

**REPORT/RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
AND RECORD OF ACTION**

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March 27, 2012

**FROM: NEIL DERRY, Third District Supervisor
Board of Supervisors**

**SUBJECT: ESTABLISHING AN ANIMAL SERVICES COMMISSION WITH A CITIZEN
REPRESENTATIVE COMPONENT**

RECOMMENDATION(S)

Direct the County Administrative Office to research and create a framework for establishing an animal services commission to function as an oversight and recommendation body and is to include a citizen representative component from each supervisorial district in addition to an independent veterinarian and a representative from the Department of Public Health's Animal Care & Control Division.

(Affected Districts: All)

(Presenter: Supervisor Neil Derry, Third District, 387-4855)

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Improve County Government Operations.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Approval of this item will incur no additional net county cost (discretionary general funding). Dependent on the findings of the County Administrative Office, it is possible that there could be costs to the County related to establishing an animal services commission.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Approval of this item will direct the County Administrative Office to begin researching the feasibility of creating an animal services commission and to return to the Board of Supervisors (Board) within sixty (60) days with a framework for establishing an animal services commission. The stray animal population in San Bernardino County presents significant fiscal, public health and safety challenges. Some jurisdictions have established an animal services commission to address the myriad of animal control related issues impacting their communities and to provide a mechanism to enhance the transparency and accountability of government operations.

An animal services commission would serve as a conduit between the public and the Board. The commission should serve as a vehicle to hear and vet citizen concerns, suggestions and ideas on how to support the Department of Public Health's Animal Care & Control Division's goals of operating efficiently, effectively and humanely. The commission's goals should include:

increasing awareness, reducing the stray animal population, increasing spay and neuter rates and increasing the number of pet adoptions. These goals would be consistent with the County mission of improving public health, safety and lessening the financial impacts borne by County taxpayers.

Commissions of this type are currently in existence in a variety of forms at the city and county level throughout the country. County staff is encouraged to review these entities.

A full report is to be presented to the Board within sixty (60) days.

REVIEW BY OTHERS

This item has been reviewed by the County Administrative Office (Robert Saldana, Administrative Analyst, 387-4342) on March, 21, 2012.