

MOTION

This summer's heat waves have placed a strain on the Department of Animal Services' (LAAS) ability to provide adequate respite for the animals in its possession and care, with questions arising about the suitability of the Department's current fleet of vans and rescue trucks for transporting animals in such weather.

The Department has reported that its fleet features rescue trucks with ventilation in the animal cage areas toward the rear of the vehicles. These vehicles are the same as, or similar to, those used by other Southern California animal agencies in Pasadena, Santa Monica and Los Angeles County. The vans used by Department Animal Control Officers (ACOs) to transport equipment and, upon occasion, animals, feature air conditioning, but questions have been raised as to whether its benefits effectively reach the rear areas of the vans, where the animals are carried on those occasions when they are. The air conditioning is functional when the van's ignitions are turned on, but not so when the vehicles are not running. Temperatures inside the vans have been known to exceed 120 degrees F. when the vans are not being operated.

In order to keep the animals being transported as comfortable as possible, LAAS should review its fleet and its operational policies and protocols regarding the use of air conditioning so as to ensure that the animals being transported are not being placed in jeopardy.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Department of Animal Services, in consultation with the Department of General Services, explore options for upgrading and making more reliable the hot weather mitigation systems in its vehicles, as well as the policies and protocols governing their use, and report back to the Personnel and Animal Welfare Committee.

PRESENTED BY: 
PAUL KORETZ
Councilmember, 5th District

SECONDED BY: 


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