

**BOARD OF
ANIMAL SERVICES
COMMISSIONERS**

DAVID ZAFT
PRESIDENT

LARRY GROSS
VICE PRESIDENT

COMMISSIONERS

OLIVIA GARCIA

ROGER WOLFSON
ALANA YAÑEZ

City of Los Angeles
CALIFORNIA



ERIC GARCETTI
MAYOR

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

BRENDA F. BARNETTE
GENERAL MANAGER

DANA BROWN
ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER

DR. JEREMY PRUPAS
CHIEF VETERINARIAN

April 20, 2016

Honorable Personnel and Animal Welfare Committee
Councilmember Paul Koretz, Chairman
Councilmember David Ryu
Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson

RE: Motion 16-0056 (Presented by Councilmember David Ryu and Seconded by Councilmember Paul Krekorian)

This motion requests information regarding owner surrendered pets at the five City shelters operated by the Department of Animal Services over the past five years including the primary reasons given for why these pets are surrendered.

From the chart below, there has been a 15% reduction in owner surrenders for dogs and cats and a 14% reduction in owner surrenders for rabbits from 2011 until 2015.

The top reasons given for surrendering the pets were:

| | |
|--------------------|-------|
| OTHER (none given) | 17.0% |
| NO TIME | 11.5% |
| MOVE | 11.2% |
| LND LRD/ZN | 10.6% |
| TOO MANY | 9.0% |
| COST/MEDIC | 7.0% |
| DIED | 5.4% |

Date: 4/20/16
Submitted in PAW Committee
Council File No: 16-0056
Item No.: 3
Deputy: Adam R. Lid

Owner Surrender Intake and Reasons for Cats, Dogs and Rabbits 2011 to 2015

Owner Surrender Intake by Animal Type for the Period 1/1/11 to 12/31/15

| CATS | ANNEX | E VALLEY | HARBOR | N CENTRAL | SOUTH LA | W VALLEY | WEST LA | Total | % |
|----------------|------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|------|
| 2011 | 74 | 734 | 308 | 531 | 357 | 760 | 462 | 3,226 | |
| 2012 | 84 | 770 | 250 | 449 | 364 | 587 | 537 | 3,041 | |
| 2013 | 0 | 716 | 330 | 494 | 398 | 744 | 432 | 3,114 | |
| 2014 | 0 | 622 | 307 | 516 | 365 | 520 | 424 | 2,754 | |
| 2015 | 0 | 728 | 304 | 561 | 373 | 568 | 414 | 2,948 | -15% |
| Total | 158 | 3,570 | 1,499 | 2,551 | 1,857 | 3,179 | 2,269 | 15,083 | |
| DOGS | | | | | | | | | |
| 2011 | 261 | 2,089 | 832 | 1,703 | 1,841 | 1,517 | 717 | 8,960 | |
| 2012 | 186 | 2,201 | 730 | 1,624 | 1,784 | 1,469 | 952 | 8,946 | |
| 2013 | 4 | 2,176 | 722 | 1,462 | 1,722 | 1,151 | 863 | 8,100 | |
| 2014 | 0 | 1,927 | 669 | 1,259 | 1,778 | 1,101 | 795 | 7,529 | |
| 2015 | 0 | 1,955 | 698 | 1,356 | 1,852 | 1,053 | 698 | 7,612 | -15% |
| Total | 451 | 10,348 | 3,651 | 7,404 | 8,977 | 6,291 | 4,025 | 41,147 | |
| Rabbits | | | | | | | | | |
| 2011 | 12 | 54 | 13 | 30 | 5 | 51 | 45 | 210 | |
| 2012 | 3 | 82 | 16 | 24 | 16 | 52 | 45 | 238 | |
| 2013 | 0 | 71 | 40 | 55 | 23 | 61 | 54 | 304 | |
| 2014 | 0 | 56 | 8 | 147 | 22 | 75 | 33 | 341 | |
| 2015 | 0 | 32 | 8 | 27 | 18 | 66 | 29 | 180 | -14% |
| Total | 15 | 295 | 85 | 283 | 84 | 305 | 206 | 1,273 | |
| Total | 624 | 14,213 | 5,235 | 10,238 | 10,918 | 9,775 | 6,500 | 57,503 | |

