

PERSONNEL AND ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE REPORT relative to allowing community members to care for found dogs and cats.

Recommendation for Council action:

REQUEST the City Attorney to prepare and present an Ordinance, amending the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC), to allow private citizens to provide home care for a found dog or cat that is not wearing a license tag for up to 30 days as set forth by the policy approved by the Board of Animal Services Commissioners on September 26, 2017, attached to the Council file.

Fiscal Impact Statement: The Department of Animal Services (DAS) reports that there is no fiscal impact to the General Fund to adopt the changes recommended in the February 13, 2018 DAS report, attached to the Council file.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.

Summary:

On June 20, 2018, your Committee considered a February 13, 2018 DAS report relative to allowing community members to care for found dogs and cats. According to the DAS, on September 26, 2017, the Board of Animal Services Commissioners considered and approved a policy to allow community members to provide home care for found dogs and cats under certain guidelines with the goal that such a program be more successful in reuniting the owners with their pets than bringing the animals into the shelter. The DAS is proposing to allow private citizens to provide home care for a dog or cat on the loose who is not wearing a license tag under certain guidelines. This home care shall be for up to 30 days unless the DAS makes a demand for the animal in the event that the owner is located and then the animal must be brought to the DAS so the owner can identify the pet or determine that it is not his/her pet. After consideration and having provided an opportunity for public comment, the Committee moved to continue this matter pending a report from the Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA).

Subsequently, on August 15, 2018, the Committee further considered this matter along with a July 25, 2018 CLA report. According to the CLA, LAMC Section 53.09 states that after finding an animal on the loose, a person must, within four hours or within two hours thereafter if the animal is attached or hitched to a vehicle, give notice to the DAS or a police officer, that they have such animal in their possession, and provide a description of the animal, where it was found, and where it is confined. If requested to do so by the DAS, the finder shall surrender such animal to the General Manager or their duly authorized representative upon demand.

Therefore, a new Ordinance would be required to effectuate the policy changes approved by the Board of Animal Services Commissioners on September 26, 2017. The policy changes set forth the following conditions that a community member must agree to before providing temporary home care for a found dog or cat:

1. To notify the closest City Animal Shelter after finding an animal within four hours or within two hours thereafter if the animal is attached or hitched to a vehicle, that they have such animal in their possession, and provide a description of the animal

including weight, where they found and where they have confined the animal.

2. To provide a picture (2 poses preferred) of the animal to the shelter for posting within 4 hours. The picture will be posted on the DAS website with the description and will indicate that the pet is being temporarily sheltered in a home waiting to find the owner and to call the shelter if you believe this is your pet to arrange a meeting at a shelter to see the pet.
3. To go to a veterinarian or one of the six City animal shelters and have the animal weighed and scanned for a microchip within four hours.
4. To be willing to be a Good Samaritan and make sure that any medical needs are taken care of at their own expense understanding that a refund can be requested from the owner if the owner is located.
5. To make and distribute posters with the pet's picture and their contact information in the area where the animal was found within four hours of finding the pet.
6. After 30 days, the person providing home care must either decide to keep the animal and get it vaccinated, altered and licensed (dog) OR they must surrender the animal to one of six LA City animal shelters.
7. The finder must agree to keep the animal at the location provided for the full 30 days and any changes must be filed with DAS City shelter.
8. If the animal is lost or stolen, it must be reported to the DAS immediately.
9. If requested to do so by the Department, the finder shall surrender such animal to the General Manager or their duly authorized representative upon demand.
10. If the found animal has any medical needs, the finder must obtain veterinary care at their own expense, and a record verifying that an injured animal received treatment immediately by a licensed veterinarian must be submitted to the LAAS Chief Veterinarian within 24 hours at the shelter, along with the diagnosis, type of treatment, and prognosis by the vet. If the owner is located, the owner can be expected to reimburse the finder for any medical expenses incurred on behalf of the animal.
11. After 30 days but before 32 days, they either decide to keep the animal and get it vaccinated, altered and licensed or they surrender the animal to one of the six City animal shelters.
12. If the finder returns animal to owner in their neighborhood, they must immediately notify the DAS and provide the name and address of the owner.

Additionally, the finder assumes liability of the animal during the 30 day period that he or she is providing care for the animal. This includes medical issues faced by the animal, injuries or harm caused by the animal, and damage caused by the animal should it escape. If the animal is pregnant, the DAS will determine whether the finder can provide a suitable whelping environment for the offspring, which will become property of the Department. The finder may not provide

home care for an animal if doing so would cause the finder to be in violation of the 3 dog and 3 cat Los Angeles City limit. After consideration and having provided an opportunity for public comment, the Committee moved to recommend approval of the recommendations contained in the February 13, 2018 DAS and July 25, 2018 CLA reports and detailed in the above recommendation. This matter is now submitted to the Council for consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

PERSONNEL AND ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE



<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
KORETZ:	YES
PRICE:	YES
ENGLANDER:	YES

ARL
8/15/18

-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-