

MOTION

PUBLIC SAFETY

Rule 16
MAR 20 2009

#68

On February 26, 2008 the Spay/Neuter ordinance was signed into effect and became enforceable October 1, 2008. Under this ordinance, all cats and dogs in the city are required to be spayed or neutered after the age of four months, with some specific exemptions allowed. When the ordinance was drafted, the city's focus was in achieving a "no-kill" policy in our animal shelters

The ordinance also established the Animal Services Spay/Neuter Advisory Committee with the specific task of evaluating the ordinance's impact on low-income residents. The group's preliminary report is due to be released by March 30, 2009.

On March 10, 2009, the Los Angeles Department of Animal Services terminated the Spay/Neuter Discount Voucher Program and instructed all rescue groups to return all vouchers to the Department no later than March 13, 2009. As of today, the city does not have a spay/neuter voucher program currently in place.

Over 4,000,000 animals are euthanized in the United States each year with the City of Los Angeles euthanizing over 15,000 dogs and cats. In 2007 the department spent 2 million dollars euthanizing animals. These figures have risen due to the current economic downturn. As a result of the economic downturn, the city has seen a 20% increase in dog/cat intake resulting in over 54,000 animals coming into our city shelters. A dog or cat that is not spayed or neutered can have six offspring within a matter of two months. With summer and spring approaching the city could see an alarming increase of strays in our city shelters

The city cannot afford to see a proliferation of stray animals. We are taking a step backwards in our efforts to see Los Angeles become a "no-kill" city should we discontinue the discount voucher program. It is essential that we provide assistance to the lower income residents. The Spay/Neuter Discount Voucher Program is a key element in creating a no-kill city.

The unilateral decision by LAAS to suspend the coupon program wrongly bypassed the Advisory Committee and eliminated any opportunity for public input. The City Council should have the opportunity to review the Advisory Committee's report and weigh the fiscal needs of LAAS within the larger context of the City's budget as a whole.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Los Angeles Department of Animal services immediately reinstate the Spay/Neuter Voucher and Coupon Program funded through the Animal Spay and Neuter Trust Fund.

I FURTHER MOVE, that the City Council instruct the Department of Animal Services with the assistance of any other pertinent city department to report to the Public Safety Committee on Monday, March 23, 2009 on the status of the Spay/Neuter Voucher Program including the status of the high volume spay and neuter clinics.


Wb
I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council instruct the Controller to perform a follow up audit of the 2008 Spay/Neuter Voucher Program with the emphasis on the outreach and effectiveness of the program to reach out to low income residents.

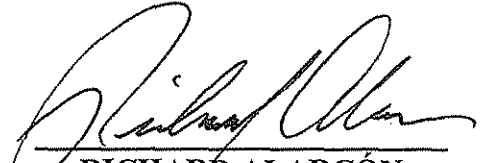
Wb
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I FURTHER MOVE that the General Manager of the Department of Animal Services take into consideration the preliminary recommendations of the Spay & Neuter Advisory Committee's Preliminary report to the City Council due on March 30, 2009 and consult with the advisory committee members in moving forward with assuring the spay and neuter voucher program is made available to the city's low-income residents and effective strategies are in place for outreach.


I FURTHER MOVE that the Department of Animal Services report back to the City Council on Tuesday, March 31, 2009 on the requested items.

PRESENTED BY:


TONY CÁRDENAS
Councilmember, 6th District


RICHARD ALARCÓN
Councilmember, 7th District


DENNIS P. ZINE
Councilmember, 3rd District


ERIC GARCETTI
Councilmember, 13th District

SECONDED BY:

