

ORDINANCE NO. _____

An ordinance adding Subsections (f) and (g) to Section 53.15.2 of Article 3, Chapter V of the Los Angeles Municipal Code to provide a temporary moratorium on the issuance of new dog breeding permits until the dog population in the City's animal shelters is reduced and to add a severability clause.

WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles is experiencing a dire crisis due to the overcrowding of dogs in Department of Animal Services' (Department) animal shelters, consistent with the growing overpopulation in public and private animal shelters nationwide;

WHEREAS, the current dog population in the Department's animal shelters has exceeded kennel capacity for more than a year, necessitating the doubling and tripling of dogs in single kennels and the placement of dogs in temporary hallway crates for up to months at a time, while, at the same time, increasing strain on Department staff;

WHEREAS, current shelter overpopulation is not ideal for the shelter dogs, escalates costs of animal care and control, and poses an increasing threat to public health and safety;

WHEREAS, Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 53.15.2(c) requires the Department to administer a breeding permit program for unsterilized dogs, resulting in the issuance of nearly 2,000 dog breeding permits annually, which contributes to the overpopulation of dogs in the Department's animal shelters; and

WHEREAS, a temporary moratorium on the issuance of new dog breeding permits during periods of shelter overpopulation will help reduce the population of dogs and greatly benefit the welfare of dogs in the Department's animal shelters.

NOW, THEREFORE,

**THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES
DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:**

Section 1. Subsection (f) is added to Section 53.15.2 of Article 3, Chapter V of the Los Angeles Municipal Code to read as follows:

(f) Temporary Moratorium on the Issuance of Dog Breeding Permits.

(1) Initial Moratorium. Notwithstanding the provisions of Subsection (c) of this section, upon the effective date of this subsection, the Department shall not issue any new dog breeding permit until the three-month moving average of the daily inventory count of all dogs at the City's Department-operated

animal shelters is equal to or less than 75 percent of the Department's total dog kennel capacity. Thereafter, this initial moratorium shall be lifted and the Department shall resume issuing dog breeding permits in accordance with the provisions of Subsection (c).

(2) **Intermittent Moratorium.** If, anytime after the lifting of the initial moratorium in Subsection (f)(1), the three-month moving average of the daily inventory count of all dogs at the City's Department-operated animal shelters is more than 75 percent of the Department's total dog kennel capacity, an intermittent moratorium shall be imposed on the Department dog breeding permit operations for new dog breeding permits. Notwithstanding the provisions of Subsection (c) of this section, upon the imposition of an intermittent moratorium, the Department shall not issue any new dog breeding permit until the three-month moving average of the daily inventory count of all dogs at the City's Department-operated animal shelters is equal to or less than 75 percent of the Department's total dog kennel capacity. Thereafter, the intermittent moratorium shall be lifted and the Department shall resume issuing dog breeding permits in accordance with the provisions of Subsection (c).

(3) For purposes of this subsection, "dog kennel capacity" shall mean the total number of kennels at the City's Department-operated animal shelters that are designated for the general housing of dogs, and shall not include kennels designated for temporary holding purposes such as for isolation or quarantine.

Sec. 2. Subsection (g) is added to Section 53.15.2 of Article 3, Chapter V of the Los Angeles Municipal Code to read as follows:

(g) **Severability.** If any provision of this section is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining provisions of this section. The City Council declares that it would have adopted this section and each and every provision not declared invalid or unconstitutional, without regard to whether any portion of the section would be subsequently declared invalid or unconstitutional.

Sec. 3. The City Clerk shall certify to the passage of this ordinance and have it published in accordance with Council policy, either in a daily newspaper circulated in the City of Los Angeles or by posting for ten days in three public places in the City of Los Angeles: one copy on the bulletin board located at the Main Street entrance to the Los Angeles City Hall; one copy on the bulletin board located at the Main Street entrance to the Los Angeles City Hall East; and one copy on the bulletin board located at the Temple Street entrance to the Los Angeles County Hall of Records.

Approved as to Form and Legality

HYDEE FELDSTEIN SOTO, City Attorney

By



STEVE R. HOUCHIN
Deputy City Attorney

Date

3/14/24

File No. _____

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The Clerk of the City of Los Angeles hereby certifies that the foregoing ordinance was passed by the Council of the City of Los Angeles.

CITY CLERK

MAYOR

Ordinance Passed _____

Approved _____