

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR, PERSONNEL AND ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE relative to creating a policy that provides for microchip scanning and notification of the registered owner when picking up a dead animal.

Recommendation for Council action, pursuant to Motion (Blumenfield - Huizar):

INSTRUCT the Bureau of Sanitation (BOS), in consultation with the Department of Animal Services (DAS), to prepare a Department policy within 60 days that describes how it will scan for a microchip and notify the registered owner when picking up a dead animal

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 November 6, 2019, the Committee Chair considered a Motion (Blumenfield - Huizar) relative to creating a policy that provides for microchip scanning and notification of the registered owner when picking up a dead animal. According to the Motion, the City has made great strides to be a compassionate and humane place for all animals and pets. Part of that commitment is the laudable goal of reconnecting found pets with their owners. A microchip's sole function is to store a unique ID number that is used to retrieve a pet owner's contact information. When a microchip scanner is passed over the skin of a microchipped pet, the implanted microchip emits an RF (radio frequency) signal. The scanner reads the microchip's unique ID code. The microchip registry is called, and the registry company uses the ID number to retrieve the pet owner's contact information from the pet recovery database. Most animal shelters and veterinary hospitals in the U.S. have global scanners that read pet microchips from most manufacturers. When a found animal is brought to the City shelter, LA Animal Services scans for a microchip.

There are times when animals are simply taken in by someone and not returned. If a registered owner is notified, this would allow them to know where their lost pet is and recover them even if it has been months since it was listed as lost. In October 2019, the City launched a program which will allow community members who find lost pets to get them scanned, send LA Animal Services a picture, and foster up to one month while the department works with the foster to reunite the pet with the family. The DAS is also exploring facial recognition programs for pets. Furthermore, when dead animals are picked up by the BOS, that department should have the ability to scan for a microchip and then notify the owner to provide closure. After consideration, the Committee Chair moved to recommend approval of the Motion as detailed in the above recommendation. This matter is now submitted to Council for its consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

PERSONNEL AND ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE



MEMBER VOTE

KORETZ: YES

LEE: ABSENT

PRICE: ABSENT

ARL

11/6/19

-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-