

## INFORMATION REGARDING ANIMAL WELFARE ISSUES FOR TARZANA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL BOARD MEETING ON AUGUST 28, 2018

**Agenda item 17:** City Council File CF 18-0538, Fur Products / Manufacture and Sale / Ordinance. This Ordinance would **prohibit the manufacture and sale of fur products**, including apparel made in whole or in part of fur, or any fashion accessory, including but not limited to handbags, shoes, hats, earmuffs, jewelry, and key chains made in whole or in part of fur, with exceptions for sale of used fur products, beginning January 1, 2020.

The fur industry subjects animals to inhumane practices, deplorable living conditions, and cruel methods of killing. See City Council Motion at: [http://clkrep.lacity.org/online/docs/2018/18-0538\\_mot\\_06-08-18.pdf](http://clkrep.lacity.org/online/docs/2018/18-0538_mot_06-08-18.pdf)

“More than fifty million animals including foxes, chinchillas, minks, raccoon, dogs and rabbits are killed for their fur every year. ... The fur industry is one that has consistently been associated with inhumane practices. Animals who are cultivated solely for their fur spend their lives in cramped cages and are subject to deplorable living conditions. These animals are then killed in inhumane ways to preserve the quality of the pelt above all else. Common practices include gassing, electrocution, suffocation and neck breaking. ...

“Fur is also damaging to the environment and contributes to water and air pollution ... [using] nitrogen, phosphorus, ... chromium and formaldehyde. ... The amount of energy required to make a coat from real fur is over fifteen times that needed to produce fake fur.”

Use of fur in clothing and other items is completely unnecessary in light of available synthetic materials.

**Agenda Item 18:** City Council File 18-0130, **Found Dogs and Cats / Home Care by Private Citizens.** This proposed ordinance would allow the finder of a dog or cat to keep the animal at her/his home while awaiting the owner to redeem the lost animal, rather than requiring the animal to go through the trauma of staying at the Shelter, so long as the finder notifies Los Angeles Animal Services, provides pictures of the animal, and complies with other conditions. This procedure will also free up kennel space for other dogs, decreasing the killing of dogs at the City Shelters for lack of space. Our support includes Los Angeles Animal Services making arrangements for the owner of the lost dog or cat to more easily find the dog or cat, including providing Volunteers at the City Animal Shelters computer access to the information regarding the lost dogs and

cats, so Volunteers can more easily determine if a lost animal is at the Shelter or at the home of a finding person. The benefits of this policy are set forth in the CityWatch LA article at: [http://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2018/18-0130\\_pc\\_8-23-2018.pdf](http://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2018/18-0130_pc_8-23-2018.pdf).

Opposition to this policy is set forth in comments submitted by readers of the article.

**Agenda Item 19**, City Council Files 17-1421-S1, **Illegal Fireworks** / June, July and August / Task Force / Enhanced Enforcement Strategies and 17-1421 **Illegal Fireworks Task Force** / Restrict Usage / Public Safety Threat / Quality-of-Life Issues. **These provisions provide for the creation of a task force to report on enhanced enforcement strategies and other steps that can be taken to lessen use of illegal fireworks. As well as the fire and safety hazards posed by illegal fireworks, and the problems they cause for Veterans with PTSD, illegal fireworks also cause frightened dogs to run away from home. This results in overcrowding at the City Animal Shelters for several months around the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, which actually results in other dogs at the Shelters being killed for lack of space.**

The City is experiencing a significant increase in illegal fireworks being set off, especially during the period around the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, but also throughout the year. These fireworks can cause significant disruption to people's lives, by interrupting sleep, disturbing Veterans with PTSD, increasing air pollution, traumatizing wildlife, and causing pets to run away or panic. Fireworks can cause serious injuries. They can also cause brush fires and structure fires, especially during July when everything is so dry.

All fireworks are illegal in the City of Los Angeles, and the more dangerous types are illegal under state law. However, as we all can hear, their use continues and seems to be increasing.

