

PERSONNEL AND ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE REPORT relative to raising rabbit adoption costs and mandatory microchipping.

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

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. REQUEST the City Attorney to prepare and present an Ordinance to amend Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 53.12 consistent with the actions in Recommendation Nos. 1 and 2.

Fiscal Impact Statement: The Department of Animal Services (DAS) reports that 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.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.

Summary: On October 7, 2014, your Committee considered an August 20, 2014 DAS report relative to raising rabbit adoption costs and mandatory microchipping. According to the DAS, rabbits are currently adopted for a fee of \$56 (\$16 adoption fee and \$40 spay/neuter deposit). The DAS 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 DAS's standard operating procedure is to scan all animals brought into its shelters. However, since most rabbits are not microchipped, the DAS has had little success in reuniting rabbit and owner. However, mandatory microchipping will help getting rabbits back to their former homes.

After consideration and having provided an opportunity for public comment, the Committee moved to recommend approval of the recommendations contained in the August 20, 2014 DAS report and detailed in the above recommendations. This matter is now submitted to Council for its consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

PERSONNEL AND ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE

KORETZ: YES  
O'FARRELL: YES  
FUENTES: ABSENT  
ARL  
10/7/14

**-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-**