



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

April 21, 2008

Motion 12737

Proposed No. 2008-0218.2

Sponsors Patterson and Constantine

1 A MOTION adopting immediate actions to improve
2 conditions for animals in King County's shelters, a policy
3 framework for animal services and establishing a process
4 for the development of a strategic plan, operational master
5 plan, facilities master plan and business plan.

6
7 WHEREAS, King County animal services include services provided by the
8 Seattle-King County department of public health, King County sheriff's office and the
9 animal care and control section of the records and licensing services division of the
10 department of executive services, and

11 WHEREAS, Seattle-King County department of public health provides zoonotic
12 and animal borne disease control, sanitary and health based enforcement and may inspect
13 animal housing for compliance with public health standards, and

14 WHEREAS, the King County sheriff's office provides animal and human safety
15 based enforcement and cruelty investigations for compliance with public safety
16 standards, and

17 WHEREAS, the animal care and control section of the records and licensing
18 services division of the department of executive services provides animal shelter, medical
19 care, nuisance control, notice of order based enforcement, pet licensing, licensing for
20 businesses and organizations that house animals, code compliance inspections and cruelty
21 investigations, and

22 WHEREAS, K.C.C. 11.04.011 states that the purpose of King County animal care
23 and control is to serve and maintain such levels of animal care as will protect animal and
24 human health and safety, and to the greatest degree practicable to prevent injury to
25 humans, property and cruelty to animal life, and

26 WHEREAS, on May 29, 2007, the council adopted Ordinance 15801 to reduce
27 rates of euthanasia, redefine the roles and responsibilities of the animal care and control
28 citizen's advisory committee, and reduce access to animals by individuals convicted or
29 charged with animal cruelty, and

30 WHEREAS, K.C.C. 11.04.500, as amended by Ordinance 15801, states that King
31 County sets maximum euthanasia rate targets to measure progress towards reducing the
32 rates of cats and dogs euthanized by the animal care and control authority and the total
33 number of cats and dogs euthanized by King County animal care and control is not to
34 exceed twenty percent in the year ending December 31, 2008, and fifteen percent in the
35 years following 2008, and

36 WHEREAS, on May 29, 2007, the council approved Motion 12521 relating to the
37 provision of services to animals and requesting that the executive transmit a report to
38 include recommendations to improve the humane care of animals and develop a model
39 animal services program, and

40 WHEREAS, Motion 12521 further requested that the executive work with the
41 animal care and control citizen's advisory committee to develop the report, and

42 WHEREAS, the animal care and control citizen's advisory committee submitted a
43 special report dated September 24, 2007, and

44 WHEREAS, on October 8, 2007, the council approved Motion 12600 accepting
45 the animal care and control citizen's advisory committee report and requesting that the
46 executive take immediate steps to determine the feasibility of the recommendations
47 identified in the report, in addition to exploring the business decision of discontinuing the
48 provision of animal sheltering services, and declaring an urgent need for action to
49 implement the recommendations contained within the animal care and control citizen's
50 advisory committee report, and

51 WHEREAS, Motion 1600 states that a "no-kill" type animal services program
52 would save all healthy and treatable cats and dogs and euthanize only those cats and dogs
53 with severe health problems that preclude a reasonable quality of life or temperament
54 problems that pose a threat to public safety. A "no-kill" type animal services program
55 would permanently place animals into homes within its community and have a euthanasia
56 rate of less than fifteen percent, and potentially as low as ten percent. This program
57 would require an aggressive and innovative approach to achieve "no-kill" standards and
58 draw upon the available resources in King County and reflect community values. This
59 program should pursue grants, donations and partnerships to accomplish its objectives,
60 and

61 WHEREAS, the executive submitted the King County Animal Care and Control
62 2008 Operation Plan dated November 2, 2007, and

63 WHEREAS, on November 19, 2007, the council approved Ordinance 15975, the
64 2008 budget ordinance, establishing a proviso restricting funds to the records and
65 licensing division pending the outcome of a preliminary evaluation of the leadership,
66 human resources and structural capacity to become a model no-kill program, and

