

**MOTION**

One of the most important ways to support our Department of Animal Services (DAS) shelters is to prevent animals from needing to enter them in the first place; and one of the most effective ways to reach that goal is through spaying and neutering our pets. Unfortunately, the cost of spay/neuter can be prohibitive for many Angelenos, which can not only lead to more animals on our streets and in our shelters, but can also deter potential pet owners from adopting. While the financial inaccessibility of spay/neuter contributes to shelter overcrowding in multiple ways, there are tools that can alleviate the problem.

DAS currently offers a voucher program that covers the cost of the spay/neuter procedure for Angelenos adopting pets from our shelters who meet a certain income threshold. While this is a valuable program that allows more Angelenos to adopt our shelters' animals, the program is not as expansive as the level of need demands. Not all veterinarians will accept the DAS vouchers as the monetary value, which has not been updated in a decade, does not keep pace with the current actual costs to perform the procedure. Although the veterinarians who accept these vouchers will accept them as full payment, they often only cover a third or less of the actual costs of the procedure.

According to the National Institute of Health, pet ownership can decrease stress, lower blood pressure, reduce loneliness, increase feelings of social support, and boost your mood. All Angelenos who wish to become pet owners should have our City's support in adding an animal companion into their lives. Enhancing the DAS spay/neuter voucher program can be one step towards that end.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Department of Animal Services (DAS) report back within 90 days on:

- The current DAS spay/neuter voucher program, including amount of vouchers issued annually, the monetary value of the vouchers, the income threshold required to qualify for a voucher, and the number of veterinarians in the City who accept the vouchers compared to the overall number of veterinarians in the City;
- The average cost across veterinary clinics in the City for a full price spay/neuter;
- Suggested adjustments to the voucher program to increase the amount of veterinarians who accept the vouchers and to increase the amount of vouchers issued; and,
- Any additional veterinary services that could potentially be subsidized for adopters by vouchers, the cost of those services, and recommendations on how to move forward a voucher program for said service.

PRESENTED BY:



EUNISSES HERNANDEZ  
Councilmember, 1<sup>st</sup> District

SECONDED BY:



**ORIGINAL**

APR 26 2023

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