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August 13, 2014

Council File: 14-0600-S7
Council Districts: All
Contact Person and Phone:
Brenda F. Barnette (213) 482-9558

Honorable City Council
c/o Office of the City Clerk
200 North Spring Street
Room 395, City Hall
Los Angeles, CA 90012

ADOPTED BUDGET RECOMMENDATION RELATIVE TO VETERINARIANS NOTIFYING ANIMAL SERVICES WHEN AN ANIMAL IS UNLICENSED

RECOMMENDATION

- NOTE AND FILE this report back relative to veterinarians notifying the Department of unlicensed dogs.

SUMMARY

Council File 14-0600-S7 instructed the Department of Animal Services to report to the Personnel and Animal Welfare Committee regarding the proposed requirement for veterinarians to notify the Department whenever a veterinarian has treated an unlicensed dog. The report should include other locations where this practice is in place, possible implications on spay and neuter exemptions from the license requirement and other concerns. This report complies with that request.

VETERINARIANS' RESPONSIBILITY TO NOTIFY ANIMAL SERVICES

Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 53.53 requires a veterinarian, after vaccinating a dog for rabies, to sign a certificate containing the owner's and dog's information to the Department within five calendar days after the end of the month.

This existing ordinance addresses the issue of veterinarians notifying the Department of unlicensed dogs. How? The Department checks the owner/dog information contained in the certificate against the information contained in its animal management database, "Chameleon." If there is no record of the owner/dog, the Department will send the owner a "Notice to Secure Dog License" letter. The owner is now required to license the dog(s).

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2014 AUG 14 AM 10:00

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UPCOMING COMMUNICATIONS WITH LOS ANGELES VETERINARIANS

Relative to the veterinarians in the City, the Department would like to update the Council on upcoming communications with local veterinarians. Animal Services will be sending a letter to all veterinarians in the City with the following information:

- Encouraging them to participate in the Department's spay/neuter program by entering into Letters of Agreements (LOAs) with Animal Services. Veterinarians with LOAs will be paid using the \$70 free certificate/\$30 coupon to eliminate or reduce the cost of sterilization surgeries for low-income residents and the general public. These veterinarians will also assist in the spay/neuter of animals adopted at the shelters. Increasing the number of veterinarians using our Animal Sterilization Fund will assist in reducing impounds and helping the Department get to "no kill."
- Encouraging veterinarians to sell dog licenses. The LAMC allows this and the process is simple: Veterinarians buy \$20¹ dog licenses for \$18, and then sell these to the public for \$20, allowing them to keep \$2 per license.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is beneficial impact on the General Fund. Ensuring that animals receiving rabies shots are in the Department's database and licensed helps increase revenues. Similarly, encouraging veterinarians to issue licenses will increase revenues. The exact amount is not known at this time.

Brenda F. Barnette

Brenda F. Barnette
General Manager

CC: Honorable Paul Koretz, Council District 5
Honorable Felipe Fuentes, Council District 7
Honorable Mitch O'Farrell, Council District 13
Patricia Whelan, Office of the Mayor
Ryan Carpio, Office of the Mayor
Mandy Morales, Office of the Mayor

¹ For every \$20 dog license sold, \$7 goes into the Animal Sterilization Fund; \$13 goes to the General Fund.