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Opposition to 17-1237-S1, from PETA

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January 17, 2018

The Honorable Paul Koretz, Chair
Members of the Personnel and Animal Welfare Committee

Via e-mail: sharon.dickinson@lacity.org

Re Motion to Amend and Revise Kennel Definitions

Dear Council Member Koretz and Members of the Personnel and Animal Welfare Committee,

We hope you're well. On behalf of our hundreds of thousands of Los Angeles–area members and supporters, we **urge you to vote no** on the motion to amend the dog and cat kennel definitions in Section 53.00 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code and revise the definition of "kennel" in Section 12.03. Changes to the current code regarding kennels and limiting the number of dogs and cats allowed at one property without a permit shouldn't be considered before an ordinance adding specific per household dog and cat limits to Section 53 has been enacted.

The city's current ordinance, which can be found [here](#), doesn't prohibit anyone from owning more than four dogs and/or cats. However, it sensibly requires that anyone who chooses to do so be inspected and approved through a permit process to ensure that animals at such residences receive adequate care and have humane, sanitary living conditions and that neighbors retain their right to the peaceful enjoyment of their properties.

Removing this commonsense permit process before enacting legislation to restrict the number of dogs and cats allowed in each household would endanger both animals and the public. Such a move would surely result in an increase in cases of animal hoarding. The Animal Legal Defense Fund (ALDF) states the following:

It is likely that up to a quarter million animals—250,000 per year—are victims of hoarders. What's more, records kept by ALDF indicate that in the last four years, the number of reported hoarding cases has more than doubled. In terms of the number of animals affected and the

degree and duration of their suffering, hoarding is the number one [cruelty to animals] crisis facing companion animals in communities throughout the country. ... In addition to the horrific [cruelty to animals] involved, hoarding creates such highly unsanitary conditions that the properties of hoarders, contaminated with fecal matter and urine, are often condemned. What's more, a single hoarding case involving dozens if not hundreds of animals can easily bankrupt a local humane society and severely strain volunteer resources, and the nuisance and cost to local authorities and law enforcement officials is ongoing.[1]

In order to protect both animals and residents, we urge you to vote no on any proposal to revise the current kennel definitions and requirements until a per household animal-limit law has been enacted.

Please contact me at LisaL@PETA.org if PETA can be of assistance.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Lisa Lange

Senior Vice President

PETA

[1]ALDF.org, "Animal Hoarding Facts," accessed January 17, 2018 <<http://aldf.org/resources/when-you-witness-animal-cruelty/animal-hoarding-facts/>>.