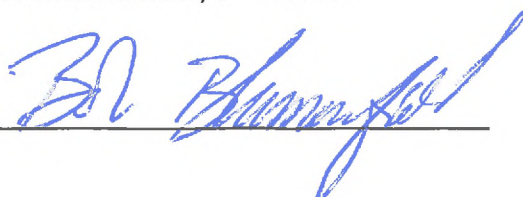
However, the swamp coolers struggle in periods of very high heat and high humidity, such as that which has visited Los Angeles in the summer of 2015. This suggests that LAAS should, in consultation with General Services and other appropriate experts, explore what additional measures might be taken to keep the dogs safe in extreme weather, including misting systems or upgrading of the swamp coolers, as well as interim approaches while awaiting permanent solutions.


Additionally, these misting systems periodically have been subject to untimely breakdowns. This summer has seen such breakdowns and the animals have had to endure the weather while makeshift efforts to cool them have been undertaken. The dialogue should include discussions of how the misting systems can be improved and made more reliable.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Department of Animal Services, in consultation with the Department of General Services, explore options for upgrading and making more reliable the hot weather mitigation systems at its animal shelters, and report back as soon as possible; and

I FURTHER MOVE that the status of Proposition F and other potential sources of funding be reviewed to pay for any upgrades that may be deemed necessary or desirable.

PRESENTED BY: 
PAUL KORETZ
Councilmember, 5th District

SECONDED BY: 


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