

13-1513
Prior CF 10-0982

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MOTION

PERSONNEL & ANIMAL WELFARE

The City has undertaken many efforts to reduce the rate of stray cats and increase the number of cat adoptions from its shelters. In February, 2008, the City adopted a Spay and Neuter ordinance that requires all cats in the City to be spayed or neutered after the age of four months. In addition, the City Council assists animal rescue organizations to facilitate pet adoptions through its "Adopt a Pet" programs. The latest effort was a city ordinance enacted this year to prohibit animal stores in the City from selling cats that are not provided to them through the City's shelters, or other rescue organizations.

There is, however, one barrier that prevents cat adoptions – the City's limit on the number of cats a person may own. Currently, Municipal Code Section 53.00 et seq prohibits a resident from owning and registering more than three cats at any one time. For a City resident to have more than three cats, the resident must qualify as a kennel and have a kennel permit. Clearly, this limitation is preventing stray cats and those cats in shelters from finding homes and potentially putting them at risk of euthanization.

One way to beneficially lower the number of cats being euthanized in our City's shelters is to increase the number of cats that are adopted out of the shelters. The most likely people to adopt additional cats are those who already have cats in their homes. This is why it is so important for the City to raise the number of cats a resident may own from three to five. Therefore, appropriate steps must be taken to raise the number of cats that a City resident may own from three to five.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council direct the Department of Animal Services to report back to the Personnel and Animal Welfare Committee with a plan to implement changes to the Los Angeles Municipal Code to increase the number of cats that a City resident may own from three to five. In its report, the Department should consider the following issues brought up by the Board of Animal Services Commissioners:

1. Specify that only three cats are permitted on a premises unless if more than three cats up to a maximum of five are all owned cats and are all kept indoors at all times;
2. Section 53.00 Definitions, should be amended so that "Cat Kennel" is defined as six or more cats;
3. An exemption to the definition of "Cat Kennel" be granted to those who want to own more than 5 cats in their homes as long as they are granted a permit by the Department and agree to a yearly inspection of the cats.

PRESENTED BY: Paul Koretz
Paul Koretz
Councilmember, 5th District

SECONDED BY: [Signature]

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