

MOTION

HOMELESSNESS AND POVERTY

The homelessness crisis in Los Angeles has an effect on the lives of many, including the pet population of the homeless. Homeless people value their companion animals because of the companionship, the sense of purpose, the emotional well-being associated with the consistent affection a dog provides, and the increased feeling of security.

Homeless pet owners are also faced with the same difficulties as all pet owners when they find their pets have fallen ill, or have been injured and need medical care. Treatment can be very expensive and sometimes too expensive for many pet owners, especially those who are homeless.

Additionally, homeless persons with pets who are trying to access services and shelters often find themselves faced with not being able to enter a shelter because it doesn't allow pets.

The City should explore creative approaches to providing low-cost care and assistance to the companion animals of these homeless persons, possibly offering room in its shelters to house pets as personal property until they were fixed and vaccinated at no cost to the owner (though at no time should animals already in the shelters awaiting adoption be placed at risk by doing so), at which point the owner could reclaim them, or organizing pet food drives with local non-profits that serve to assist the homeless population with keeping their pets healthy.

And the City should work with homeless shelter providers to seek ways to allow people with pets to be able to stay in those shelters with those pets. As the City of Los Angeles searches for solutions to the homelessness crisis in Los Angeles, we must ensure that these solutions extend to homeless pet owners.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Chief Legislative Analyst, the Department of Animal Services and other agencies as appropriate report to the Homelessness and Poverty Committee and the Personnel and Animal Welfare Committee with a preliminary report outlining the steps and resources necessary to provide, throughout the City of Los Angeles, assistance to homeless pet owners to ensure pets are properly spayed/neutered, vaccinated and licensed, as well as a variety of other vital services throughout the pets' lives, and to avoid separating homeless persons from their companion animals whenever possible.

**PRESENTED
BY**

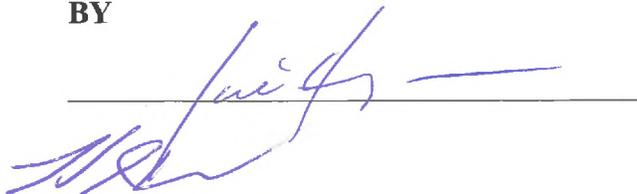


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