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EDWARD A. BOKS
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July 26, 2007

Honorable Los Angeles City Council
C/O Los Angeles City Clerk
200 North Main Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Subject: ORDINANCE REGRDING ANIMAL SPAY, NEUTER AND BREEDING

Ladies and Gentlemen:

At its meeting of July 23, 2007, the Board of Animal Services Commissioners voted to request that the City Council direct the City Attorney to draft an ordinance and submit it to the Council, for approval, amending the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) Section § 53.00. et. seq., to allow the Department of Animal Services (Department) to spay or neuter any animals taken in or subject to enforcement and to require microchipping of any animal to obtain a valid breeding permit. It is further recommended that the City Attorney draft language to strengthen breeding and transfer regulation, and other related enabling modifications, all as described below.

At its meeting of June 7, 2007, the Board approved a report which responded to a motion introduced by Councilmembers Richard Alarcon and Tony Cardenas, seconded by Councilmember Janice Hahn for Councilmember Herb Wesson, Jr., to mandate the spaying and neutering of domestic cats and dogs in the City, with exception for licensed breeders (Council File 07-1212). The motion was an outgrowth of the Council's discussion on April 17, 2007, regarding support for California Assembly Bill (AB) 1634, the California Healthy Pets Act. The motion by Councilmembers Alarcon and Cardenas, however, intended for the Department to work on legislation that would more immediately and precisely impact the City's pet overpopulation crisis. In accordance with the Motion, the proposed ordinance is to be consistent with provisions of AB 1634 but adapted to the specific needs of Los Angeles, including an expanded program to assist pet owners earning less than 300% of the Federal Poverty Level to spay and neuter their pets.

The Board's action on June 7, 2007, directed staff to work with the City Attorney on preparation of the Ordinance, to include provisions that strengthened current breeding and transfer regulations, and to report back on progress and details of any proposed legislation. Also, on June 25, 2007, the Board held a field meeting at the East Valley Animal Care Center to take public comment on proposals for a City spay/neuter ordinance. Much of the comments were reflective of positions on AB 1634, but also provided important input to staff and the City Attorney. AB 1634 has passed the California State

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