

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HILDA L. SOLIS

June 10, 2025

Keeping Families and Pets Together in Publicly Financed Housing

According to a poll held by the American Psychiatric Association, 88% of pet owners consider their pets to be part of their family and 63% stated their pet is a true friend, while 69% shared their pets offer companionship and provide unconditional love and support. Despite the roles animals play in society, every year thousands enter animal care centers in Los Angeles County for varying reasons. No pet policies, weight and size restrictions and unregulated pet rent are barriers to housing and pet ownership retainment.

Data from Los Angeles County Department of Animal Care and Control shows 1 in 5 pet owner surrenders to LA County animal care centers in 2024 was due to housing issues. This equates to 7,290 instances that could have been addressed through mediation, pet-inclusive housing policies, and/or fees that do not discriminate against or exploit pet owners. These instances can often lead to difficult decisions for pet owners that can cause mental health challenges and add to the overflow of pets in animal care centers and euthanasia rates.

Residents staying in properties or units managed by the Los Angeles County Development Authority (LACDA) are already allowed to have at least one pet per the County's Pet-Friendly Housing Ordinance (Chapter 8.70, Title 8, Consumer Protection, Business and Wage Regulations) of the Los Angeles County Code relating to Division 3 (Housing). However, weight restrictions, size restrictions, and pet rent have not been addressed. Most dogs surrendered due to housing issues are large breed dogs over the weight of 35 pounds and some pet policies even restrict the height or size of dogs

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allowed. Given that residents who live in publicly financed housing are required to be low-moderate income, it is not conducive to charge monthly pet rent if they are expected to become self-sustainable while keeping their pet.

The amendment to support self-sustainability and further reduce barriers to housing, will benefit fire and disaster survivors who find themselves qualifying for housing programs subject to the existing LA County Pet-Friendly Housing Ordinance. The amendment will help close the loop and ensure residents benefiting from Los Angeles County's publicly financed housing programs are able to save more dollars and keep their family intact, including their pet.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct County Counsel to report back to the Board in writing within 120 days, in consultation with Los Angeles County Development Authority (LACDA), Los Angeles County Department of Animal Care and Control (DACC), Chief Executive Office's Homeless Initiative (CEO-HI), and Los Angeles County Department of Consumer and Business Affairs (DCBA) with an amendment to the existing Pet-Friendly Housing ordinance located in County Code Chapter 8.70 within Title 8 (Consumer Protection, Business and Wage Regulations) of the Los Angeles County Code relating to Division 3 (Housing) that will, at minimum:

1. Eliminate pet weight and size restrictions, and
2. Prohibit monthly pet rent, excluding any monthly fees arranged to pay a security deposit in full.

AGN. NO. _____

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