

ANIMAL ISSUES MOVEMENT

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All that is necessary for evil to prevail is for good men to do nothing. Edmund Burke

August 11, 2010

President Eric Garcetti
and all Councilmembers
Los Angeles City Council
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles CA 90012

PROTEST

Honorable Councilmembers:

C F #10-0982 – OPPOSITION to Increased Animal Limits (dogs/cats) in the City of Los Angeles

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Attached is a chart showing the animal limits of cities/jurisdictions in the immediate Los Angeles area and is submitted as a part of this file, which has been referred to LA Animal Services, the CAO and CLA. (Updated on 8/11/10 to add West Hollywood.)

Increasing the legal limit of dogs, in particular, to this number would have a serious impact on the quality of life for both animals and humans in the community and also a negative impact on property values throughout the City, and we believe it should be opposed. It must be remembered that most pets are unaltered. Here are some of the concerns that have been expressed to Council and committees and in opposition by members of the public through the media:

- Animal safety will be endangered by "pack" behavior by dogs, which commonly develops when they are in large multiples.
- Barking/noise will be increased, not only within each residence which increases the number of pets, but throughout the community, because barking is "contagious." (One of the most frequent causes of dog barking is the presence of cats or squirrels in their sight.)
- Cats may be allowed to roam and create a nuisance on surrounding properties (including health/waste issues.)
- Emergency services and public-service personnel will be impaired from entering properties.
- Law-enforcement officers may face increased danger from aggressive-breed dogs maintained to protect criminal activity locations.
- It is reasonable to assume attacks by escaping dogs will increase.
- Sanitation/odor problems can be created by this large number of animals.
- Parasite/disease control (including airborne/contagious diseases) will increase.
- There will be increased risk for children, adults and motorists from unconfined dogs in the community and streets because of the difficulty of properly controlling/confining this number of animals. (We do not have fencing requirements specific to dogs.)
- Most pets in Los Angeles are not altered (spay/neuter ordinance is enforced only on complaint) and this could create increased accidental/intentional breeding in many backyards—creating, in essence, numerous "kennels" in residential zones.
- There is no guarantee that dogs/cats in these large numbers can live together without serious injury to each other.

It is an unnecessary and unwise proposal to place this large number of pets per residence and per block throughout the City, where many lots are less than 4,000 sq/ft. Some pet owners exceed the three dog/three cat limit already and there is no problem and no complaint; thus, no action is taken by the City, so there is really no compelling reason to increase the allowance for ALL pet owners to five dogs (or ten total dogs and cats) per resident.

There is no guarantee that this will increase adoption of shelter animals as indicated in the motion; and, because the majority of those who relinquish animals to city shelters report it is because they cannot afford care, there is no reason to assume that having more animals will guarantee greater quality care and longer retention.

Sincerely,

Phyllis M. Daugherty
Phyllis M. Daugherty

Attach. (1)

DOG & CAT LIMITS (Cities surrounding Los Angeles.)

**(A few jurisdictions allow more animals with a kennel permit;
however, the City of Los Angeles requires kennels to be 500 feet from any residence)**

Note: Information obtained by phone calls to AC or Code Enforcement or by visiting websites (August 2010).
Some jurisdictions allow "kennel" permits, but in the City of LA, those are only in commercial/industrial areas and must be 500 feet from a residence.

<u>CITY</u>	<u>TOTAL NO. OF DOGS/CATS ALLOWED PER PROPERTY</u>
LONG BEACH	Four (4) pets per household (combined cats & dogs)
BURBANK	Three (3) animals per household (combination of cats & dogs)
ARCADIA	Three (3) dogs & three (3) cats
GLENDALE	Four (4) animals (combination cats/dogs)
LA CRESCENTA	Three (3) dogs and/or five (5) cats
SAN MARINO	Three (3) dogs and/or three (3) cats
BELL GARDENS	Two (2) dogs or two (2) cats
BELLFLOWER	Three (3) animals (combination cats/dogs)
DOWNEY	Three (3) animals (combination cats/dogs)
MONTEBELLO	Three (3) animals (combination cats/dogs)
NORWALK	Three (3) animals (combined cats/dogs)
PARAMOUNT	Three (3) animals (combined cats/dogs)
PICO RIVERA	Three (3) animals (combined cats/dogs)
BELL	Three (3) dogs (uses County limit on cats)
BEVERLY HILLS	Three (3) dogs/five (5) cats
HAWTHORNE	Three (3) animals (combination cats/dogs)
HUNTINGTON PARK	Three (3) animals (combination cats/dogs)
PASADENA	Four (4) dogs/cats (combined)
CUDAHY	Two (2) dogs and/or two (2) cats
SEAL BEACH	Four (4) animals per household (combined cats & dogs)
LAKESWOOD	Two dogs and two cats
TORRANCE	Four (4) animals total (NO MORE THAN three can be of same species; e.g., 3 cats/1 dog, or 2 dogs & 2 cats, or 3 dogs & 1 cat)
CULVER CITY	Three (3) dogs and three (3) cats.
SOUTH GATE	Three (3) animals (combination cats/dogs)
SOUTH EL MONTE	Three (3) animals (combination cats/dogs)
SOUTH PASADENA	Three (3) dogs (uses County code for cats)
WEST HOLLYWOOD	Three (3) dogs and three (3) cats. (If tenant, can be less.)

SANTA MONICA - Although they have no limit in their MC, their City Attorney advises them they can implement the LA County limits automatically: Three (3) dogs/three (3) cats. . (Santa Monica requires a kennel permit and city business license for anyone having above the "average" number of pets.)

COUNTY OF L.A. Three (3) dogs and three (3) cats. (In unincorporated areas, county owners can have up to five cats if they're all spayed or neutered and live inside." (This requires a vet examination or sterilization certificate for each cat, plus they must have rabies shots.)

ORANGE COUNTY Animal permits required

You are allowed no more than 3 dogs and 3 cats over 4 months of age per residence. If you have more than that you need to apply for an animal permit.