

INFORMATION FOR TARZANA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE MEETING, AUGUST 7, 2018

Agenda item 4: 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/onlinedocs/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 5, 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.

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

Agenda Item 6, 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 4th 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 4th 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

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 7: 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=cJnp870Sn58>

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=south+korean+dog+meat+torture

Agenda item 8: 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

Posted by Jeffrey Mausner
Chair, Tarzana Neighborhood Council Animal Welfare Committee
Jeff@MausnerLaw.com
July 26, 2018

PERSONNEL & ANIMAL WELFARE

MOTION

More than fifty million animals including foxes, chinchilla, minks, raccoon, dogs and rabbits are killed for their fur every year. According to the World Society for the Protection of Animals, eighty-five percent of these animals are raised and killed on factory fur farms. 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. Electrocuting fur-bearing animals anally and genitally is a slaughter method used frequently in the industry to limit damage to the fur. New York is the only state where this is illegal. Commonly, animals are stunned before they are skinned but some remain conscious during the process- at times still breathing after they are skinned.

The fur industry is one where "best current practice" involves the use of a system with very low welfare potential. In a signed letter to British parliament 50 veterinarians and animal experts including Jane Goodall point to the inherent welfare deficiencies in the trade, "Wild animals on fur farms live their lives in wire-floored cages thousands of times smaller than the natural territories. They are denied their biological inheritance to exhibit natural behaviors and stimuli such as hunting, digging and swimming." In the state of California, wild animals in captivity must be kept in enclosures that comply with statutory minimums. One fox would require 80 square feet and a mink, 30 square feet. These animals must also be given the opportunity to replicate their behaviors from the wild (Cal. Code Regs. §671). In fur farming, the space required for the same animals are a few square feet at best. Instances of stereotypical behavior indicating psychological distress due to these conditions are well documented, including repetitive pacing and spinning and cannibalism.

Trapping wild animals is also part of the industry. The most popular form of trapping among the top three wild fur pelt producers- the U.S., Canada and Russia- is the leghold trap. It has been declared inhumane by the American Veterinary Medical Association and the National Animal Control Association. Many countries and some states, including California, have banned the use of this trap because of the cruelty it inflicts on animals (Cal. Fish & Game Code 4004). Los Angeles previously banned its use more than 25 years ago.

Fur is also damaging to the environment and contributes to water and air pollution. According to a study by Michigan State University, the U.S. mink industry alone adds almost 1,000 tons of nitrogen and phosphorus to the environment each year. Fur is also heavily processed with harmful carcinogenic chemicals, including chromium and formaldehyde, which can be damaging to human health and also make fur difficult to biodegrade. The amount of energy required to make a coat from real fur is over fifteen times that needed to produce fake fur.

Fur farming has been banned and restrictions have been placed on the trade and sale of fur in a number of countries. Several countries around the world have banned some or all fur farming, including the UK, Denmark, and the Netherlands, one of the world's biggest mink suppliers. Israel and the UK are currently considering import/sale bans and New Zealand and India currently have import bans in place. In the state of California, West Hollywood banned the sale of fur in 2013, Berkeley in 2017 and most recently, San Francisco in 2018. Also, whether due to the cruelty inherent in the industry, its negative environmental impact, or a demand for compassionate fashion, many luxury designers have recently prohibited the use of fur in their collections. Most recently, Michael Kors, Jimmy Choo, Versace and Gucci have made commitments to remove fur from their line of products.

An animal killed for fur will give its life solely to become a piece of clothing, a key chain, trim on a jacket and nothing else. Today, we are a city of ethically conscious shoppers. Considering the wide



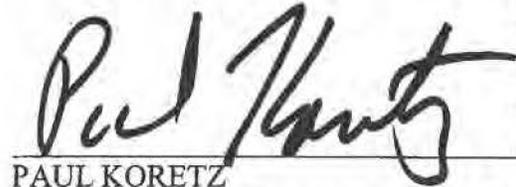
array of alternatives, any demand for fur products does not justify the unnecessary killing and the cruel treatment of fur-bearing animals. As more cities and countries pass restrictive legislation, more companies will stop using fur and alternatives will continue to improve.

