

MOTION

As we work to address the overcrowding crisis in our animal shelters, one of the tools at our disposal is the Foster program. Through the Department of Animal Services (DAS), Angelenos can take in kittens and puppies, as well as adult cats and dogs, without the permanent commitment of adoption. Foster stays can last anywhere from a few days to several months but no matter the duration, they create a significant impact. In addition to decompressing the population in our shelters, fostering provides animals with socialization and love that contributes to their greater wellbeing.

Depending on the level of need a pet has, a foster volunteer can expect to engage in work from routine pet care to bottle feeding to administration of medications. The labor of love that a foster volunteer dedicates to the animal in their home is a special and valuable thing, and we must be constantly striving to increase participation in the program. With the amount of labor associated with fostering, some non-profit rescues have found it effective in growing their foster programs to offer monetary stipends to incentivize participation and it would be appropriate for the City to consider utilizing a similar tool.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Department of Animal Services (DAS) report within 30 days on the City's existing foster program, including:

- Number of approved foster volunteers active in Calendar Year 2023;
- Number of animals served by the foster program in Calendar Year 2023;
- Average number of nights an animal spends in a foster home;
- Process for approving foster volunteers;
- Tools utilized to re-engage former foster volunteers; and
- Process for an animal to go from the street to a foster home


I FURTHER MOVE that the Department of Animal Services (DAS), with the assistance of the City Administrative Officer (CAO), report on a proposed methodology for offering a monetary stipend for fostering shelter animals, including a recommended dollar amount and payment structure based on other entities' models and best practices, and the anticipated budgetary and staffing requirements to implement the program.

PRESENTED BY:



EUNISSES HERNANDEZ
Councilmember, 1st District

SECONDED BY:



ORIGINAL


MAR 15 2024