

Communication from Public

Name: D. Fargo

Date Submitted: 08/16/2022 05:52 AM

Council File No: 22-1111-S10

Comments for Public Posting: What is happening within our Animal Services department here in Los Angeles is horrific. I was glad to see it in print when the Los Angeles Times came out with the story. Of course we all understand that funds are a big part of the problem that is happening within the department. I imagine that poor leadership is also a very big issue. But it is time that we all come together to solve this problem. There are things that need to be done and laws that have to be enforced. Number one, we need to enforce our laws regarding the spay/neuter of dogs and cats. It is the law that all of these pets be spayed or neutered by the time they are four months old. We cannot count on individuals to do this on their own. We must require our veterinarians to help with this major issue. They are the ones that see and treat these animals. Veterinarians should be required by the city/county to report all animals that are not spayed/neutered at four months so that Animal Services can move forward in more easily enforcing this important law. I am sure that veterinarians would not be thrilled with this, but it must be done to help save lives. Also, when their clients have animals that are having litters of puppies and kittens, they should have to report to Animal Services that this breeding is going on. Once again, so that Animal Services can move forward with their job of stopping backyard/puppy mill breeding. If pet owners are hit with fines for these acts, the birth of many unwanted pets would certainly be slowed while also bringing funds into Animal Services. Lastly, and the most important, Humane Education must be implemented. We need to turn the tide of young kids learning from their parents how to properly take care of their animals. There are still too many parents that don't spay/neuter and that think it is ok to let unaltered pets outside. We keep passing this down from generation to generation and it must be stopped. Yes, it is slowly getting somewhat better but at the loss of thousands and thousands of lives due to the slow pace. We need to bring Humane Education to our youth. In doing this, the children will bring the message home to their parents and pass it on to their own future children. Informing our kids is the only way to really stop this. With Best Friends soon vacating the Mission Hills facility, wouldn't it be wonderful if the city designated a portion of that building to be strictly used for Humane Education? I would like to think that the rescue groups in

Los Angeles could get a staff of volunteers to run this program. Children and their teachers could go on a field trip to the facility to see the animals and to learn all about the horrors of dogs and cats running the streets. Of course, the program would be age appropriate. With a small amount of money to run the program, and for handouts that the children would share at home, it would make a tremendous dent in the number of animals ending up in our public shelters. Therefore, saving lives. We, Animal Services (both city and county), animal advocates, animal rescuers, veterinarians and plain old animal lovers need to come together on this. We need to communicate and work together to make this the best city ever for our animals. I think that our "village" could make this work.

Communication from Public

Name: Katie Arth

Date Submitted: 08/16/2022 07:50 AM

Council File No: 22-1111-S10

Comments for Public Posting: I volunteered directly at the Chesterfield Shelter for 9 months and am moving out of the area, so I'm stopping. I am far from the most experienced, but there seems to be resistance to change even when things are clearly not working. The shelter has been under enormous pressure with understaffing and not being open to the public with COVID. They also are still under protocols that limit the amount of volunteers that can participate in dog walking trainings, etc. That being said, it's time for some new ideas. If we all think that walking dogs every three weeks isn't enough, then the city needs to reevaluate what it's doing. That means either hiring more staff and including enrichment in their job descriptions or getting more volunteers walking dogs. In the previous meeting it was discussed about a slowness of the city processing volunteer applications, but no one has talked about the required training and processes to get people to be able to walk large dogs. I've proposed a few solutions internally that were dismissed as impossible. My ideas aren't necessarily the right ones, but it's time to go back to the drawing board. More untrained volunteers will not get dogs out. Only more trained ones will. Also, the volunteers who were dismissed need to be reinstated. I have no doubt they expressed concerns many times to their Volunteer Liaison and tried to go through the proper chain of command. But there are only so many times someone can repeat things to deaf ears. Sheltering is messy. It means euthanasia, it means dog bites leading to extreme caution, it means animals defecating in cages, and it's clear that the shelter doesn't want to be unfairly targeted for something that would never happen in most people homes, but are a part of the reality of running an open admission shelter. That doesn't mean it can't be improved. And it needs to be open to new ideas to get there. There are dogs that are stuck in a cage because only those volunteers had the experience and approval to walk them. We also need to look at some of the causes for why so many large dogs are brought to the shelter. A common note on surrender paper work is "moving". As someone who has looked for an apartment that approves large dogs, it can feel nearly impossible. And on a very tight budget, it can just be impossible. While some people surrender dogs out of lack of commitment, most people care about the animals they've lived with and are simply trying to make ends meet. Past surveys

