

MOTION

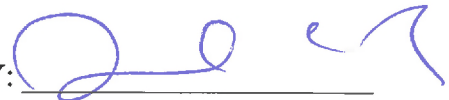
One of the metrics used to measure the success of the Department of Animal Services is the number of pets adopted from City shelters. And while maximizing the number of adoptions is an important indicator, the quality of those adoptions and rates of recurrent surrenders is also a key determinant of the Department's success.

Ensuring prospective adopters are aware of the services and resources available, as well as the responsibilities associated with pet ownership is a critical facet of this success. However, limited Department resources make it difficult to provide the in-depth counseling that private agencies provide their clients. The value of such counseling extends well beyond the adopter/adoptee relationship, but to homeowners and renters insurance requirements for pet owners, tenant rights, service animal requirements and animal welfare issues, amongst others.

To improve the success of adoptions from the City's animal shelters, and reduce the rate at which animals are surrendered and re-surrendered, the Department of Animal Services should explore opportunities to provide counseling services to its adopters and submit to the City Council recommendations for the implementation of such services.


I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council instruct the Department of Animal Services to review best practices in pre-categorizing or pre-pairing shelter animals with prospective adopters, counseling prospective pet adopters on responsible pet ownership and the feasibility of implementing such programs and standards in the City's animal shelters, and submit to the City Council recommendations for the provision of these services using in-house staff or by partnering with volunteers and other external agencies.

PRESENTED BY:



David E. Ryu  
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SECONDED BY:



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