

MOTION

The Los Angeles Department of Animal Services (DAS) is facing a dire and inhumane crisis in our shelters. One of the most visible pieces of this crisis is the overcrowding of animals in these shelters. While there are myriad factors that have gotten us to where we are today - from a dearth of pet-friendly rental units to insufficient numbers of pets being spayed and neutered - a pressing issue that is within the City's immediate control is the issuance of breeding permits.

As of July 31, 2023, DAS had issued a total of 1,141 breeding permits for this calendar year, with many more projected to be issued by the end of 2023.

Each cat litter yields an average of 6 kittens, while a dog litter averages 4 puppies, depending on the size of the dog. Cats can become pregnant as early as 4 months of age and have their first litter at 6 months. In 7 years, a cat can produce litters that themselves procreate to produce 420,000 cats— and this is especially visible in numerous parts of our City's streets where colonies of cats are often left to suffer from diseases, getting run over, or left to starve. Over a thousand breeding permits in the first seven months of the year represents at least 4,500 animals.

In addition to permitted breeding, our City deals with unpermitted and thus unregulated breeding. Because the City has no way of truly knowing how vast the problem is, we cannot estimate how many animals are entering our City and our shelters via those illegally operating breeders.

What we do know is how many babies one animal is capable of having. A dog goes into breeding season 1 to 2 times per year, meaning one dog could produce an average of 8 puppies per year. One cat can have 3 to 4 litters a year, and can become pregnant again as soon as they have given birth.

Breeding is not only an issue of decreased outflow from the shelter system, but of potential increased inflow as well. If owners of breeder-purchased pets encounter the heartbreaking crisis, for any number of reasons, of needing to surrender their animal, those pets will likely end up in our DAS shelters, adding further stress to the system.

Our approach to addressing this overcrowding crisis must be multi-pronged, but stemming the increase in breeding permits can have a massive long term impact on solving the problem. It is unacceptable that the City of Los Angeles continues to issue breeding permits while there are thousands of animals suffering in overcrowded conditions within our shelters.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Attorney's Office, in consultation with the Department of Animal Services be requested to prepare and present an ordinance in 15 days amending the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) Section 53.15.2 of Article 3, Chapter V to place an immediate and indefinite moratorium on the issuance of new breeding permits.

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I FURTHER MOVE that the City Attorney's Office, in consultation with the Department of Animal Services be requested to prepare and present an ordinance amending Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) Section 53.15.2 of Article 3, Chapter V to allow the Department of Animal Services to limit the issuance of breeding permits at the discretion of the General Manager, should the ordinance to place an immediate and indefinite moratorium on the issuance of breeding permits take more than 30 days to prepare and present.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Department of Animal Services (DAS) report back within 30 days on:

- Number of illegal breeding reports received in the last calendar year;
- Number of illegal breeding citations issued in the last calendar year;
- Total amount of money collected from these citations;
- Fee structure and dollar amounts for illegal breeding infractions in other comparable cities;
- List of cities that have placed moratoriums on the issuance of breeding permits; and
- List of cities that have banned outright the issuance of breeding permits

PRESENTED BY:


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SECONDED BY:



ORIGINAL