

PERSONNEL AND ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE REPORT relative to the feasibility of establishing a comprehensive matching system to assist in increasing successful pet adoptions.

Recommendation for Council action, pursuant to Motion (Koretz - Wesson):

INSTRUCT the Department of Animal Services (DAS) to report to the Personnel and Animal Welfare Committee in 30 days in regard to the feasibility of a comprehensive matching system to assist in increasing successful adoptions.

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 March 16, 2016, your Committee considered a Motion (Koretz - Wesson) relative to the feasibility of establishing a comprehensive matching system to assist in increasing successful pet adoptions. According to the Motion, increasing adoptions inside City animal shelters must be Job Number One for the DAS. While the DAS has made great strides in recent years, it is critical that it continue to explore new and creative programs to increase successful adoptions.

Recently, certain shelters around the country have begun to develop comprehensive matching systems that analyze behavioral data about the pet and potential adopter with the goal of finding the best match. An example of one successful system has potential adopters answer a survey of 19 questions to evaluate such things as personality, playfulness, energy, and drive. Staff videos and spends time with the animals studying their individual traits. The process does not evaluate good or bad; rather, the process allows the shelter to learn more about the animal with the goal of aiding the adoption process. As just one example, some pets have a better temperament to be better left much of the day while their adopter works or goes to school. A successful match program could assist in ensuring that the right pet goes with the right adopter.

After further consideration and having provided an opportunity for public comment, the Committee moved to recommend approval of the Motion as detailed in the above recommendation. This matter is now submitted to Council for its consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

PERSONNEL AND ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE



<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
KORETZ:	YES
RYU:	YES
HARRIS-DAWSON:	YES

ARL
3/16/16

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