have shown that 1 in 5 animals are surrendered to shelters due to "landlord". In 2018, the City of Los Angeles was supposed to research this(Council File: 15-0843). The idea was for the city to look into ways to work with landlords to have more places allow pets. I've reached out to the animal commission and my city council member to find out the results of this with no response. Problems at the shelter are interconnected with problems in the city. If people can barely pay rent, landlords refuse large dogs, etc. then the shelter gets filled with large dogs that other people can't adopt because their landlords won't allow them. We can't only limit dog adoption to people who own their own houses. Additionally, the city's mandatory spay/neuter ordinance has no teeth. It needs to be enforced. It just takes one trip to the dog park to see that the general public still isn't spaying/neutering. and the majority of animals coming into the shelters are not fixed. It's time to think out of the box and think about the roots of the problem.

Communication from Public

Name: Erica St Clair

Date Submitted: 08/16/2022 08:55 AM

Council File No: 22-1111-S10

Comments for Public Posting: Good morning, As a resident and constituent of Los Angeles, I'd like to demand the City of Los Angeles to drastically improve the deplorable conditions at LA city animal shelters! They are in DESPERATE need of more employees, volunteers (reinstate suspended volunteers), process applications for employees/volunteers quicker, and most importantly MORE FUNDING and RESOURCES! LA city is more than capable to allocate funding for the city shelters and improve the current conditions. Animals at the city shelters are living in vile conditions — this is unacceptable and NEEDS TO BE ADDRESSED IMMEDIATELY! Thank you

Communication from Public

Name: Sara R Harris

Date Submitted: 08/16/2022 01:26 PM

Council File No: 22-1111-S10

Comments for Public Posting: I served as a volunteer dog trainer and walker at North Central Animal Shelter for three years, between 2014-2017. I also had the pleasure of serving as a volunteer assessor and rescuer for Best Friends. In those years, I have seen despair, neglect, and gross negligence at this particular shelter under Los Angeles Animal Services staff and leadership. I have also seen good-faith skill and professionalism deployed in the interest of the dogs and cats at this shelter from certain staff and leadership. Hundreds of dogs and cats were euthanized during my time working with the shelter system. I put the reason for these unnecessary deaths to the compounding of behavioral issues due to neglect, abuse, and ignorance by LAAS leadership. Please receive this quote from my journal at the end of a 6 hour shift at North Central Animal Shelter on June 3rd 2014: "Most times, the day at the shelter feels like a flood of humanity and inhumanity. Today was no exception. The dogs at the shelter are essentially warehoused and in prison."

Communication from Public

Name: Lionel Mares

Date Submitted: 08/17/2022 11:56 AM

Council File No: 22-1111-S10

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Council Members, Re: Paul Koretz (Chair of the Personnel, Audits, Animal Welfare Committee) After hearing reports of Animal Cruetly and Neglect at the Animal Shelters managed by Animal Services; and not to mention the mishandling of the Animal Welfare Trust Fund by Council member Paul Koretz (Council District 5). The Animal Welfare Trust Fund was meant to improve the conditions of the animals in which they're confined in and for the welfare of the animals at these shelters. Council member Paul Koretz (Council District 5) mismanaged those funds to pay The Glue LLC for a website. That was a serious mistake and wasteful spending! The animals don't need a website, they need real, human care, such as from Volunteers who go to tend to these poor creatures. Volunteers are not paid staff and they're the ones who do all the hard work of caring for these animals. They need to be brought back and they deserve an official apology. The volunteers had to speak up because staff refused to listen. They took matters into their own hands to spoke up to the public and mainstream media. Council member Paul Koretz (Council District 5) and Chair of the Personnel, Audits, Animal Welfare Committee should fix this as soon as possible! Thank You, Lionel Mares, MPA