



NEWS FROM

CITY CONTROLLER LAURA CHICK

City Hall East, Room 300, 200 N. Main St., Los Angeles, CA 90012

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CHICK FINDS ANIMAL SERVICES ILL-PREPARED TO
IMPLEMENT OR ENFORCE NEW MANDATORY
SPAY AND NEUTER LAW

Los Angeles- City Controller Laura Chick has found the Department of Animal Services to be ill-prepared to implement or enforce the new mandatory spay and neuter law.

Earlier this year, the City Council passed, and the Mayor signed, an ordinance that mandates all dogs and cats in the City of Los Angeles must be spayed or neutered.

“First and foremost, the Department has no plan to educate the public regarding mandatory sterilization and how they can comply. In fact, the City Council instituted a six-month grace period till the ordinance goes into effect this October to give the Department the opportunity to prepare the public. Now on the eve of its enactment, the Department has done little to promote awareness or compliance with the law,” said Chick.

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“Though Animal Services is charged with enforcing the mandatory spay and neuter law, it does not intend to do so. Instead, the Department, as it does with the leash law and dog licensing, will rely on voluntary compliance. My recent fiscal audit shows the Department is losing out on millions of dollars by not enforcing existing laws and collecting fees and fines, such as with dog licenses,” said Chick.

The Chick report makes 24 recommendations for improving the spay and neuter program.

“Part of the City’s current efforts to increase spay and neuter services has been to create clinics in seven citywide animal care centers. We are just at the front end of this endeavor and the Department is already finding that very few veterinarian providers are responding to the City’s call for bids for services,” said Chick

“Animal Services is a key component in the safety and welfare of the public and our animal community. Many of the problems found in my audit are traced to the fact that Animal Services lacks a well-developed strategy for carrying out their Spay and Neuter Program. I hope my recent audits will help the City’s leadership focus on what this Department really needs to be successful,” concluded Chick.

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