

MOTION

Ensuring that dogs residing in City animal shelters receive regular attention, exercise and enhancement is a key element of treating them humanely during their sometimes long stays while waiting to be adopted or fostered. This is integral to meeting statutory requirements for treating animals humanely and, more importantly, key to making the City's commitment to striving for "No-Kill" operations meaningful.

The Department of Animal Services has acknowledged that this is not occurring due to a combination of a staffing shortfall, COVID-related absences and the gradual re-start of its volunteer program after the pandemic shutdown in 2020-21. These staffing and volunteer issues have led to most shelter dogs not being regularly walked or exercised, evidence dogs sometimes not being walked for weeks or months at a time, and some cats and small animals receiving inadequate attention.

There is some evidence that the Department is already working to address these issues by involving more volunteers and bringing in outside contractors and experts to revitalize and improve well-regarded dog playgroups and devote more attention to unfortunately neglected evidence animals, including those with substantial behavioral issues. The goal should be to guarantee that all of these animals receive regular attention, care and exercise on a consistent basis moving forward.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Department of Animal Services be instructed to report back within 30 days on a plan to ensure that all dogs in its shelters are regularly exercised and properly attended to, including whatever additional human and/or budgetary resources the department feels would be necessary to accomplish this goal.

PRESENTED BY:



PAUL KORETZ

Councilmember, Fifth District

SECONDED BY:



ORIGINAL

OCT 07 2022

