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October 14, 2016

Honorable City Council
c/o Office of the City Clerk
200 North Spring Street
Room 395, City Hall
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: INCREASED REIMBURSEMENT TO VETERINARY PARTNERS FOR THE SPAY/NEUTER OF SHELTER ANIMALS

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. INCREASE the amount reimbursed to veterinary partners for the spaying/neutering of shelter dogs and rabbits to \$125 per surgery.
2. INCREASE the amount reimbursed to veterinary partners for the spaying/neutering of shelter cats to \$70 per surgery.

SUMMARY:

At its meeting on May 3, 2016, the Los Angeles City Council approved a proposal to increase the monetary values of free spay/neuter vouchers and discount certificates to \$125 and \$50, respectively (CF# 16-0114). This provided much needed financial relief to those veterinarian partners who perform free and discounted spay/neuter surgeries to the public. This action did not impact the reimbursement of spay/neuter services for shelter animals. The rates for these procedures continue to be inadequate to cover the cost of the surgeries.

The Department has four contracts and over 40 letters of agreement with veterinary clinics and private veterinarians who perform spay/neuter surgeries for shelter animals. These animals are sent to our veterinary partners to be altered, 1) in preparation for adoption; 2) in preparation for pick-up after adoption; or 3) after their medical condition is healthy enough for surgery.

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Below is a chart reflecting the current reimbursement amounts as well as the proposed reimbursement amounts. The proposed reimbursement amounts are equivalent to the newly implemented monetary value of the free spay/neuter vouchers. Uniform spay/neuter reimbursement rates is not only practical, but it will result in easier processing and less confusion with respect to invoicing.

SPECIES	GENDER	CURRENT REIMBURSEMENT	PROPOSED REIMBURSEMENT
Cat	Male	\$60	\$70
Cat	Female	\$68	\$70
Dog	Male	\$60	\$125
Dog	Female	\$68	\$125
Dog (Large)	Male	\$110	\$125
Dog (Large)	Female	\$118	\$125
Rabbit	Any	\$65	\$125

FISCAL IMPACT:

The total amount of funds available for animal sterilization for the Department varies year to year. Approximately \$1.1M is allocated to the Animal Sterilization Fund (ASF) as a fixed amount each year with an additional, variable sum added based on donations and licensing surcharges. In an effort to project the fiscal impact for this proposal, statistics from FY 15-16 were used. Below are the statistics for FY 15-16. Had these increases been in place during that fiscal year, total fiscal impact would have been \$536,601.

SPECIES/GENDER	NO. OF SURGERIES	AMOUNT EXPENDED FY 15-16	PROPOSED INCREASE
Cat – Male	1554	\$92,240	\$15,540
Cat – Female	2137	\$145,316	\$4,274
Dog – Male	3735	\$224,100	\$242,775
Dog – Female	4074	\$277,032	\$232,218
Dog – Male (large)	1295	\$142,450	\$19,425
Dog – Female (large)	907	\$107,026	\$6,349
Rabbit	267	\$17,355	\$16,020
TOTAL INCREASE			\$536,601

Brenda F. Barnette

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 General Manager