67 WHEREAS, on March 24, 2008 the council received a preliminary evaluation of
68 leadership, human resources and structural capacity to become a model no-kill program,
69 and

70 WHEREAS, there is an urgent need for action to address problems identified with
71 the animal services in King County, and

72 WHEREAS, the county is committed to reform animal services and improve the
73 provision of animal services in King County with short-term, mid-term and long-term
74 improvements, and

75 WHEREAS, approximately thirteen thousand animals are housed in King
76 County's shelters each year, and

77 WHEREAS, King County employs approximately thirteen thousand employees
78 who are known for their compassion, generosity and willingness to assist in times of
79 need, and

80 WHEREAS, many King County employees have expressed interest in adopting or
81 helping to locate homes for animals in King County's shelters, and

82 WHEREAS, a recent report by U.C. Davis highlighted a health crisis at King
83 County's shelters, and

84 WHEREAS, veterinarians and rescue groups have expressed interest in providing
85 medical care and housing of animals at King County's shelters;

86 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

87 It is the intent of the county to implement short-term, mid-term and long-term
88 improvements to animal services. These improvements shall include immediate actions
89 concurrent with the development of a strategic planning framework to affect reforms of
90 King County animal services as follows:

91 A. The county will immediately cooperate and collaborate with veterinarians for
92 pro-bono services to triage the current shelter health crisis.

93 B. The county will immediately engage in an aggressive adoption outreach
94 program to include King County employees, local businesses and rescue groups to
95 significantly reduce the number of animals in King County's shelters.

96 C. It is the intent of the county that the following vision, mission, guiding
97 principles and goals for King County animal services be the foundation for the strategic
98 planning efforts for animal services:

99 1. Vision: King County ensures humane treatment of animals and protects the
100 health and safety of the public;

101 2. Mission: King County protects the public health from animal borne and
102 zoonotic disease, keeps the public safe from animals and nuisances, prevents animal
103 cruelty, reduces the number of homeless animals entering shelters, increases pet
104 adoptions and seeks to eliminate euthanasia of healthy or treatable animals;

105 3. Guiding Principles:

106 a. The public has the right to be safe from animals and animal borne and
107 zoonotic disease and to avoid animal nuisances;

108 b. All animals shall be treated humanely;

109 c. Animal services shall be coordinated and integrated with other services and
110 programs as appropriate;

111 d. The county's animal services programs shall be accountable and transparent
112 to the public;

113 e. The quality of animal services shall be continuously improved; and

114 f. Animal services shall be provided in a fiscally responsible and sustainable
115 manner.

116 4. Goals:

117 a. Protect the public's health and safety from zoonotic and animal borne
118 disease through effective public health programs;

119 b. Ensure access to life saving programs including adoption, medical care,
120 socialization and behavioral modification;

121 c. Reduce the number of homeless pets through the provision of low-cost,
122 high-volume spay and neuter services, pet retention education and participation in a feral
123 cat trap neuter return and release program;

124 d. Achieve a euthanasia no greater than fifteen percent by the end of 2009 and
125 euthanize only those animals that are vicious, untreatable or irreparably suffering;

126 e. Actively pursue animal cruelty investigations;

127 f. Create and support the growth of strong county partnerships with
128 volunteers, fosters, rescue groups and stakeholders and the media;

129 D. A King County interbranch animal services work group is hereby created with
130 the purpose of reforming King County animal services.

131 1. Responsibilities: The King County interbranch animal services work group
132 shall develop the King County animal services strategic plan, operational master plan and
133 facilities master plan for the three-year period 2009 through 2011;

134 2. Membership: The King County interbranch animal services work group shall
135 be co-chaired by the directors of the office of management and budget and county council
136 policy staff, or their designees. The King County interbranch animal services work group
137 shall include the directors of the office of management and budget, county council policy
138 staff, department of executive services, Seattle-King County department of public health,
139 the King County sheriff and the King County prosecutor, or their designees.

