

COMMUNICATION FROM CHAIR, PERSONNEL AND ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE, relative to the acceptance of a \$200,000 grant award from the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) for fee waivers for the public adoption of cats.

Recommendations for Council action, SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE MAYOR:

1. ACCEPT two checks in the amounts of \$110,000 and \$90,000, for a total of \$200,000 from the ASPCA as a grant award for fee-waived cat adoptions.
2. APPROVE the deposit of the \$200,000 into the Animal Welfare Trust Fund (Fund No. 859), and, RESTRICT the use of these funds in accordance with the grant agreement, attached to the Council file.

Fiscal Impact Statement: The Department of Animal Services (DAS) reports that there will be no financial impact on the DAS' budgeted funds. This grant will be deposited into the DAS' Animal Welfare Trust Fund and used in accordance with the grant agreement.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.

Summary:

On August 1, 2018, the Chair of the Personnel and Animal Welfare Committee considered a July 25, 2018 DAS report relative to the acceptance of a \$200,000 grant award from the ASPCA for fee waivers for the public adoption of cats. According to the DAS, on April 26, 2018, it submitted an application to the ASPCA for a grant in the amount of \$200,000 to subsidize adoption fees for cats. On July 6, 2018, the ASPCA awarded the \$200,000 grant to the DAS and sent the attached Grant Agreement Reference letter outlining the grant requirements, timeliness, usage and reporting requirements. The ASPCA will issue two checks; one in the amount of \$110,000 and the second due next year in the amount of \$90,000. The terms and conditions of the grant were accepted and agreed upon by the DAS and the letter was signed and returned to the ASPCA.

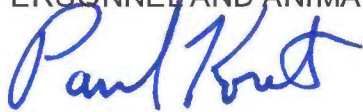
The DAS is constantly seeking new and innovative avenues for encouraging animal adoption in the City of Los Angeles. This ASPCA grant provided funding to accomplish increased adoption and increased live save rates. This year, kitten season is especially busy. The acceptance of these funds will allow the DAS to run adoption events focused on cats to increase their chances of finding homes. Over the years, the DAS has used a variety of strategies to encourage adoptions. One proven successful method is to offer fee waived adoptions. Documented data supports that when an organization has offered to subsidized adoption fees, adoption numbers have risen during the reduced fee period. There are detractors who believe that reduced fee or fee waived adoptions will devalue an animal and potentially make it more likely to be abused, abandoned or neglected. From a practical perspective, those participating in fee waived adoptions must provide valid identification before taking an animal into his/her custody.

With the number of under-socialized and/or stray cats in the City, people who have malicious intent toward cats could more easily victimize these undocumented animals rather than identifying themselves to the DAS as cat owners. Also, nationwide studies have been conducted gathering

information from numerous adoption agencies and there is no evidence to support a greater likelihood of abuse or neglect in fee waived adoptions. It should be noted that the DAS applied for and received a similar grant from the ASPCA in 2015 and 2017. The use of those funds had a very positive impact on the overall live/save rate for cats. Finally, on July 24, 2018, the Board of Animal Services Commission authorized the acceptance of these funds subject to the approval of the City Council and Mayor. After consideration, the Committee Chair moved to recommend approval of accepting the grant from the ASPCA as detailed in the July 25, 2018 DAS report. This matter is now submitted to Council for its consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

PERSONNEL AND ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paul Kout", is written over the printed name "PAUL KOUT".

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
KORETZ:	YES
PRICE:	ABSENT
ENGLANDER:	ABSENT
ARL	

8/1/18

-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-