

PERSONNEL AND ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE REPORT and ORDINANCE FIRST CONSIDERATION relative to amending Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) Section 53.15.5 with respect to an electronic animal identification device (microchip) for rabbits.

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

PRESENT and ADOPT the accompanying ORDINANCE amending LAMC Section 53.15.5 by requiring that the \$15 cost of a mandatory electronic animal identification device (microchip) be included as part of the adoption fees for a rabbit, which will increase the adoption fees for a rabbit from \$56 to \$71.

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.

Summary:

On March 17, 2015, your Committee considered a March 3, 2015 City Attorney report and Ordinance relative to amending LAMC Section 53.15.5 with respect to an electronic animal identification device (microchip) for rabbits. On October 28, 2014, Council requested the City Attorney to prepare and present an Ordinance that would provide for:

- a. An increase in the rabbit adoption fees from \$56 to \$71 to include \$15 for mandatory microchipping.
- b. Depositing the funds generated from microchip sales into the Electronic Animal Identification Device Revolving Fund (Fund 41-C).

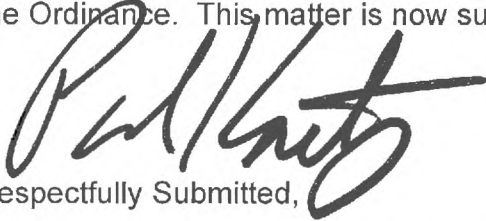
According to the City Attorney, the cost to provide and implant a rabbit with a microchip shall be \$15 when implanted in connection with an adoption, increasing the adoption fee for a rabbit from \$56 to \$71. An owner of a rabbit may voluntarily microchip his or her rabbit and request the Department of Animal Services (DAS) to insert the microchip for a fee of \$25. Currently, most rabbits are not implanted with microchips, making difficult the reunification of a lost rabbit with its owner. Microchipping will help the reunification effort. The draft ordinance requires the DAS to microchip each rabbit at the time of adoption or when an owner redeems a lost rabbit from the Department shelter. A \$15 microchip fee will be charged to the owner redeeming a lost rabbit and added to the adoption fee, increasing the total adoption fee for a rabbit from \$56 to \$71.

The fees to provide and implant the identification device (microchip) are the same fees charged for dogs and cats. An owner of a rabbit can also come into a shelter and have his or her rabbit implanted with a microchip for a \$25 fee. The substance of the draft ordinance was approved by the Board of Animal Services Commissioners on August 12, 2014, subject to Council approval, and by the Personnel and Animal Welfare (PAW) Committee on October 7, 2014. The PAW Committee recommendations were approved by City Council on October 28, 2014.

Finally, the City Attorney noted that because this ordinance would impose a new fee, notice of its proposed adoption should be given in accordance with the provisions of California Government Code

Sections 66018 and 6062a. Those sections of state law require that prior to adoption of a new or increased fee a public hearing be held and notice of that hearing be published in a newspaper with two publications at least five days apart over a ten-day period. The notice period begins the first day of publication, and there must be at least five days intervening between the first and the second publications, not counting the dates of publication.

After providing an opportunity for public comment, the Committee moved to recommend approval of the Ordinance. 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
ARL	
3/17/15	

-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-