In recent decades, Los Angeles has shown itself to be a world-leader city regarding animal welfare. The state legislature has also considered and passed various animal production measures including prohibiting the sale of products that are inhumane. Breeding and killing animals solely for their fur is no longer acceptable in the 21st century. By eliminating the sale of new fur products, Los Angeles has the opportunity to promote a community awareness of animal welfare and to continue to lead in the field of progressive animal welfare reform.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Attorney be requested to prepare and present an ordinance which 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 the sale of used fur products, beginning January 1, 2020.

PRESENTED BY:


BOB BLUMENFIELD
Councilmember, 3rd District


PAUL KORETZ
Councilmember, 5th District

ORIGINAL

SECONDED BY:


MITCH O'FARRELL
Councilmember, 13th District

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*Jeffrey Mausner
Tarzana, CA
Email: Jeff@MausnerLaw.com*

February 18, 2018

Honorable City Council
c/o Office of the City Clerk
Los Angeles City Hall
200 North Spring Street, 5th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2601
Subject: Council File Number **18-0130**

Dear City Clerk:

Could you please file the attached article in support of Council File Number 18-0130, Found Dogs and Cats / Home Care by Private Citizens / Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) / Amendment, as Communication from the Public. The article can also be found on-line at:

<http://www.citywatchla.com/index.php/los-angeles/13386-animal-shelter-volunteer-finders-keepers-is-good-idea-here-s-why>

Thank you. Best regards, Jeffrey Mausner

Jeffrey Mausner
(For identification purposes)
Board of Directors and 2nd Vice President, Tarzana Neighborhood Council
Chairman, Tarzana Neighborhood Council Animal Welfare Committee
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Sat, Jun

Animal Shelter Volunteer: ‘Finders-Keepers is Good Idea’ ... Here’s Why

Jeffrey Mausner
08 June 2017



TALKBACK--I’m a Volunteer at the LA’s West Valley Animal Shelter. I think this new policy, allowing finders of stray dogs and cats to keep the animals they find in their homes during the hold period, is a good idea. Since I work with dogs at the Shelter, I’ll direct my comments to dogs, but I think the same applies to cats. (This is in response to Phyllis Daugherty’s [CityWatch column](#) “Finders-Keepers: LA Doesn’t Want Your Lost Dogs or Cats in City Shelters.”)

Rather than have a dog spend a week or more in the Shelter during its holding period (the time within which the owner can come in and claim him/her), I think it is much better to allow the dog to be in a home. In the vast majority of cases, the conditions in a home will be much better than in a kennel. I've seen instances where the finder of a dog will come into the Shelter day after day, and sit outside the dog's kennel for hours, waiting for the holding period to expire and they can take the dog home. Why not let the dog be in a better environment during that waiting period?

There are also organized groups being formed in neighborhoods to care for found animals; much better than the animals having to go into the Shelters.

As far as doing a home check for the person who found the dog, unfortunately, the City does not have the resources to do that in any case. Adopters are never home checked because there is not enough staff to do it. If the person who found the dog takes the dog after it is in the Shelter for a week, they will have the same home environment then. The dog just had to unnecessarily be in the Shelter for a week or more before going to that home. It's unfortunate that Los Angeles Animal Services cannot do home checks; it would need more money and staff to do them.

Contrary to what was stated, dogs do not get exercise during the holding period. Volunteers cannot take dogs out of the kennels during the hold period unless they get special permission from the Animal Care Technician Supervisor. Permission to take these dogs out is only given to the most experienced Volunteers. And even if they get permission, the dog cannot be taken off the Shelter premises for a walk. The dog could only be taken out to the exercise yard, which is usually occupied by other dogs who can only be taken into the yard, or by a potential adopter interacting with a dog. So those dogs on hold sit in their kennels 24 hours a day for a week or more.

That is the worst time for a Shelter dog -- they are thrown into a new and very difficult environment, with little opportunity for human interaction and exercise. I've seen dogs whose personalities changed during that period of time -- depression, agitation, aggression. Not to mention what it does to a person who has to leave a dog he or she wants to care for in those conditions.

Even more important, those dogs unnecessarily occupy kennels that could be used for other dogs who do not have a person who is willing to care for them at the time.

The Shelters are almost always crowded and this sometimes still results in animals being killed for lack of space. So this new policy will save the lives of dogs.