140 3. Staff Liaison: The office of management and budget shall designate a staff
141 liaison to the King County interbranch animal services work group who shall be
142 responsible, at a minimum, for assisting the work group in developing the strategic,
143 operational and master plans, writing and producing drafts and the final strategic,
144 operational and master plans, organizing the meetings, sending meeting agendas in
145 advance of the meeting to members, taking minutes of the minutes and distributing the
146 minutes to members.

147 E. The interbranch animal services work group shall convene a community
148 stakeholder group to review and provide recommendations to the county executive and
149 council on the King County animal services strategic plan, operational master plan and
150 facilities master plan for the three-year period 2009 through 2011. The community
151 stakeholder group's review shall be provided before the county executive transmits the
152 strategic plan, operational master plan and facilities master plan for the three-year period
153 2009 through 2011 to the county council for its review and possible adoption.

154 F. Strategic Plan: A King County animal services strategic plan for the three-year
155 period 2009 through 2011 shall be developed by the King County interbranch animal
156 services work group. The plan shall be transmitted by the county executive to the county
157 council by ordinance on or before August 15, 2008. Annual updates to the strategic plan,
158 including annual performance measures shall be reported to council by motion by May 1.
159 The strategic plan shall include the following components:

160 1. Regulatory and policy framework for regional and local provision of animal
161 services. And within local provision of services, what services are mandated and
162 discretionary;

163 2. Vision and mission statements;

164 3. Prioritized medium- and long-range goals;

165 4. Priority outcomes relative for each goal with a primary department
166 accountable to achieve each goal; and

167 5. Performance measures for each goal with a primary department accountable
168 for improvement of each performance measure.

169 G. Operational Master Plan: A King County animal services operational master
170 plan for the three-year period 2009 through 2011 shall be developed by the King County
171 interbranch animal services work group. The plan shall be transmitted by the county
172 executive to the county council by ordinance on or before August 15, 2008. The
173 operational master plan shall be based on the strategic plan and shall include the
174 following components:

175 1. Organizational and financial evaluation of the strategic plan on how regional
176 and local animal services should be provided or contracted for by King County;

177 2. Organizational and financial evaluation of the strategic plan on how King
178 County should provide, or contract for, animal services in King County unincorporated
179 areas and cities and towns;

180 3. Development of, at a minimum, the following organizational options for how
181 King County animal services strategic plan for the three-year period 2009 through 2011
182 can be implemented:

183 a. Status quo option. King County continues to provide regional and local
184 unincorporated and incorporated animal services as currently organized within the
185 departments of public health and executive services and the sheriff's office;

186 b. Reorganize animal services within county government.

187 c. Reorganize animal services in partnership with King County and partners.

188 H. Facilities Master Plan: A King County animal services facilities master plan
189 for the three-year period 2009 through 2011 shall be developed by the King County
190 interbranch animal services work group. The facilities master plan shall be transmitted to
191 council by the county executive by August 15, 2008, by ordinance. The facilities master
192 plan shall be based on the operational master plan and shall include the following
193 components:

194 1. An inventory of existing animal services capital facilities, showing the
195 locations and capacities of the facilities;

196 2. A forecast of the future needs for such capital facilities, proposed location or
197 locations and capacities of expanded or new capital facilities; and

198 3. At least a six-year plan that will finance such capital facilities within
199 projected funding capacities and clearly identifies sources of public money for such
200 purposes.

201 I. Business Plans: The proposed 2009 business plans for the departments of
202 executive services, Seattle-King County department of public health and the King County
203 sheriff, shall be updated upon adoption of the animal services strategic plan and shall be
204 coordinated and integrated with the proposed 2009 King County budget.

205

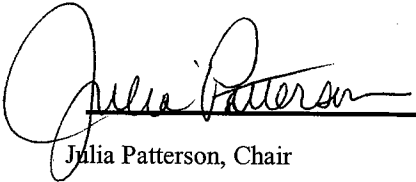
Motion 12737 was introduced on 4/14/2008 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 4/21/2008, by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Ms. Patterson, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Constantine, Ms. Lambert, Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Gossett, Mr. Phillips and Ms. Hague

No: 0

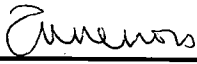
Excused: 0

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Julia Patterson, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

Attachments None