AGN. NO.

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HILDA L. SOLIS October 8, 2024

Save a Dog, Save A Life: Proclaiming Adopt a Shelter Dog Month in Los Angeles County

The dog population in Los Angeles County animal care centers is consistently at maximum capacity. Animal surrender, abandonment, and backyard breeding have been an issue for decades. However, an increase in animals being surrendered by their owners has occurred following the Covid pandemic.

Urban washes, beach areas and some County parks have become dumping grounds for animals. Social media platforms are also rampant with postings of lost and found dogs. Although not a recent issue, the overwhelming number of animals in County animal care centers creates a need for residents to become more aware of resources available to increase owner retention of dogs, as well as animal welfare laws.

Proclaiming October “Adopt a Shelter Dog Month” will help elevate County care center dogs, further promote the need to adopt versus shop, and elevate the programs available to support ownership such as the Pets Are Family program, Illegal Breeding Tipline, and mobile veterinary services.

	MOTION
SOLIS	_____
MITCHELL	_____
HAHN	_____
BARGER	_____
HORVATH	_____

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors proclaim the month of October as “Adopt a Shelter Dog Month in Los Angeles County”.

I, FURTHER, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Direct Los Angeles County Department of Animal Care and Control (DACC) to:
    a. Promote the proclamation of October as “Adopt a Shelter Dog Month in Los Angeles County” on social media platforms, including positive stories about the work (DACC) shelters do to take care of dogs and any successful adoption stories.
    b. Hold an “Adopt a Shelter Dog” community adoption event for on-the spot adoption in the month of October at a minimum of one community site in each Supervisorial district and report back in writing within 60 days on number of adoptions at these events.
    c. Update online pet profile listings to include more engaging photos and descriptions of animals, and, if available, link videos in the descriptions.
    d. Report back in writing in 90 days with available data on backyard breeding, owner surrenders that covers five years, and identify two areas that see high rates of pet abandonment in each Supervisorial District.
    e. Report back in writing in 90 days with an outreach and engagement plan that is achievable and will be acted on throughout the 2025 calendar year that would provide residents living within the

Department's jurisdiction information on pet owner legal responsibilities, animal abuse laws, and free services that are available to decrease pet abandonment, such as the Pets Are Family program, mobile veterinary services; and include in report feasibility of starting an "Owner Retention Hotline" where community members can call to inquire about low-cost or free services that could encourage ownership retention.

f. Collaborate with Los Angeles County Department of Economic Opportunity to expand volunteer workforce, establish Youth@Work program, and explore feasibility of establishing a veterinary internship program, and report back in writing in 120 days on the progress.

2. Direct the Chief Executive Office to promote the County's proclamation of October being "Adopt a Shelter Dog Month in Los Angeles County" via the following:
    a. Post the proclamation across the County's website and social media platforms and post events and ongoing service programs offered by the Department of Animal Care and Control; and
    b. Encourage County employees to adopt a dog from a County animal care center.
3. Direct the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health to post a graphic on DMH's website and social media promoting the proclamation of October is "Adopt A Shelter Dog Month in Los Angeles County" with link to DACC animal care centers and provide background information on how pets benefit mental

health.

4. Direct the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health to post a graphic on DPH's website and social media promoting the proclamation of October is "Adopt A Shelter Dog Month in Los Angeles County" with a link to the Department of Animal Care and Control's animal care centers and provide background information on how pets benefit health and wellness.

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