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June 25, 2026

Council File No.: 26-0533
Council Districts: All
Contact person and phone:
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The Honorable Members of the Los Angeles City Council
Arts, Parks, Libraries, and Community Enrichment Committee
c/o Office of the City Clerk
City Hall Room 395, City Hall
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Attention: Armando Bencomo, Legislative Assistant

**SUBJECT: CF NO. 26-0533 - DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL SERVICES REPORT ON
STERILIZATION VOUCHERS ISSUED AND REDEEMED IN FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026
YEAR-TO-DATE, INCLUDING STATISTICS RELATED TO: THE NUMBER OF VOUCHERS PER
APPROVED VETERINARIANS, VOUCHERS APPROVED BY ZIP CODE, AND THE AVERAGE
AMOUNT OF DAYS VOUCHERS WERE AVAILABLE**

Recommendation for Council Action:

NOTE AND FILE this report as this report is for informational purposes only.

SUMMARY

California law requires all dogs, cats, and rabbits to be sterilized by a licensed veterinarian prior to being adopted, sold, or transferred by any public animal control agency, shelter, or non-profit rescue group. City of Los Angeles law requires all cats and dogs over four months of age to be sterilized, with some specific exemptions allowed. These mandatory sterilization laws are helpful in reducing the number of abandoned animals and assisting with reduction of animals brought into City operated shelters.

The Department of Animal Services (Department) helps City of Los Angeles residents comply with these mandatory sterilization laws by making various resources available, such as: vouchers for discounted and free sterilization services for low-income residents, agreements with sterilization mobile van services, and on-site sterilization activities. The ultimate goals for these programs are to: ensure compliance with the law, increase intake diversion efforts, and reduce the number of animals entering into the Animal Services Centers

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SUBJECT: CF NO. 26-0533 - DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL SERVICES REPORT ON STERILIZATION VOUCHERS ISSUED AND REDEEMED IN FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026 YEAR-TO-DATE, INCLUDING STATISTICS RELATED TO: THE NUMBER OF VOUCHERS PER APPROVED VETERINARIANS, VOUCHERS APPROVED BY ZIP CODE, AND THE AVERAGE AMOUNT OF DAYS VOUCHERS WERE AVAILABLE

DISCUSSION

The Department's Spay and Neuter Program provides animal sterilization surgeries through contracted veterinarians that operate sterilization clinics at the City's animal services centers for pets adopted at these facilities, and by participating veterinarians that accept the Department's discount vouchers and free certificates. Sterilizations of pets adopted at the City's animal services centers cover the full cost of sterilization, which is \$70 per cat and \$125 per dog or rabbit. Recently, because many veterinarians complained that the City's vouchers did not cover the full cost of sterilization procedures, the Council approved an increase to the value of the Department's certificates. The Department's free certificates cover the full cost of sterilization, which is \$120 per cat, \$195 per dog, and \$125 per rabbit. The Department's discount vouchers cover \$30 of the cost of cat sterilizations and \$50 of the cost of dog or rabbit sterilizations.

While there was an increase in value for the free certificates to sterilize the public's dogs and cats, the funding received in the FY 2025-26 budget was not sufficient to maintain the FY 2024-25 redemption levels. To accommodate this change and ensure that the Department expenditures for the program do not exceed the allocated budget, in FY 2025-26, the Department instituted a monthly cap, later adjusted to a weekly cap, for the number of vouchers issued to residents. There is no cap to shelter adopted cats, dogs, and rabbits due to adherence of the California Food and Agricultural Code.

The attached document includes statistics showing: the number of vouchers redeemed (by animal type) per approved veterinarians, vouchers issued (by animal type) per zip code, and the average amount of days the weekly allotment of 725 vouchers were available.

CONCLUSION

Animal sterilization helps to control the City's animal population and is a requirement for pet ownership in the City of Los Angeles. The Department's Spay and Neuter Program was developed to help all residents comply with this requirement. Historically, the program is funded through departmental revenues (licenses, adoption fees) and donations. However, as departmental revenues varied or declined, the Department has required a General Fund supplement to fund the Spay and Neuter Program.

The FY 2026-27 Proposed Budget provides \$6,502,335 for the Spay and Neuter Program. This is an increase of approximately \$1.75 million from the \$4,749,541 provided in the FY 2025-26 Adopted Budget. The increase will fund approximately 8,000 more sterilizations than in FY 2025-26. This will allow the Department to increase the weekly allotment.

Respectfully submitted,



Gabrielle Amster
General Manager

Attachment