It is similar to the Temporary Foster Program that was instituted at East and West Valley and some of the other Shelters, which has saved the lives of hundreds of dogs, particularly during high influx periods like around the 4th of July. I hope this new policy of allowing finders of dogs to care for them in their homes will go into effect very soon, in time to help alleviate overcrowding this Independence Day.

Concerns that this policy is just a bookkeeping method to help achieve No-Kill are not valid. If a kennel is left open so that another dog is not killed, that is a real, precious life saved; it is not a statistical or bookkeeping trick.



And the math stated in the article and comments on this concern is just not right -- if a dog is logged into the Shelter and then it goes out after a week or so that would increase the live-save rate rather than lowering it. Ascribing evil motives to Brenda Barnette for approving this new policy is simply wrong. She, and the Board of Animal Services Commissioners, should be thanked for instituting this new policy.

I think all of the supposed problems raised in the article and comments, regarding implementation of the new policy, can be dealt with. The most important one -- making sure the owners can locate their dogs if they are looking for them -- can be handled.

I suggest that any person finding a dog and wanting to temporarily keep it in their home be required to come into a Shelter. At the Shelter, the dog would be scanned

for a chip and photographed. If there is a chip, of course the owner would be called. The photograph would be posted on the lost dogs pages of the LAAS (Los Angeles Animal Services) website. (Contrary to what is implied in the comments, pictures of lost dogs are not just posted on a wall at the Shelter; they are posted on the publicly accessible website so owners can easily search for their dogs at all the Shelters.)

I suggest that when this policy is implemented, Shelter employees be instructed to help any owners who come into the Shelters to conduct a search for their dogs on the LAAS website. Volunteers could help with this as well; the computer in the Volunteer Room at each of the Shelters could be given access to the LAAS website, so Volunteers could help owners conduct searches. If this is done, I think it would be easier for dog owners to locate their lost dogs, including those at a finder's home, than walking up and down the rows of kennels looking for their dog.

(Note: We always need more Shelter Volunteers, to make sure all of the dogs and cats get out of their kennels for some exercise and companionship, and to help with adoptions. Anyone reading this, please consider becoming a Volunteer. You can even specialize in helping people find their lost pets.)

I don't understand how this policy would result in more dog thefts, as stated in some of the comments. What dog thief would give his name and address to the Shelter, risking arrest?

Thank you to Brenda Barnette and the Board of Animal Services Commissioners for implementing this humane policy.

(Jeffrey Mausner, photo left, is a West Valley Animal Shelter Volunteer.)

-cw

- 16 comments
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Join the discussion...



[lowell1](#) • [12 days ago](#)

1. they admit they don't verify the quality of the "finder's" home. so asserting that the animal is going to be better off is nuts. Shelters at the least are subject to public view and inspection and have at least some minimal standards -- if the LA area doesn't want to do that, maybe they should just come out and say that they don't want to bother with proper care and management of animals. 2. They have no way to ensure that the actual owner can meet with the "finder" -- hours when the one is home and available? Shelters have known addresses and hours of operation. 3. safety of EITHER party? (what happens if the "finder" objects to the owner taking the animal? the "found" animal escapes? does something like knocking over the elderly mother?) And why then, are the people who own animals paying a LICENSE fee which supposedly provides for if the animal gets loose inadvertently? NO.

[Jeffrey Mausner](#) • [13 days ago](#)

I want to start out by saying that I didn't call this new policy "Finders Keepers," as stated in the headline above. That was written by the headline writer, not me, as detailed below.

I suggested in my original comment above that in order to utilize this procedure, a finder of a lost dog has to come into a City Shelter. At the Shelter, the dog would be registered and the finder would provide identification with the finder's name, address, and contact information. This procedure is not going to encourage theft of dogs, as claimed in some of the comments, since criminals are not dumb enough to utilize this procedure. I was formerly a Federal Prosecutor; there are dumb criminals, but not that dumb. And if, in the off chance that someone who steals a dog is actually dumb enough to come into the shelter and provide his/her name, address, contact information, and identification, he/she would be arrested and the dog would be returned to its person. In order to further assuage concerns expressed in some of the comments, I suggest that the finder of the dog also be required to sign a contract agreeing to bring the dog to the Shelter if the owner comes in for it; however, this is not even necessary since the General Manager has the statutory authority to demand return of the dog even without a written contract.

