

COMMUNICATION

TO: LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL

FILE NO. 12-1147

**FROM: COUNCILMEMBER PAUL KORETZ, CHAIR
PERSONNEL AND ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE**

COMMUNICATION FROM CHAIR, PERSONNEL AND ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE relative to proposed amendments to various sections of the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) pertaining to spay, neuter and breeding permits.

Recommendations for Council action:

1. REQUEST that the City Attorney, in coordination with the Department of Animal Services (DAS), prepare and present an Ordinance to implement the following changes to the LAMC, as detailed in the Department's report, attached to the Council file:
 - a. Amend the spay/neuter ordinance exemption procedure relative to breed registries, changing the definition of registries qualifying an animal for exemption.
 - b. Delete the exemption relative to animal training.
 - c. Change the exemption procedure as it relates to obtaining a medical deferment, adding requirements and other details as deletions of lifetime exemptions.
 - d. Delete references in the Code to the Spay/Neuter Advisory Committee, which has completed its work and sunsetted as per the original ordinance.
 - e. Add a section to the spay/neuter Code requiring the sterilization under most circumstances of stray owned animals impounded by the Department as modified by Council.
 - f. Amend the Code section on penalties to specify that penalties imposed by that section are not waivable if the non-compliant owner transfers or abandons the animal in question.
 - g. Add a section requiring periodic updating and/or clarification of terminology, as necessary and appropriate.
 - h. Add language and sections to the Breeding Permit Code requiring that animals permitted to breed be micro chipped and setting forth additional requirements for and restrictions upon the issuance of breeding permits. A differentiation is made between guard dogs and working dogs.
2. INSTRUCT the DAS to:
 - a. Update Standard Operating Procedures and ancillary documents to ensure that all staff has access to clear information on how to enforce the spay/neuter and breeding permit code sections and process exemption requests fairly and accurately.
 - b. Modify the Department's record-keeping to ensure that all categories of licenses and spay/neuter exemptions are tracked separately and that the licensing status of individual dogs can be readily ascertained.

- c. Undertake a review of all fees, fines and timing requirements associated with implementation and enforcement of the spay/neuter and breeding permit code sections to determine any necessary changes.
- d. Study and report back to the Board of Animal Services (Board) within 90 days with recommendations on the possible amending of the spay/neuter ordinance as it relates to dog breeds popularly known as pit bulls, pit bull mixes and Chihuahuas to preclude exemptions. This should include a consideration of procedures for identifying these breeds/mixes in a credible and practical manner and revisiting the need to continue or revise such a regulation should circumstances regarding intake and euthanasia rates change in the future.
- e. Study and report back to the Board within 90 days with recommendations on the possible amending of the appropriate codes to reflect an increase in the cost of an intact license and breeding permit for those dogs whose only qualification for an exemption would be the purchase of the breeding permit.

Fiscal Impact Statement: None submitted by the DAS. 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 August 7, 2012, the Personnel and Animal Welfare Committee Chair considered a report dated July 10, 2012 from the DAS relative to proposed amendments to various sections of the LAMC pertaining to spay, neuter and breeding permits. The report, attached to the Council file, provides background information and details on the proposed amendments. During the discussion of this item, the DAS General Manager provided a thorough overview of the Department's report and responded to related questions from the Committee Chair. After providing an opportunity for public comment, the Committee Chair recommended approval of the recommendations contained in the DAS report, as reflected above. This matter is now submitted to Council for its consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

PAUL KORETZ, CHAIR
PERSONNEL AND ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
KORETZ	YES
ALARCÓN	ABSENT
ZINE	ABSENT

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- Not Official Until Council Acts -