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**DEPARTMENT OF  
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Lifesaving

DR. JEREMY PRUPAS  
CHIEF VETERINARIAN

August 27, 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: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL FOR THE DEPARTMENT TO SUBMIT THE PROPOSED  
MODIFICATION TO LAMC SECTION 53.50 – GOVERNING RULES FOR GRANTING PERMITS  
FOR PET SHOPS**

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 the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) Section 53.50 with proposed draft language.

**BACKGROUND**

At its meeting of August 14, 2018, the Board of Animal Service Commissioners (Board) considered and approved an item that recommended amendments to Section 53.50 of the LAMC relative to the governing rules for granting permits to pet shops. Specifically, the amendments would require that pets being sold in pet shops come from Los Angeles City or Los Angeles County municipal animal shelters. The amendment would also remove references to the humane societies and rescue groups as possible sources of animals that can be sold in pet shops.

The proposed language is as follows:

(e) **Rules and Regulations.** The General Manager is hereby authorized and empowered to adopt such rules and regulations reasonably necessary to carry out the purpose of this Article and to ensure the maintenance of approved and humane conditions at any place for which a permit is granted hereunder. Before granting a permit for a pet shop, the General

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Manager shall consider the pet shop's location, size, operations and other significant features including but not limited to the number and type of animals present and that the dogs, cats or rabbits have been or will be obtained from a municipal shelter belonging to the City or to the County of Los Angeles. The General Manager shall impose reasonable restrictions as part of the pet shop permit to ensure that the pet shop will not unreasonably subject adjacent businesses or the surrounding neighborhood to unwarranted noise and odor, and will protect the public health, welfare and safety. A copy of such rules and regulations shall be furnished to each applicant upon the filing of a permit application. **(Amended by Ord. No. 182,816, Eff. 1/19/14.)**

These modifications to the LAMC are important for enforcement and will help to decrease the number of adoptable dogs being euthanized for space in municipal shelters by prohibiting pet shops from obtaining animals from abroad or out of state from puppy mills.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no fiscal impact.

Respectfully submitted,



Brenda F. Barnette  
General Manager

Attachments:

Board Report – Request for Approval for the Department to Submit the Proposed Modification to LAMC Section 53.50 – Governing Rules for Granting Permits for Pet Shops

cc: Megan Cottier, City Administrative Officer

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**Report to the Board of Animal Services Commissioners**

**MEETING DATE:** August 14, 2018

**PREPARED BY:** Brenda Barnette

**REPORT DATE:** August 10, 2018

**TITLE:** General Manager

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL FOR THE DEPARTMENT TO SUBMIT THE PROPOSED MODIFICATION TO LAMC SECTION 53.50 – GOVERNING RULES FOR GRANTING PERMITS FOR PET SHOPS**

**BOARD ACTION RECOMMENDED:**

**APPROVE:** Staff recommendation for the Department to Submit the Proposed Modification to LAMC Section 53.50 – Governing Rules for Granting Permits for Pet Shops.

**BACKGROUND:**

In June 2017, a motion to was made by Councilmember Blumenfield and seconded by Councilmember Buscaino (Council file 11-0754-S2):

**SUMMARY:** A proposed ordinance (Appendix A) amending Sections 12.03, 12.14, 12.17 and 12.24 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) to facilitate pet adoption by increasing the number of adult dogs permitted to be kept overnight in pet shops in certain commercial zones (C2, C4, C5 and CM) with development and operation standards; and to provide a relief mechanism for shops to vary from the standards or to locate in the remaining commercial zones (CR, C1 and C1.5).

The purpose of the ordinance was to have retail pet shops in locations that would allow more shelter animals to be adopted, and to decrease the competition created by bringing in animals from other places. This is made worse by the trend that some adoption organizations practice of getting animals from abroad, or out of state and the puppy mills that have set themselves up as nonprofit rescues while we are still euthanizing adoptable dogs for space in our own municipal shelters.

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Report to the Board of Animal Services Commissioners

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However, the Planning Department did not consider the source of the pets to be part of their scope of work. Therefore they did not address the source of the pets sold in pet stores.

**SUMMARY:**

The Department requests that the Board approve this report recommending that pets being sold in pet shops be animals from Los Angeles City or Los Angeles County municipal animal shelters. Once approved and transmitted to the Mayor and City Council, Council will direct the City Attorney's Office to draft an amendment to the existing pet shop section in the Animal Services LAMC section similar to the sample below:

(e) **Rules and Regulations.** The General Manager is hereby authorized and empowered to adopt such rules and regulations reasonably necessary to carry out the purpose of this Article and to ensure the maintenance of approved and humane conditions at any place for which a permit is granted hereunder. Before granting a permit for a pet shop, the General Manager shall consider the pet shop's location, size, operations and other significant features including but not limited to the number and type of animals present and that the dogs, cats or rabbits have been or will be obtained from a municipal shelter belonging to the City or to the County of Los Angeles. The General Manager shall impose reasonable restrictions as part of the pet shop permit to ensure that the pet shop will not unreasonably subject adjacent businesses or the surrounding neighborhood to unwarranted noise and odor, and will protect the public health, welfare and safety. A copy of such rules and regulations shall be furnished to each applicant upon the filing of a permit application. **(Amended by Ord. No. 182,816, Eff. 1/19/14.)**

The modification deletes the reference to humane societies and rescue groups as possible sources of animals that can be sold in pet shops and limits pet shops to selling animals that are obtained from shelters belonging to the City or to the County of Los Angeles. This is important for enforcement and to prevent pet shops from getting animals from abroad or out of state from puppy mills that have set themselves up as nonprofit rescues while we are still euthanizing adoptable dogs for space in our own municipal shelters.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact.

Approved:



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Brenda Barnette, General Manager

Report to the Board of Animal Services Commissioners

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**BOARD ACTION:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Passed	<input type="checkbox"/>	Disapproved
<input type="checkbox"/>	Passed with noted modifications	<input type="checkbox"/>	Continued
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tabled	<input type="checkbox"/>	New Date