Under this policy, the owner does not go to the finder's home to get the dog; the finder is called and brings the dog into the Shelter. As stated in this policy:

"1. Failure to release the animal to the shelter if owner is identified could result in an officer going to the location and attempting to seize the animal and possible charges for

theft against the finder.

2. If an owner identifies the animal by photo, arrangements will be made for the finder to bring the animal to the shelter so the shelter staff can show the animal to the possible owner to see if it is his or her animal."

As pointed out by Mary Cummins below, the misconceptions regarding this new policy come from the misleading name that Phyllis Daugherty assigned to it: "Finders Keepers." That is a misnomer. If you read the article above instead of just going by this misleading name, you will see that it actually makes it just as easy, or even easier, for a person to find a lost dog. When the dog is brought into the Shelter by the finder, if the dog has a chip or other identification, the owner will be called immediately. If the dog does not have a chip or other identification, its picture will be posted on the publicly accessible Animal Services website and the owner can check the website every hour without having to go from Shelter to Shelter looking for the dog. If the owner comes into a Shelter looking for a lost dog rather than checking the website, Shelter employees, (and as I propose above, Shelter Volunteers as well), can help the owner search for the dog on the website, at all the Shelters. Furthermore, it is my understanding that under this new policy, the owner has 30 days to claim the dog if it is at the finder's home; in the Shelter, the dog may be held for as little as a week before it is available for adoption. So if people misunderstand this new policy and think they can just keep a found dog without going through this procedure, blame the people who misleadingly call it "Finders Keepers." I did not call this new policy "Finders Keepers;" that label in the headline of my article above was put on it by the headline writer, not me. This name, and any misconception people have from it, comes from Phyllis Daugherty's article.

This policy (let's call it by its true name, Policy Allowing Community Members to Care for Found Dogs and Cats Under Certain Policy Guidelines), will allow the dog to be in a home rather than locked in a noisy, scary kennel at the Shelter, with little human contact, while it is awaiting its owner. I urge those who oppose this policy to come to the Shelter some time and watch these poor lost dogs being locked into a kennel; come back in a few days and see some of these dogs cowering in a corner of the kennel whenever a person comes up to the kennel door. Why not let some of those dogs stay at a person's home for a week or two rather than be traumatized in the Shelter? The proposed policy provides safeguards to assure that Animal Services knows where the dog is being kept and that the dog will be returned to its owner if the owner shows up. There are lots of really good people out there, like Mary Cummins and groups being formed in different neighborhoods, who will provide good care for lost dogs if given the chance; this policy gives them the chance.

Additionally, this policy will free up kennels for other dogs, potentially saving their lives. Especially as we come up to the 4th of July period, when hundreds of lost dogs come into the Shelters, it is important that some of these found dogs have a comfortable place in someone's home if that person is willing to care for them until their owner shows up. It is important to have kennel space for the dogs who aren't lucky enough to have someone care for them outside of the Shelter at that time, while they wait for their turn.

I want to thank City Watch for hosting this discussion; you can learn a lot from reading people's comments.

Sincerely, Jeffrey Mausner

[LovesDogs2012](#) • [13 days ago](#)

As the shelter does less and less for animals, its funding should be cut accordingly. Why should taxpayers fund a shelter if it's not sheltering animals? We shouldn't.



[Jeffrey Mausner](#) • [5 days ago](#)

The Shelters are actually doing more for animals now, as No-Kill is implemented. Some healthy adoptable dogs and cats will be kept at the Shelters longer, so that they will not be killed. Cuts in funding will lead to more dogs being killed. Sincerely, Jeffrey Mausner, Volunteer at the West Valley Shelter

[Kmarrie](#) • [13 days ago](#)

Thank you for providing a volunteer's perspective on this important issue. It is always good to hear everyone's ideas that would be directly affected by change.

[mckky](#) • [15 days ago](#)

It's a HORRIBLE idea! What about stolen pets? How about those that got loose by complete accident? How about those that were in a vehicle in an accident? What about those deliberately set free by someone with a grudge? Dogs belong to their owners. This would just be wholesale encouraged theft.



