

COMMUNICATION FROM CHAIR, PERSONNEL, AUDITS, AND ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE relative to planning to ensure that all dogs in its shelters are regularly exercised and properly attended to.

Recommendation for Council action, pursuant to Motion (Koretz – O’Farrell):

INSTRUCT the Department of Animal Services (DAS) to report 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 DAS feels would be necessary to accomplish this goal.

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 24, 2022, the Chair of the PAAW Committee considered a Motion (Koretz – O’Farrell) relative to planning to ensure that all dogs in its shelters are regularly exercised and properly attended to. According to the 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 DAS 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 DAS 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. After consideration, the Committee Chair moved to recommend approval of the Motion. This matter is now submitted to Council for its consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,



Councilmember Paul Koretz, Chair
Personnel, Audits, and Animal Welfare Committee

COUNCILMEMBER VOTE

KORETZ: YES

HARRIS-DAWSON: ABSENT

BONIN: ABSENT

ARL

10/24/22

-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-