

**TO THE COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF LOS ANGELES**

Your **PERSONNEL AND ANIMAL WELFARE** Committee

reports as follows:

PERSONNEL AND ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE REPORT relative to retail pet sales and commercial breeding regulations within the City of Los Angeles.

Recommendations for Council action:

1. REQUEST the City Attorney, with the assistance of the Department of Animal Services, to draft an ordinance to prohibit sales of live dogs, cats and rabbits in retail businesses (pet shops), commencing six months after the effective date of the ordinance. Such ordinance to expire three years from implementation date. Exception will be provided to businesses that show proof of obtaining animals from shelters, humane societies, and registered rescue organizations. Violators could be subject to a misdemeanor and lose their permit to operate a pet shop.
2. INSTRUCT the Department of Animal Services to:
 - a. Monitor, during the three year implementation time of the ordinance, the relationship between implementation of this ordinance and patterns of impounding and euthanasia rates at City shelters, as well as the economic impact of the action on the affected businesses, including the impact on City revenues.
 - b. Report back to the Council no later than 90 days before the expiration of this ordinance to make recommendations on making the regulations permanent.
 - c. Amend existing requirements for obtaining a permit to operate a pet-related retail business to include regulations pertaining to the restrictions in Recommendation No. 1 above and conduct annual inspections to ensure compliance.
 - d. Establish a method to publicly identify pet shops and pet supply stores that comply with those restrictions, or which do not engage in any live animal sales. For instance, consider issuing two types of seals/decals: one only to businesses that have completely eliminated the sale of live animals other than those obtained from shelters, humane societies, and registered rescue organizations; and a different seal/decals to those businesses that have eliminated the sale of live dogs, cats and rabbits but still sale other pets like fish and gerbils.
 - e. Report back one year after enactment of the Ordinance with an update on the effectiveness of enforcement.
 - f. Report back at a future date to discuss more aggressive regulations to enforce against illegal breeding operators in the City of Los Angeles.

Fiscal Impact Statement: The Department reports that initial implementation of the proposed regulations will not require additional personnel. However, the Department may seek additional staff to increase enforcement efforts in better future fiscal circumstances. The Department also reports that increased dog licensing resulting from increased regulations could result in additional revenue.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.

Summary:

At its March 20, 2012 meeting, your Committee considered a report dated January 18, 2012 from the Department of Animal Services relative to retail pet sales and commercial breeding regulations within the City of Los Angeles. The report, attached to the Council file, provides details on this topic. During the discussion of this item, the Department's General Manager provided a thorough overview of said report and responded to numerous related questions from the Committee members. After additional discussion on the need for stronger enforcement against illegal breeding operators and providing the opportunity for public comment, the Committee recommended approval of the recommendations reflected above. This matter is now submitted to Council for its consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

PERSONNEL AND ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
KORETZ:	YES
ALARCON	YES
ZINE:	YES

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- Not Official Until Council Acts -