

PRESS RELEASE

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Greig Smith Council District 12



LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCILMAN GREIG SMITH

Councilman Smith Authors Legislation Meant to Improve Levels of Pet Spay/Neutering and Licensing

Los Angeles – Councilman Greig Smith introduced two motions Friday, June 1, to improve pet licensing and pet spaying and neutering rates in Los Angeles, which will support the City’s progression toward its “no-kill” policy.

The first motion calls for a City ordinance requiring that all dogs in City Off-Leash Dog Parks be properly licensed. Unlike a recent ordinance in the City of Santa Monica that excludes dogs not licensed in that city, Councilman Smith’s motion would require only that the dogs in L.A. Off-Leash Dog Parks be properly licensed.

Licensing pets is essential for responsible pet ownership. It protects public safety by requiring rabies vaccinations, and reduces euthanization rates by helping pet owners recover lost pets and encouraging spaying and neutering with reduced license fees for sterilized animals.

The second motion would create a program for veterinarians to require proof of licensing when providing services for pets. It would also allow veterinarians to keep up to \$5 of the licensing fee for the first year, for collection and processing of the fees.

All pet dogs and cats over four months old within the City are required under City law to be licensed. Licenses for non-sterilized pets cost \$100 per year, while licenses for spayed or neutered pets cost only \$15.

The significantly lower licensing fee for a spayed or neutered pet should serve as an incentive for owners to have the procedure performed, which is desirable to lower the City’s pet euthanization rates. Licensed pet breeders will be exempt.

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