

PERSONNEL AND ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE REPORT relative to the establishment of The Pet Retention Program and associated actions with the Animal Welfare Trust Fund.

Recommendations for Council action, pursuant to Resolution (Koretz- Blumenfield), SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE MAYOR:

1. AUTHORIZE the Department of Animal Services (DAS) to:
 - a. Create a new program entitled, The Pet Retention Program, to be funded in the Animal Welfare Trust Fund, Fund No. 859 to provide medical care and treatment for privately owned pets for low-income City residents through private donations and grants, and disburse the funds in accordance with City of Los Angeles rules and regulations for the care of privately owned pets.
 - b. Make any technical corrections/adjustments to the above funding instructions detailed below in Recommendation No. 2 in order to effectuate the intent of this Resolution, attached to the Council file.
2. AUTHORIZE the Controller to create a new Account No. 060051 within the Animal Welfare Trust Fund No. 859 entitled, The Pet Retention Program, for the depositing of donations and grants designated for the care of privately owned pets.

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 October 14, 2020, your Committee considered a Resolution (Koretz - Blumenfield) relative to the establishment of The Pet Retention Program and associated actions with the Animal Welfare Trust Fund. According to the Resolution, the Animal Welfare Trust Fund (Fund) was established in 1986 (Council File No. 86-1648) to receive donations and bequests from the public, in order to "augment established programs and activities of the DAS, other than those involving pet sterilization." The Ordinance creating the Fund limited the use of the monies in the Fund to the acquisition, construction and maintenance of land and capital improvements and the purchase of equipment, services or furnishings in support of such programs and activities, subject to any special terms or conditions attached to individual gifts, contributions or bequests. On September 26, 2017, the Board of Animal Services Commissioners (Board) approved a request to expand the use of the Fund to allow expenditures for new programs (except those involving pet sterilization) and on July 14, 2020, the Board established a new Pet Retention Pilot Program for the purpose of providing medical care and treatment for privately-owned pets of low-income City residents through the collection of private donations and grants; and the Pet Retention Program will help reduce the City's animal shelter populations by preventing low- income individuals from having to surrender their pets due to costs of medical care and treatment.

The pilot program will be conducted at the Chesterfield Square Animal Services Center and is available to City of Los Angeles residents 18 years and older who are the primary caretaker of the pet, with Income eligibility and self-certification of income to follow the same criteria and process as that used for the issuance of free spay/neuter vouchers. Should the pilot program be proven to be a success, the Board has authorized the DAS to permanently expand the program on a system-wide basis. After consideration and having provided an opportunity for public comment, the Committee moved to recommend approval of the Resolution. This matter is now submitted to Council for its consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

PERSONNEL AND ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Koretz". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

MEMBER VOTE

KORETZ: YES

LEE: YES

PRICE: ABSENT

ARL

10/14/20

-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-