

MOTION

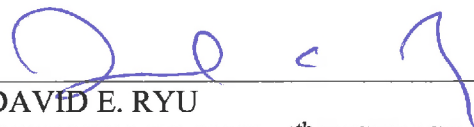
For years, the City of Los Angeles, Department of Animal Services has implemented various policies and programs intended to maximize shelter rescues and adoptions and to support responsible pet ownership throughout the City. These efforts have helped to control the animal population in our shelters. However, as noted in a recent report from the City Controller, statistics from the Department of Animal Services' "Woof Stat" system show a continuing increase in the number of animals that are being surrendered to the City's Animal Shelters. Former pet owners cite a variety of reasons for giving up ownership of their pets, including burdensome medical expenses and redemption costs, amongst others. These surrenders impact not only the pets being dropped off, but also reduce the resources available at our shelters to serve other impounded animals.

Consistent with the City's goal of becoming a "no kill" City, the Department of Animal Services should make every effort to identify the issues that are resulting in increased animal surrenders and contributing to crowding in our shelters. Once the issues are identified, the Department should work with animal advocates in the community, and experts in other cities to identify what policy changes could be implemented to help owners to keep their pets rather than surrender them, and submit those recommendations to the City's policymakers for consideration.


I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council instruct the Department of Animal Services to compile data on the number of animals surrendered at each of the City's Animal Shelters in each of the past five years; analyze that data to identify trends or factors that appear to be contributing to the increased number of surrenders; and categorize the primary reasons that pet owners are forced to take this action (e.g., burdensome medical expenses, high redemption fees, affordability of spay/neuter services, lack of re-homing options, etc.).

I FURTHER MOVE that the Department of Animal Services report to the City Council following completion of its intake analysis with findings and recommendations for addressing this growing influx of animal surrenders.

PRESENTED BY:

  
DAVID E. RYU  
COUNCILMEMBER, 4<sup>th</sup> DISTRICT

SECONDED BY:



  
JAN 13 2016

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