

PERSONNEL AND ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE REPORT and ORDINANCE FIRST CONSIDERATION relative to making the trapping of wildlife in the City of Los Angeles more humane.

Recommendation for Council action, SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE MAYOR:

PRESENT and ADOPT the accompanying ORDINANCE adding Sections 53.06.3(d) to the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) to prohibit the use of inhumane animal traps or snares in the City of Los Angeles and permit the Department of Animal Services (DAS) to promulgate reasonable rules and regulations with respect to the visitation scheduled and placement of traps, type, and use of permissible bait and the treatment of trapped animals to minimize the suffering of the animal.

Fiscal Impact Statement: The DAS reports that there is no fiscal impact. Commercial trappers should be able to transition to more humane trapping methods with minimal impact on their businesses.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.

Summary:

On March 4, 2014, your Committee considered February 12, 2014 DAS and November 19, 2013 Personnel and Animal Welfare Committee reports relative to making the trapping of wildlife in the City of Los Angeles more humane. According to the DAS, animal trapping is the use of a device to remotely catch an animal. Animals may be trapped for a variety of purposes including the fur trade, food, wildlife management, hunting, and pest control. The DAS's principal opposition to the traps that are recommended to be banned is they cause suffering and cruel death. A second major concern is that these traps are indiscriminate in that they will be triggered by any animal of sufficient weight. In an urban area with significant mountain and canyon areas. The City is particularly prone to domestic animals being caught in these traps and these traps are often used unwisely. Third, while these traps may indeed capture an animal causing a problem (living in an attic, for example), this does not address the cause of the problem. Only repair and exclusion of all animals from access to the entry point does that.

The traps that cause the most damage are snares and body-crushing traps which leave animals suffering or dying. Affected wildlife includes, but is not limited to bears, bobcats, coyotes, foxes, mountain lions, opossums, raccoons and skunks. Four classes of device have traditionally been used in urban wildlife control work: body-gripping (leg- or foot-hold traps); body-crushing traps; snares; and cage, or box, traps. All can be inhumane through negligent care or use, but snares, body-crushing and body-gripping traps are inherently inhumane.

The DAS then went on to state that that not all traps are inhumane. Supporters of cage traps say that they are the most humane form of trapping, and in some countries is the only method of trapping allowed. Cage traps are used by animal control officers to catch unwanted animals and move them to another location without harm. These traps are designed to catch live animals in a cage. They are usually baited with common items like cat food and tuna fish. Cage traps usually have a trigger located in the back of the cage that causes a door to shut; some traps with two doors have a trigger in the middle of the cage that causes both doors to shut. In either type of cage, the closure of the doors and the falling of a lock mechanism prevents the animal from escaping by locking the door(s) shut. Culvert traps are also considered humane; this large pipe-shaped device operates like a cage trap and is designed to remove a bear or mountain lion. In truth, any device that captures and holds

an animal can be inhumane. For example, the cage trap can cause deaths in the summer heat if the company doing the trapping doesn't frequently visit the trap.

In addition to modifying LAMC Section 53.06.3 to ban certain wildlife traps, the DAS is also recommending amending the LAMC in regard to the utilization of cage traps and these are fully described in the February 12, 2014 DAS report and attached to the Council file. After consideration and having provided an opportunity for public comment, the Committee moved to continue the matter pending the receipt of a report and Ordinance from the City Attorney as a means of implementing the DAS's recommendations.

Subsequently, on April 1, 2014, the Committee considered a march 25, City Attorney report and Ordinance in response to the Committee's request. According to the City Attorney, the ordinance adds Sections 53.06.3(d) and 53.06.3(e) to the LAMC. Section 53.06.3(d) prohibits the use of inhumane animal traps or snares in the City of Los Angeles. Section 53.06.3(e) authorizes the DAS to promulgate reasonably necessary rules and regulations to minimize the suffering of animals trapped in humane traps, such as box, culvert or cage traps, which rules and regulations may include trap placement, identification and contact information and visitation schedules for traps, the type and use of permissible bait, and the treatment of the trapped animals. Various types of animal traps or snares can maim, kill or cause inhumane suffering for the trapped animals. These traps or snares generally capture an animal by means of a wire noose or clamping and gripping parts of the animal's body, causing the animal to struggle in pain, sometimes for days, before dying a slow agonizing death or falling prey to other animals. In addition to banning these types of inhumane traps, the Department is requesting the authority to establish reasonable rules and regulations regarding the use of humane traps and the treatment of the trapped animals.

After further consideration and having provided an opportunity for public comment, the Committee moved to recommend approval of the Ordinance as detailed in the above recommendation. 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
O'FARRELL:	YES
FUENTES:	ABSENT

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4/1/14

**-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-**