

MOTION BY MAYOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
AND SUPERVISOR HILDA SOLIS

FEBRUARY 17, 2015

SPAY/NEUTER ORDINANCE FOR CATS

The Department of Animal Care and Control is an open door animal care department, accepting all dogs and cats in need of shelter and care. However, it is in the best interest of all parties – pet owners, taxpayers, and the animals – to reduce the numbers of unwanted or stray animals in need of care. Fewer animals entering the animal care system reduces animal euthanasia and costs to taxpayers.

In the past 40 years, the number of dogs entering the County animal care system has reduced by 60%. However, cat intake has only reduced by 30%. In fact, the most common reason an animal is euthanized in County animal care centers is because it is a feral cat, or an unweaned kitten that cannot survive without a mother cat to care for it. Spaying and neutering is the most impactful way to reduce the number of animals requiring care by the County of Los Angeles. The Board of Supervisors passed a model mandatory spay/neuter ordinance for dogs in 2006. The Board also provided financial assistance to obtain spay/neuter surgeries for low-income residents through a

MOTION

SOLIS _____

RIDLEY-THOMAS _____

KUEHL _____

KNABE _____

ANTONOVICH _____

voucher program. In 2008, the City of Los Angeles passed a mandatory spay/neuter ordinance for both dogs and cats. It would serve the interest of the animals and taxpayers served by the County of Los Angeles to also require spay/neuter of cats, as well provide low-cost spay neuter services to achieve this purpose.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE, that the Board of Supervisors direct:

1. the Department of Animal Care and Control and the Office of County Counsel, to prepare a draft ordinance, modeled on the County's successful mandatory spay/neuter ordinance for dogs, to require spay/neuter for cats as well; and
2. the Department of Animal Care and Control to report back during budget deliberations regarding the costs for providing low-cost spay/neuter services to the public.

#