

MOTION PERSONNEL & ANIMAL WELFARE

Pet grooming is a growing field which has expanded beyond "brick-and-mortar" grooming parlors of the sort for which the City Department of Animal Services ("Department") requires permits under Section 53.50 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code ("LAMC"). And, as the field has grown, the number of incidents nationwide in which companion animals have been injured by inexperienced or ill-equipped groomers has multiplied. This has led to an increasing number of states or local jurisdictions adopting or proposing groomer licensing or permitting laws. The City of West Hollywood is a recent example.

In order to address the increasing number of groomers operating from mobile vehicles or otherwise independent of fixed-location parlors, the City should consider amending Section 53.50 to include mobile and independent groomers.

Under Section 53.50(e), the Department's General Manager is authorized and empowered to "adopt rules and regulations to ensure the maintenance of approved and humane conditions..." With the assistance of the Board of Animal Services Commissioners, the Department should do so. These rules and regulations can be used by the Department to ascertain that permittees are meeting appropriate professional, health and safety standards upon obtaining a license and when being inspected.

Among the categories of rules and regulations the Department should consider for inclusion are types and levels of professional training, licensing and/or certification; equipment requirements; staffing requirements; facility and facility cleanliness, sanitation and maintenance requirements; operational requirements; permit and certification display requirements; accident and emergency procedural requirements; reporting requirements for problem incidents and violations; and any other requirements the Department may deem necessary or appropriate.

Additionally, the Department should recommend an amendment to the permit fee schedule in Section 53.50(f) to accommodate the requirement of permits for mobile and independent groomers.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Attorney, in consultation of the Department of Animal Services, prepare and present an ordinance amending Sections 53.50(a) and 53.50(f) to include the requirement of Department of Animal Services permits for mobile and independent groomers, and to establish permit fees for these categories; and

I FURTHER MOVE that the Department of Animal Services, in consultation with the Board of Animal Services Commissioners, be instructed to promulgate appropriate rules and regulations associated with all categories of grooming permits covered by Section 53.50, and that the development of these rules and regulations consider the categories described in this motion.

PRESENTED BY: Paul Koretz
PAUL KORETZ, Councilmember, 5th District

SECONDED BY: [Signature]

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