

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must first have been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, under current state law, Section 31603(a) of Division 14 of the Food and Agricultural Code mandates that the label of "vicious dog" automatically be applied to "any dog seized under Section 599aa of the Penal Code and upon the sustaining of a conviction of the owner or keeper under subdivision (a) of Section 597.5 of the Penal Code"; and

WHEREAS, this provides local animal control agencies and shelters with no latitude to evaluate whether or not these animals actually pose any risk to public safety, whether the victim animal is an eight week-old puppy, a bait animal, a stolen pet, or a dog who will thrive once it has a home, and it can lead to many of these dogs facing a death sentence; and

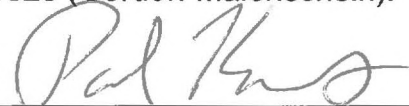
WHEREAS, many dogs seized in connection with animal fighting prove not to pose any risk to other dogs or humans and have gone on to live healthy, happy lives, such as almost all of the 49 seized dogs in the highly-publicized Michael Vick case, some of which have gone on to become therapy or service dogs and none of which apparently have been involved in dangerous incidents; and

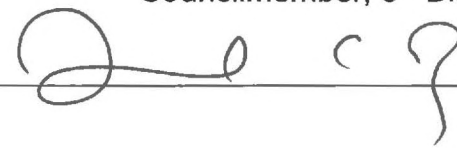
WHEREAS, California is one of only twelve states that continue to define dogs in this "broad-brush" manner; and

WHEREAS, Assembly Bill 1825, jointly authored by Assemblymembers Richard Gordon (D-Menlo Park) and Brian Maienschein (R-San Diego), and co-authored by nearly two dozen other legislators, proposes to address this matter by amending Section 31603 to delete the mandatory designation of these seized dogs as "vicious dogs"; and

WHEREAS, Los Angeles should join ASPCA, Best Friends Animal Society, the Humane Society of the U.S., the San Francisco SPCA, the cities of Stockton and Sacramento, and the California Animal Control Director's Association in supporting AB 1825.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2015-2016 State Legislative Program SUPPORT of AB 1825 (Gordon-Maienschein).

PRESENTED BY 
PAUL KORETZ
Councilmember, 5th District

SECONDED BY 

ORIGINAL


MAY 27 2016