On July 14, the following was posted on NextDoor for Tarzana:

Loud Fireworks Again on Saturday, July 14 Around 10:30 pm

It is 10 days after the 4th of July celebration and people are continuing to shoot off the loudest fireworks they can. They started in the beginning of June and shot them nightly for two to three hours. Because of people reporting them to the senior lead officers (Officer Bocanegra from West Valley Division), fireworks incidents have greatly diminished until tonight. One of my dogs is shaking again and refuses to go outside. Another NextDoor resident reported finding a terrified dog running down the street trying to get away from

the fireworks. Please... I beg of you....Report the culprits if you know the address. You need to contact Officer Bocanegra by phone or email. You can leave a message. Phone: 818-731-2572 email: [36252@lapd.online](mailto:36252@lapd.online)

Illegal fireworks have a very real effect on the lives and deaths of dogs. Fireworks cause frightened dogs to run away from home. Some of those dogs are never found by their owners. During July, many dog owners come into the West Valley Shelter looking for their lost dogs, and say that the dog ran away when it heard fireworks. The lucky runaways are brought into an Animal Shelter. But this results in overcrowding at the Animal Shelters for several months around the 4th of July. Other dogs who have been at the Animal Shelter for a while are killed, to make space for these new dogs coming in. In educational outreach by the police, fire department, and schools, participants should be educated that illegal use of fireworks is causing dogs to run away from home, resulting in other dogs being killed to make space in the Shelters. Maybe that will stop some people from setting off illegal fireworks. But for those who won't stop, enhanced enforcement and significantly enhanced penalties should be implemented for illegal fireworks.

**The proposed ordinances provide for the creation of a task force to report on enhanced enforcement strategies and other steps that can be taken to lessen use of illegal fireworks. We request that the City Council complete this process and pass any new laws or funding prior to next summer.**

***Agenda item 20:*** Resolution requesting the Los Angeles City Council and the California Legislature to pass **Resolutions opposing the South Korean dog meat trade and asking the South Korean government to ban the dog meat trade and to enforce South Korea's animal cruelty laws.**

According to the Animal Welfare Institute (AWI) and other sources, approximately one to two million dogs are killed for food every year in South Korea. Prior to their deaths, these dogs endure a lifetime of abuse and are often slaughtered in a completely inhumane and brutal manner. As stated by AWI: "From birth to slaughter, these dogs are kept in cramped, rusty cages stacked on top of each other. The method of slaughter is usually extremely (and even intentionally) brutal, and the dogs are often butchered in full view of the others."

"Most horrifically—due to a traditional belief that high adrenaline levels will produce tender meat and increase the supposed health benefits—dogs who are killed may be intentionally subjected to extreme fear and suffering and be killed via bludgeoning, hanging, or electrocution. At the open-air markets, dogs are often electrocuted and their necks are broken—all in plain sight to passers-by and the other dogs." Please see <https://awionline.org/dogmeat> (Animal Welfare Institute)

**The United States is spending billions of dollars, and our military personnel are putting their lives on the line, to assist our ally South Korea in deterring invasion or nuclear attack from the North. Tens of thousands of Americans died in the Korean War, and tens of thousands were wounded, protecting South Korea. Dogs serve in our armed forces and alongside our First Responders. Dogs are instrumental in working with returning Veterans with PTSD. We respectfully request that our ally South Korea stop killing and torturing dogs, a practice which is abhorrent to the vast majority of Americans.**

Some videos of the South Korean dog meat trade (in increasing order of how graphic they are) are as follows:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=goDx7\\_DdRiE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=goDx7_DdRiE)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cJnp870Sn58>

[https://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=south+korean+dog+meat+torture](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=south+korean+dog+meat+torture)

***Agenda item 21: City Council File CF 18-0350, Buildings Built with Public Financing / Permit Pet Ownership by Residents.*** This Motion will require the Housing and Community Investment Department to promulgate regulations requiring developers and management of any apartment building built with any public financing to permit residents to own pets.

One of the main reasons people surrender pets to the City Shelters is that they are unable to find rental housing that allows pets. As stated in the Motion sponsored by Councilmember Koretz: “As the City promotes, and assists in financing new, affordable housing, an effort should be made to make sure that pet guardianship does not create an arbitrary barrier to families, low-income individuals or the homeless who have pets and qualify for residence in publicly-financed rental housing. Certain federal and state affordable housing finance mechanisms already require allowing pets, giving the City an opportunity to leverage and augment them.” Please see the Motion: [http://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2018/18-0350\\_mot\\_04-20-2018.pdf](http://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2018/18-0350_mot_04-20-2018.pdf)