

MOTION

Los Angeles Animal Services' (LAAS) Field Enforcement Division plays a critical role in protecting animals and promoting public safety throughout the City of Los Angeles. Field Enforcement Officers respond to animal-related complaints, investigate reports of neglect, abuse, dangerous or stray animals, enforce the City's animal-control laws, and work to reunite lost pets with their owners. Officers also address issues such as animal bites, illegal breeding, nuisance animals, and violations involving the keeping and care of animals. By providing a direct field response to animal-related concerns, the division serves as an important link between Los Angeles communities, animal shelters, and the Department's broader mission of protecting both animals and the public.

Staffing is an important component of Los Angeles Animal Services' Field Enforcement operations because animal-related emergencies and public-safety concerns can occur at any hour. Currently LAAS has one dedicated Animal Control Officer assigned to Skid Row. Ensuring that the City has proper staffing levels will help keep animals and their owners safe.

Staffing also needs to include overnight field enforcement coverage that helps ensure that reports involving dangerous animals, animal bites, injured or stray animals, animals in distress, and other urgent situations receive a timely response. Maintaining sufficient personnel during evening, overnight, and early-morning hours can also reduce response delays and ensure that residents have access to animal-control services outside of normal business hours. For a large city such as Los Angeles, evaluating overnight coverage should include staffing levels by shift, geographic coverage, call volume, response times, officer safety needs, and the Department's ability to respond to high-priority emergencies 24 hours a day.

LAAS needs the necessary resources to respond when animals are in danger or at risk of endangering human life. That coverage needs to be enough to cover the 470 square miles of Los Angeles, not just during the daytime, but throughout the whole day.

I THEREFORE MOVE that Council DIRECTS the Los Angeles Animal Services Department to report on its current staffing and deployment of Animal Control Officers and what is needed to maintain the level of services that achieve the response time that ensures safety for the animals and residents across the City.

PRESENTED BY:

SECONDED BY:


MONICA RODRIGUEZ
Councilwoman, 7th District
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