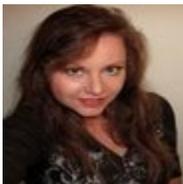
[Mary Cummins mckky](#) • [13 days ago](#)

If someone were going to steal it, they wouldn't take it to the shelter. If people take it to a shelter, staff checks it for chip, takes a pic, description, they take the finders information and drivers license. All the animal info goes on the website and in the book. I wonder who all these anonymous comments are really from?

[mcky Mary Cummins](#) • [13 days ago](#)

Finders Keepers? What do you think people are going to think that means? It means if you find a dog and want to keep it, it's yours. There is already a big problem with this - people find a dog running loose and automatically assume it's abandoned or abused when it has an owner desperately looking for it. A friend recently had her dog bolt through the door during a storm. She looked for two days, posted on facebook and signs in the neighborhood. She started going door to door and asking everyone if they had seen her dog. One house took her several tries but she finally caught one of them on the way from the car to the house. This dog was chipped, groomed and well-fed. They had him. they said "well, he was running loose so we figured he had been dumped." They had done nothing to find his owner and had ignored the signs posted around the neighborhood looking for him. All any policy called "finders keepers" is going to do is encourage more of this.

Sorry, but the dogs need to be in one central location where their owner can find them. And just because it doesn't have a microchip doesn't mean it does not have a caring owner - there are still too many who either do not understand the value of them, or do not understand that it has to be registered somewhere to be of any value. I can just see far too many things that could go awry with a policy like this - all of the unintended consequences of "good intentions."



[Mary Cummins mcky](#) • [13 days ago](#)

"Finders Keepers" is what Phyllis Daugherty falsely named the policy. It's called fostering. The policy would not have prevented that woman's dog being stolen. The policy didn't exist yet that woman stole a dog. Totally different thing. If someone wants to steal a dog, they will steal it. This policy doesn't encourage stealing. In fact if anyone wants to go to South LA and steal all the homeless, sick, ungroomed, flea infested dogs and cats on the street, go for it.

[al smith Mary Cummins](#) • [13 days ago](#)

nice bigoted reply dogs have owners.. this will allow people even if they "check in" with the shelter to keep pets that are not theirs.. BAD idea..



[Mary Cummins al smith](#) • [13 days ago](#)

You post anonymously then call me a bigot for no reason? You're too funny!



[Anne M Hier](#) • [16 days ago](#)

Sorry,dogs are property of the owner. Owners pay taxes to support municipal shelters and have every right to expect their lost dog will be temporarily housed at a central location. Is the rightful owner then expected to go to the finder's home and try to get the dog back? And what if the finder refuses to return the dog upon demand? Or demands a "reward"? Or is someone who actually stole the dog? This type of free-for-all shelter management will make it extremely difficult for the rightful owners to retrieve their pets. And it will encourage theft and refusal of the "finder" to properly report the found animal to legal authorities. Further, the author mischaracterizes the lost pet as a "shelter dog." No, it is a lost pet being temporarily held in a municipal kennel. The minimal amount of time it will be there for a hold period while the legal owner of s diligently searching for it is not likely to have harmful effects.



[Mary Cummins](#) • [16 days ago](#)

Great response. The shelter has had a similar policy since at least 2000. When I find a stray dog I check for tags and chip. I photograph the dog and put up signs near where I found the dog. I have been able to reunite all the dogs I've found in my home area with their owners within 24 hours. This is much better than taking the dog to the shelter to become terrified and possibly get kennel cough. There are responsible and caring people out there. I doubt there will be huge numbers of these situations but it's a great option.

[al smith](#) [Mary Cummins](#) • [13 days ago](#)

better kennel cough than never being returned or sold to another person horrible idea



[Mary Cummins](#) [al smith](#) • [13 days ago](#)

If someone wanted to steal a dog, they would just steal it. They wouldn't take it to the shelter to see if it has a chip, have a photo taken, description made. The shelter takes the ID of the finder. The program doesn't encourage theft. People can steal dogs right now.

