

Communication from Public

Name: Sara van Valkenburg

Date Submitted: 04/04/2024 07:46 PM

Council File No: 23-1008

Comments for Public Posting: The LA Animal Services General Manager reported on March 26 that the city's six shelters are currently at more than 200% of their dog kennel capacity, with 1,557 dogs in shelters built to hold 737 dogs. There are many causes for the current shelter crisis – a crisis that includes the ongoing euthanasia of healthy, friendly dogs of all ages for space – in direct contravention of California public policy set forth in the Hayden Act. Addressing this crisis meaningfully requires the city to implement multiple incremental solutions. In particular, the gap between the number of dogs that need homes and the number of homes available to them must be reduced. Placing a moratorium on breeding licenses until the shelter system is at 75% capacity of dog kennels will help. For the moratorium to be effective, it will also be critical to ensure it is enforced. There is an urgent need for the city to implement and resource effective enforcement of dog licensing and spay and neuter laws that are already in place, including addressing the unlicensed breeding of dogs in the community. I hope there will be transparency with the public regarding the benefit expected from the draft moratorium. This will include addressing why renewals of breeding license have been exempted, and the expected net decrease in total licenses if only new licenses are paused. What percentage of the ~2,000 licenses issued last year (or prior years) were for first-time licenses compared to renewals? With respect to comments from dog breeding interests opposing the moratorium, since the 2008 law mandating spay and neuter of all dogs and cats in Los Angeles (unless an exemption applies) includes an exemption for any dog that is “a breed approved by and registered with a registry or association approved by the Animal Services Commission, and does or will actively show or compete”, it seems the moratorium will have little impact on these breeders participating in these traditional ‘responsible breeder’ activities. Thank you for supporting the moratorium and for your ongoing commitment to humane solutions to address this crisis.