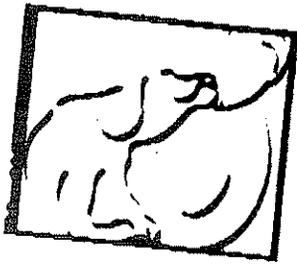


10-0982



Concerned Dog Owners of California

October 13, 2010

Public Safety Committee
Los Angeles City Council
200 Main Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Honorable Council Members:

Concerned Dog Owners of California supports the recommendation of the Los Angeles Animal Commission to increase the number of dogs and cats per household to five of each.

Such a move will allow those who do rescue animals from the Los Angeles shelter to save more animals. It will allow people who would like to be in compliance with the law to license all their animals rather than only three (or in some cases none if they have been trying to be invisible). It will generate additional revenue for the City while reducing the number of animals that we euthanize. It is indeed a win-win.

There are many communities throughout the state and country, including many more population dense than the City of Los Angeles that have such expanded (or no) limits and they have not experience additional barking, nuisance or hoarding complaints.

The City has brought in a General Manager who is actually uniting the various factions in the community rather than playing them off against one another. This proposal will indeed put Los Angeles further down the road to being a City that does not kill healthy adoptable animals.

The arguments against this increase simply do not hold up under scrutiny (attachment).

We urge your yes vote on this recommendation in this Committee and at the full City Council meeting.

Very truly yours,

Cathie A. Turner
Executive Director

- cc: Greig Smith, Chair
- Tony Cardenas, Vice Chair
- Jan Perry
- Ed Reyes
- Dennis Zine
- Bill Rosendahl
- Paul Koretz
- John White (please add to Council File 10-0982)

OFFICE
12645 Wilshire Boulevard #108
West Hollywood, CA 91364

PHONE
310.441.1411

FAX
310.441.1411

EMAIL
info@cdoca.org

WEB
www.cdoca.org

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- Michelle Smith, Executive Director
- Christine Johnson, Vice President
- Mark Johnson, Vice President
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- Elizabeth M. Gagliardi, Co-Vice Chair
- John P. Beck
- Ann P. Gagliardi

MYTH	FACTS
Animal Control Officers (ACOs) will be afraid to go into a house/yard with 5 dogs to enforce laws.	If this were the case, all the "bad people", dog fighters, etc would already have 5 dogs because it would make them immune. Increasing the limits will not affect the behavior of those who do not obey the laws and are a nuisance; they are already either ignorant or have decided to flaunt the laws.
It will drastically increase the number of dogs in the City.	According to generally accepted guidelines, published by the American Veterinary Medical Association and the Pet Food Council, approximately 39% of household own dogs and 32% own cats. On average a dog household has 1.7 dogs and a cat household has 2.2 cats. So Angelenos have not increased numbers to meet the law. Most people do not have the time/space/money to have multiple animals but many are able to care for multiple animals. Yes, this will involve a slight increase as more adoptable animals move out of the shelters. But clearly it will not be a wholesale rush.
Barking dog complaints will increase.	Department records reflect that even in multiple dog households, it is typically one dog that is the "barker". Very often, it is an only dog that is the issue. And we have laws to deal with barking dogs.
The department cannot handle current barking dog complaints.	These do take a long time for resolution. With additional revenues and fewer dogs in the shelter, LAAS could ultimately re-assign personnel or be able to make a financial case to add personnel in this area.
It will penalize apartment owners.	As they do now, owners of property may set any conditions they like for pets when they rent/lease their properties. It does not affect them at all.
There will be more yowling cats by apartments which will decrease their appeal.	This recommendation is for indoor cats. It will not increase outdoor feral cats. And, indeed, may provide homes for some of those over time.
Animal complaints will increase.	That has not been the case in other municipalities with such laws.
The community has not been heard.	Actually this is the first time there have been community meetings to get input and it was overwhelmingly in favor. The meetings were well publicized on TV, newspaper and online.
Only breeders want this change.	The vast majority of the people attending meetings and speaking in favor were dog owners and people who rescue animals from the shelter and are frustrated with not being able to rescue more.
This will not really increase licensing revenues.	Los Angeles has developed a reputation as a dog "unfriendly" city and it has relied on its police powers to "make" people comply. As we all know, that is the most expensive way to gain compliance. This approach, coupled with an innovative marketing program - making licensing easy and affordable, can be a new start for Los Angeles. Discussions are underway for bi-lingual marketing campaigns to be developed and paid for with private funds and pro bono work so educate people about the benefits of licensing. In the 2010 legislative session, the AB2689 was passed to make licensing requirements easier to meet. This will increase revenues. How much depends on our ability to keep our eye on the goal - increase licensing of dogs so we can get them home and they do not end up at the shelter!
Concerned Dog Owners of California - 10/20/10	