[al smith](#) [Mary Cummins](#) • [13 days ago](#)

looks like you did not bother with taking these dogs to the shelter so why would anyone else? finders keepers..and there are already many stories about dogs NOT being returned.. or poor owner never knowing where their dog is after even years of searching.. you also assume that every lost dog is "abused" and that all homes are like your

MOTION

HOUSING

More than 2 million L.A. residents (approximately 62%) are tenants and estimates are that more than half the housing stock consists of rental units that do not accept companion animals. In Denver, by contrast, 98 percent of apartment communities accept cats, 93 percent accept small dogs and 66 percent accept large dogs, all without negatively impacting the perception that the city provides a high quality of life for its residents. With the City of Los Angeles striving to achieve “no kill” status relative to adoptable animals, reaching the goal will require encouraging and, when possible, facilitating adoptions in rental units. Doing so requires seeking and fostering cooperation and understanding between tenants and landlords with regard to companion animals.

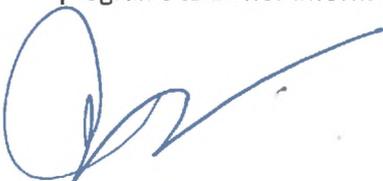
An American Humane Association survey of shelters in 93 U.S. cities has reported that “moving” is the most common reason given for pet guardians relinquishing their animals to shelters, and “landlord restrictions” ranks fourth. Data collected by the Santa Clara, CA Humane Society indicates that about 26% of relinquishments are due to such restrictions. L.A. City shelters report that, since 2011, at least 22.6% of relinquished dogs and 18.6% of relinquished cats were turned in due to issues relating to tenancy restrictions.

Pet guardians who have lost their homes due to economic circumstances often find themselves unable to find rental housing in which they could continue to keep their animals. In other cases landlords have, upon occasion, insisted that existing tenants get rid of their animals or face eviction. In many such cases the City’s Rent Stabilization Ordinance protects the tenants, but unfortunately those tenants are not aware of their rights under the law.

Many other cities understand the benefits of pet companionship, both for the sake of saving lives of shelter animals, as well as for enhancing the lives of the people adopting the pets. Some of these cities, including West Hollywood and New York City, have adopted laws which help to facilitate the adoption of pets by rental tenants. These include such ideas as pet deposits and provisions for seniors, the disabled, people with HIV/AIDS and those who’ve kept pets in their units for extended periods of time. And, here in L.A., one North Hollywood landlord will not rent to tenants who don’t have companion animals, while the Board of Animal Services Commissioners has previously explored the possible linkage between public funding of multi-family development and allowing pets in those units.

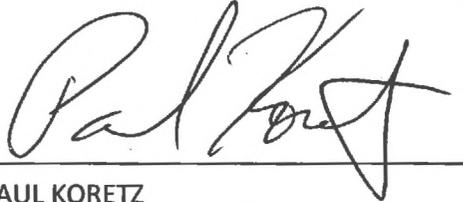
As with the kinds of mechanisms in place in West Hollywood, this would impact a relatively small number of buildings, landlords, units and tenants but, when taken cumulatively, the combination of such measures and other mechanisms or incentives could facilitate the creation of thousands of potential new “forever homes” for L.A.’s shelter animals and animals adopted from rescue groups and other pet adoption agencies.

NOW, I THEREFORE MOVE that the Los Angeles Department of Animal Services (LAAS) and the Housing and Community Investment Department (HCID) solicit input from organizations representing tenants (such as the Coalition for Economic Survival, Inner City Law Center, Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles, Housing Rights Center and Bet Tzekek Legal Services) and organizations representing landlords (such as the Apartment Association of Greater Los Angeles and the California Apartment Association) and make recommendations within 180 days to the City Council on programs and/or regulations that could facilitate the expansion of animal adoptions by tenants in residential rental properties, including programs to better inform tenants of their rights in regards to animal ownership, while taking into

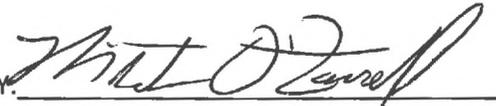


consideration the welfare of the animals and the concerns, both financial and for the physical property, that landlords and other tenants may have; and

I FURTHER MOVE that applicable laws in other cities be reviewed to determine if their provisions should be considered as a basis for developing regulations or incentives for the City of Los Angeles.

PRESENTED BY: 

PAUL KORETZ
Councilmember, 5th District

SECONDED BY: 

JUL 1 2015