For the past several years, the Department of Animal Services (DAS) has been experiencing persistent overcrowding and underfunding in its shelters. Despite these challenges, the DAS continues to be responsible for the sheltering, care, and enrichment of the animals residing within their facilities. Even with six shelters located throughout the City including: Chesterfield Square in South Los Angeles, East Valley in Van Nuys, Harbor in San Pedro, North Central in Lincoln Heights, West Los Angeles, and West Valley in Chatsworth, the geographical distribution of these shelters continues to pose challenges for families seeking to visit for adoptions.

In efforts to mitigate this challenge, the DAS utilizes Pet Fairs. These events transport a limited number of animals to various locations, including City parks, with the goal of finding them homes. Such efforts have demonstrated to be efficient in securing homes for dogs, cats, and rabbits. According to the DAS' July 2025 Woof Statistics report, a total of 2,125 pets were adopted. This included 1,071 dogs, 785 cats, 203 kittens, and 66 rabbits and small pets. Furthermore, 262 animals were placed into foster care, 326 pets were reunited with their owners, and 1,486 animals were transferred to rescue partners.

Additionally, City Council offices host several community events throughout the year and invite DAS to have a presence in order to elevate the chances of pet adoptions for the department. However, at a previous CD6 Pet Fair, DAS only had the capacity to bring 6 pets to be considered for adoption. To further increase adoption rates and ensure that the distance from a shelter does not discourage families from adopting pets, the City should explore expanding the DAS' capacity to host and participate at more Pet Fair events. Increasing capacity could look like investments in the large vehicles with built-in kennels utilized for transporting pets from shelters, which tend to be custom-built animal transport trucks, ranging from cargo vans to motor home vehicles that can hold anywhere from 15 - 50 pets.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council instruct the Department of Animal Services with the assistance of the City Administrative Officer to report on the costs needed to invest in large transport vehicles and personnel needed including potential funding sources to expand the Department's ability to host and participate in more Pet Fair events throughout the City, including potential participation in community resource fairs, health fairs, and other city sponsored events.

PRESENTED BY:

IMELDA PADILLA

Councilmember, 6th District

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SECONDED BY: OCT 1 7 2025