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CHIEF VETERINARIAN

February 13, 2018

The Honorable Eric Garcetti
Mayor, City of Los Angeles
200 N. Spring Street, Room 303
Los Angeles, CA 90012

The Honorable City Council
c/o Office of the City Clerk
City Hall, Room 395
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Attention: Ms. Mandy Morales, Office of the Mayor

**RE: RECOMMENDED POLICY TO ALLOW COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO CARE FOR
FOUND DOGS AND CATS UNDER CERTAIN GUIDELINES**

Recommendation for Council Action, subject to the approval of the Mayor:

- AUTHORIZE the City Council to direct appropriate City staff to prepare an ordinance amending LAMC as required.

SUMMARY

At its meeting on September 26, 2017, the Board of Animal Services Commissioners considered and approved an item that recommended a policy to allow community members to provide home care for found dogs and cats under certain guidelines with the goal that such a program be more successful in reuniting the owners with their pets than bringing the animals into the shelter.

We propose to allow private citizens to provide home care for a dog or cat on the loose who is not wearing a license tag under certain guidelines. This home care shall be for up to 30 days unless the Department makes a demand for the animal in the event that the owner is located and then the animal must be brought to the Department so the owner can identify the pet or determine that it is not his/her pet.

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Transmittal to Mayor and City Council
RECOMMENDED POLICY TO ALLOW COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO CARE FOR FOUND
DOGS AND CATS UNDER CERTAIN GUIDELINES

Purpose of the ordinance amending the LAMC is to:

- Give lost animals home care, and medical care if appropriate;
- Keep animals out of the shelter;
- Work with residents who are concerned or refuse to turn animals in to the shelter for fear the animal will not be claimed or placed; and
- Expand the Department's foster program and increase community involvement in helping find animals' owners, and meanwhile, allowing animals to be held in less stressful environments

BACKGROUND

The Los Angeles City Municipal Code section 53.09 on this topic does not require the impounding of the animal nor does it require that the animal be brought to the shelter.

LAMC Sec 53.09 states that after finding an animal on the loose, a person must, within four hours or within two hours thereafter if the animal is attached or hitched to a vehicle, give notice to the Department or to some police officer, that he has such animal in his possession, and provide a description of the animal, where he found and where he has confined the animal.

If requested to do so by the Department, the finder shall surrender such animal to the General Manager or their duly authorized representative upon demand.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact to the General Fund to adopt the changes recommended in this report.

Respectfully submitted,



Brenda F. Barnette
General Manager

Attachments

c: Mandy Morales, Office of the Mayor
Deputy Mayor Barbara Romero
Carol Armstrong, Office of the Mayor
Ashley Stracke, Office of the Mayor
Nicole Serrano, Office of the Mayor