

PERSONNEL AND ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE REPORT relative to assessing the City of Los Angeles' progress toward becoming a no-kill city.

Recommendation for Council action:

NOTE and FILE the September 3, 2015 Controller report relative to assessing the City of Los Angeles' progress toward becoming a no-kill city.

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 February 17, 2016, your Committee considered a September 3, 2015 Controller report relative to assessing the City of Los Angeles' progress toward becoming a no-kill city. According to the Controller, there are varying opinions about what "No Kill" means. Some define "No Kill" as a state in which no healthy, adoptable animals are killed and in which, as a result, 90 to 95 percent of animals are expected to leave City shelters alive. The Department of Animal Services (DAS) says it and a coalition of more than 70 animal care organizations are targeting a goal of 85 to 90 percent of dogs and cats leaving shelters alive by 2017.

Last year, statistics published by the DAS show that about one of every four lost or abandoned animals that entered the City's six animal shelters was euthanized. In real numbers, that meant 14,083 of the 57,225 animals that entered the City's shelters last year were euthanized. More than a decade ago, approximately 30,000 animals were being killed.

Representatives from the DAS and Controller presented an overview of the status of the City's "No Kill" Program and answered questions from the Committee members. The Controller also noted that some animal advocates have expressed skepticism about whether the DAS's statistics—many of which are published monthly—can be believed. In response, the Controller evaluated the DAS's recordkeeping. The DAS tracks animals statistically from the time they enter shelters to the time they exit. The Controller reviewed three years of such statistics from Fiscal Years 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14.

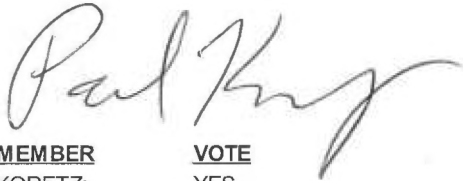
While the Controller found some procedural problems in the way the DAS collects its statistics and recommended ways for the DAS to improve, the Controller has concluded that overall, the DAS's reported statistics were reasonably accurate. However, there was one exception that interestingly did not have to do with tracking animals who enter shelters. In its public reporting, the DAS dramatically understated one of its accomplishments— the large number of animals it had a hand in sterilizing in efforts to guard against later having to euthanize their offspring. Sterilization has been the law in Los Angeles since 2008 and is widely regarded as a key to a successful "No Kill" program. But in reporting sterilization figures, the DAS failed to include thousands of publicly-subsidized sterilizations performed by private veterinarians on the City's behalf.

After further consideration and having provided an opportunity for public comment, the

Committee moved to note and file the September 3, 2015 Controller report. This matter is now submitted to Council for its consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

PERSONNEL AND ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Paul Kury".

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

2/17/16

-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-