

TRANSMITTAL

To:

THE COUNCIL

Date:

SEP 11 2014

From:

THE MAYOR

TRANSMITTED FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION. PLEASE SEE ATTACHED.

BA
CLERK OF THE CITY
SEP 15 11:51 AM '14
CLERK OF THE CITY



(Ana Guerrero)

ERIC GARCETTI
Mayor

**BOARD OF
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DEPARTMENT OF
ANIMAL SERVICES
221 North Figueroa Street
5th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90012
(888) 452-7381
FAX (213) 482-9511

BRENDA BARNETTE
GENERAL MANAGER

JOHN D. CHAVEZ
ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER

August 20 2014

Honorable Eric Garcetti
Mayor, City of Los Angeles
Room 303, City Hall
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

**RECOMMENDATION TO RAISE RABBIT ADOPTION COSTS AND MANDATORY
MICROCHIP**

Dear Mayor Garcetti,

At its meeting of August 12, 2014, the Board of Animal Services Commissioners approved recommendations to:

1. APPROVE the increase in the rabbit adoption fees from \$56 to \$71, which includes \$15 for mandatory microchipping;
2. AUTHORIZE funds generated from microchip sales be deposited into the Electronic Animal Identification Device Revolving Fund (Fund 41-C);
3. DIRECT staff to transmit the proposed action to the Office of the Mayor and to the City Council, requesting the City Council to direct the City Attorney to prepare an ordinance to amend Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 53.12 consistent with the above actions.

SUMMARY

Rabbits are currently adopted for **\$56**, which is made up of a \$16 adoption fee and \$40 spay/neuter deposit. The Department recommends adding \$15 to the cost of the adoption to pay for the microchip; therefore total adoption fees would be **\$71**.

Mandatory microchipping would assist the Department in finding the owners when rabbits are found in hoarding situations, abandoned, or in poor living conditions. The Department's standard operating procedure is to scan all animals brought into its

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Subject: Transmittal to the Mayor's Office
Recommendation to Raise Rabbit Adoption Costs and Mandatory Microchip
August 20, 2014

shelters. Since most rabbits are not microchipped, the Department has very little success in reuniting rabbit and owner. However, mandatory microchipping will help getting rabbits back to their former homes.

FISCAL IMPACT

Funds generated by the sale of microchips are deposited into the Electronic Animal Identification Device Revolving Fund. At the end of each fiscal year, the Fund's balance is transferred into the City's General Fund. Last year, 918 rabbits were adopted. Any rabbit microchip revenues expected to revert to the General Fund would be negligible.

The Board report is attached. If you or your staff requires additional information, please contact John Chavez, Assistant General Manager, at (213) 482-9558 or john.chavez@lacity.org.

Sincerely,



Brenda F. Barnette
General Manager

Attachment

CC:

David Zaft, President, Board of Animal Services Commissioners
Patricia Whelan, Office of the Mayor
Ryan Carpio, Office of the Mayor
Mandy Morales, Office of the Mayor
Dov Lesel, Assistant City Attorney

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BRENDA F. BARNETTE
General Manager

JOHN CHAVEZ
Assistant General Manager

Report to the Board of Animal Services Commissioners
Brenda Barnette, General Manager

COMMISSION MEETING DATE: August 12, 2014

PREPARED BY: John Chavez

REPORT DATE: August 8, 2014

TITLE: Asst. General Manager

SUBJECT: RECOMMENDATIONS TO INCREASE RABBIT ADOPTION FEES AND IMPOSE MANDATORY MICROCHIPPING

BOARD ACTIONS RECOMMENDED:

1. APPROVE the increase in the rabbit adoption fees from \$56 to \$71, which includes \$15 for mandatory microchipping;
2. AUTHORIZE funds generated from microchip sales be deposited into the Electronic Animal Identification Device Revolving Fund (Fund 41-C);
3. DIRECT staff to transmit the proposed action to the Office of the Mayor and to the City Council, requesting the City Council to direct the City Attorney to prepare an ordinance to amend Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 53.12 consistent with the above actions.

SUMMARY

Rabbits are currently adopted for **\$56**, which is made up of a \$16 adoption fee and \$40 spay/neuter deposit. The Department recommends adding \$15 to the cost of the adoption to pay for the microchip; therefore total adoption fees would be **\$71** (\$16 adoption + \$40 sterilization cost + \$15 for the microchip).

BACKGROUND

The Department has had a number of rabbit-related issues on its recent agendas. In the course of these discussions, some rabbit advocates have suggested that the Department make rabbit microchipping mandatory.

Mandatory microchipping would assist the Department in finding the owners when rabbits are found in hoarding situations, abandoned, or in poor living conditions. The Department's standard operating procedure is to scan all animals brought into its shelters. Since most rabbits are not microchipped, the Department has very little success in reuniting rabbit and owner. However, mandatory microchipping will help getting rabbits back to their former homes.

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Report to the Board of Animal Services Commissioners

Recommendation to Increase Rabbit Adoption Fee and Impose Mandatory Microchipping

August 12, 2014

Today, when including the cost of the spay and neuter surgery, it costs \$56 to adopt a rabbit. Mandatory microchipping will increase the cost of the adoption, sterilization and chip to \$71.

The Department submitted this proposal at the July 22, 2014 Board meeting. A member of the public alleged that the notice related to the report did not comply with the Brown Act, and that the agenda item title was unclear. To address these concerns, the Board moved to hold the item over to the August 12, 2014 meeting.

FISCAL IMPACT

Funds generated by the sale of microchips are deposited into the Electronic Animal Identification Device Revolving Fund. At the end of each fiscal year, the Fund's balance is transferred into the City's General Fund. Last year, 918 rabbits were adopted. Any rabbit microchip revenues expected to revert to the General Fund would be negligible.

Approved:

Brenda Barnette

Brenda Barnette, General Manager

BOARD ACTION:

_____ Passed

Disapproved _____

_____ Passed with noted modifications

Continued _____

_____ Tabled

New Date _____