

PERSONNEL AND ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE REPORT relative to outlawing the use of animal traps or snares that maim, kill or cause inhumane suffering within the City of Los Angeles.

Recommendation for Council action, as initiated by Motion (O'Farrell - Koretz - LaBonge):

REQUEST the City Attorney to prepare and present an Ordinance to outlaw the use of animal traps or snares that maim, kill or cause inhuman suffering within the City of Los Angeles.

Fiscal Impact Statement: Neither the City Administrative Officer nor the Chief Legislative Analyst has completed a financial analysis of this report.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.

On November 19, 2013, your Committee considered a Motion (O'Farrell - Koretz - LaBonge) relative to outlawing the use of animal traps or snares that maim, kill or cause inhumane suffering within the City of Los Angeles. According to the Motion, in the City of Los Angeles, it is illegal for the public to trap wildlife. However, residents can hire nuisance or pest control companies that have been issued trapping permits by the City's Department of Animal Services (DAS). State law requires that any set trap must include information identifying the permitted trapper and any trapped wildlife must be released on site or euthanized immediately. The DAS advises that a trapper may be prosecuted for animal cruelty if an animal is injured or crippled by a trap.

The Humane Society of the United States advises that an animal caught in an inhumane trap or a snare (wire noose) can suffer injuries resulting in excruciating pain and/or death. Animals caught in traps struggle to free themselves, some of which even chew off their limbs to escape. Trapped animals may struggle in pain for days, be killed by other animals, or suffer dehydration, blood loss, hypothermia, or drowning. California law requires daily monitoring of traps. Snares can strangle an animal or crush vital organs. Snares are particularly cruel to coyotes, foxes and wolves whose strong neck muscles can prolong their struggle and result in a slow and painful death. In addition, many animal traps indiscriminately kill or injure non-targeted animals such as dogs, cats, rabbits, birds or deer.

After consideration and having provided an opportunity for public comment, the Committee moved to recommend requesting the City Attorney to prepare and present an Ordinance to outlaw the use of animal traps or snares that maim, kill or cause inhuman suffering within the City of Los Angeles. This matter is now submitted to Council for its consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

PERSONNEL AND ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE

MEMBER VOTE

KORETZ: YES

O'FARRELL: YES

FUENTES: YES

-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-