

COMMUNICATION FROM CHAIR, PERSONNEL, AUDITS, AND ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE relative to reviewing the position of Animal Care Technician (ACT).

Recommendation for Council action, pursuant to Motion (Koretz – Blumenfield):

INSTRUCT the Department of Animal Services (DAS) and Personnel Department to report within 60 days with a review the qualifications for the position of ACT and the training regimen offered to new hires to determine whether and how both can be upgraded, including any impact that doing so might have on salary range and benefits.

Fiscal Impact Statement: Neither the City Administrative Officer nor the Chief Legislative Analyst has completed a financial analysis of this report.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.

Summary:

On October 24, 2022, the Chair of the Personnel, Audits, and Animal Welfare (PAAW) Committee considered a Motion (Koretz – Blumenfield) relative to reviewing the position of ACT. According to the Motion, ACTs are crucial members of the staffs at the DAS animal shelters. They form the primary interface with the animals housed in the shelters and are responsible for feeding, cleaning the animals' living spaces, providing enrichment and providing exercise. Over the last decade, the DAS has experienced a shortage of ACTs, primarily for budgetary reasons. Consequently, department volunteers have been needed to assist the ACTs when appropriate. During the PAAW Committee's recent investigation of conditions in the shelters and the department, it was suggested both by staff and members of the public that the ACT team could benefit from an upgrade of the qualifications for the position and raising the skill levels for hires. After consideration and having provided an opportunity for public comment, the Committee Chair moved to recommend approval of the Motion. This matter is now submitted to Council for its consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

Councilmember Paul Koretz, Chair
Personnel, Audits, and Animal Welfare Committee

COUNCILMEMBER VOTE

KORETZ: YES

HARRIS-DAWSON: ABSENT

BONIN: ABSENT

ARL

10/24/22

-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-