Owner Surrender Reasons for the Period 1/1/11 to 12/31/15

| | ANNEX | E VALLEY | HARBOR | N CENTRAL | SOUTH LA | W VALLEY | WEST LA | Total | % |
|------------|-------|----------|--------|-----------|----------|----------|---------|-------|-------|
| OTHER | 70 | 1,945 | 1,151 | 2,039 | 1,534 | 2,061 | 960 | 9,760 | 17.0% |
| NO TIME | 44 | 1,787 | 369 | 1,087 | 1,313 | 999 | 1,004 | 6,603 | 11.5% |
| MOVE | 75 | 1,823 | 515 | 1,014 | 1,236 | 994 | 758 | 6,415 | 11.2% |
| LND LRD/ZN | 91 | 1,317 | 520 | 1,407 | 1,394 | 703 | 669 | 6,101 | 10.6% |
| TOO MANY | 136 | 1,350 | 534 | 1,012 | 993 | 774 | 365 | 5,164 | 9.0% |
| COST/MEDIC | 35 | 1,002 | 401 | 638 | 1,173 | 468 | 333 | 4,050 | 7.0% |
| DIED | 3 | 1,035 | 229 | 606 | 492 | 601 | 154 | 3,120 | 5.4% |
| AGG ANIMAL | 55 | 441 | 159 | 279 | 255 | 324 | 222 | 1,735 | 3.0% |
| ALLERGIC | 10 | 402 | 140 | 214 | 223 | 426 | 305 | 1,720 | 3.0% |
| OTHER PET | 5 | 377 | 170 | 191 | 126 | 406 | 291 | 1,566 | 2.7% |
| LOST HOME | 11 | 414 | 99 | 200 | 236 | 325 | 118 | 1,403 | 2.4% |
| ILL | 5 | 245 | 139 | 242 | 430 | 114 | 209 | 1,384 | 2.4% |
| AGG PEOPLE | 34 | 374 | 83 | 229 | 174 | 266 | 157 | 1,317 | 2.3% |
| NO HOME | 14 | 182 | 111 | 132 | 213 | 120 | 98 | 870 | 1.5% |
| DESTRUCTIV | 4 | 205 | 65 | 105 | 177 | 81 | 114 | 751 | 1.3% |
| HYPER | 2 | 166 | 53 | 89 | 117 | 194 | 96 | 717 | 1.2% |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|------|
| ESCAPES | 4 | 159 | 68 | 104 | 154 | 130 | 61 | 680 | 1.2% |
| VOCAL | 5 | 123 | 58 | 100 | 87 | 108 | 104 | 585 | 1.0% |
| AGG CHILD | 7 | 123 | 49 | 65 | 72 | 133 | 73 | 522 | 0.9% |
| NEW BABY | 2 | 140 | 39 | 73 | 67 | 87 | 81 | 489 | 0.9% |
| HOUSE SOIL | 0 | 85 | 56 | 35 | 44 | 102 | 99 | 421 | 0.7% |
| AGE | 0 | 86 | 52 | 60 | 162 | 27 | 27 | 414 | 0.7% |
| SIZE | 3 | 96 | 54 | 54 | 67 | 72 | 30 | 376 | 0.7% |
| INVESTIGAT | 3 | 88 | 15 | 131 | 31 | 41 | 7 | 316 | 0.5% |
| OWNER | 2 | 66 | 32 | 40 | 37 | 74 | 61 | 312 | |
| DIED | | | | | | | | | 0.5% |
| TIMID | 1 | 65 | 20 | 22 | 22 | 91 | 29 | 250 | 0.4% |
| DIVORCE | 2 | 47 | 28 | 27 | 13 | 30 | 29 | 176 | 0.3% |
| INJURED | 0 | 26 | 21 | 24 | 45 | 12 | 10 | 138 | 0.2% |
| NO | 1 | 24 | 1 | 7 | 18 | 3 | 27 | 81 | |
| PROTECT | | | | | | | | | 0.1% |
| WRONG SEX | 0 | 7 | 3 | 7 | 11 | 6 | 6 | 40 | 0.1% |
| SHEDS | 0 | 13 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 27 | 0.0% |
| Total | 624 | 14,213 | 5,235 | 10,238 | 10,918 | 9,775 | 6,500 | 57,503 | |

The Department of Animal Services has public private partnerships with large national and local nonprofits to help facilitate our efforts to save animals lives as we move toward becoming no kill city (90% of the dogs and cats entering the City shelters have happy outcomes through adoption to the public or through adoption by one of our many partners). These organizations include Best Friends, the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and Found Animals. We have 243 nonprofit New Hope Partners who are encouraged to pull shelter animals and help us by placing them in loving homes. We also have three unique partnerships with nonprofits that operate intervention programs at our three largest shelters:

Downtown Dog Rescue – South Chesterfield Square
 Home Dog LA – North Central
 The Rescue Train - East Valley

These independent groups greet people as they come to the shelters to surrender pets and inquire about the reason for surrendering the pets. The approach is friendly and non-judgmental. If the owner does not really want to give up his/her pet and the intervention volunteer identifies a solvable challenge, the group will give the owner the assistance they need to keep their pet. Assistance varies from fence repair to helping with medical care.

SUMMARY

The reduction of owner surrendered pets is a part of the story for the shelter operations related to saving the lives of great companion animals in our care. We would like to note that there are other related motions that have not yet been azenized and we would like to respectfully request that these motions be scheduled for a report back at the same meeting. We feel that reports on these motions will give us an opportunity to answer many questions that Committee members and the public may have regarding our shelter operations. Those motions are 12-0216, 16-0044 and one submitted at a PAW Committee meeting by Councilmember Harris-Dawson on October 6, 2015.