



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

May 31, 2007

Motion 12521

Proposed No. 2007-0283.3

Sponsors Patterson, Phillips and Ferguson

1 A MOTION relating to the provision of services to animals
2 and requesting the county executive to transmit a report to
3 include recommendations to improve the humane care of
4 animals.

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6 WHEREAS, the survival of domestic animals is dependent on the provision of
7 care by people, and

8 WHEREAS, the humane treatment of domestic animals is of value to the citizens
9 of King County, and

10 WHEREAS, King County provides shelter to domestic animals who are lost,
11 abandoned, surrendered or unclaimed, and

12 WHEREAS, the humane treatment of domestic animals in King County shelters
13 includes the provision of medical care, treatment, rehabilitation and hygiene, and

14 WHEREAS, the provision of medical care to animals requires the skills of
15 licensed veterinarians and technicians, and

16 WHEREAS, the humane treatment of domestic animals in King County shelters
17 includes the provision of temperament testing of dogs to determine whether the dogs are
18 irreparably vicious towards humans, and

19 WHEREAS, the temperament testing of dogs requires the establishment of
20 protocols and the skills of an expert who is educated and experienced in the study of
21 canine behavior, and

22 WHEREAS, the humane treatment of domestic animals in King County shelters
23 includes the provision of nutrition that is appropriate for an animal's age and health
24 condition, and

25 WHEREAS, the humane treatment of domestic animals in King County shelters
26 includes the provision of opportunities for socialization and exercise, and

27 WHEREAS, the humane treatment of domestic animals in King County shelters
28 includes the provision of facilities that are sanitary, well lit, ventilated and include
29 adequate space for socialization, exercise, medical care and isolation as necessary to
30 prevent the spread of disease and minimize stress and discomfort to animals, and

31 WHEREAS, the humane treatment of domestic animals in King County shelters
32 includes the prevention of euthanasia of animals that could be placed in homes or
33 surrendered to other rescue groups, with the exception of those dogs whose temperament
34 has been tested by an expert in canine behavior and found to be irreparably vicious
35 towards humans, and those animals whose medical conditions have been evaluated by a
36 licensed veterinarian and have been found to preclude a reasonable quality of life due to a
37 poor or grave prognosis for rehabilitation and irremediable suffering, and

38 WHEREAS, the policy of preventing the euthanasia of savable domestic animals
39 is known as a "no-kill" policy and is the progressive trend in humane animal care
40 nationwide, and

41 WHEREAS, the implementation of a "no-kill" policy requires a strong
42 community commitment to spay and neuter pets to prevent the future breeding of
43 unwanted animals, and

44 WHEREAS, the implementation of a "no-kill" policy requires a community and
45 government commitment to save, adopt and place animals that are abandoned,
46 surrendered or unclaimed, and

47 WHEREAS, the implementation of a "no-kill" policy may be expected to result in
48 a live release save rate of ninety percent of all domestic animals that enter the King
49 County shelter, excluding those animals returned to their owners, and

50 WHEREAS, the adoption of domestic animals requires shelters to be open to the
51 public beyond standard work hours and to reach out for assistance from volunteers,
52 rescue groups, nonprofit organizations and the community, and

53 WHEREAS, volunteers are willing and able to assist King County Animal
54 Control staff in the provision of humane care and services to domestic animals, and

55 WHEREAS, the development of a "no-kill" community requires the support of a
56 Trap-Neuter-Release program for feral and free roaming cats, and

57 WHEREAS, King County was once nationally recognized as an animal services
58 leader as the second jurisdiction in the nation to implement a mandatory spay/neuter
59 program in its shelters, and

60 WHEREAS, the humane treatment of domestic animals requires the prevention of
61 animal cruelty, the vigorous investigation of animal cruelty complaints, follow-up with
62 law enforcement officials and the reduction of recidivism, and

63 WHEREAS, the vigorous investigation of animal cruelty complaints and follow-
64 up with law enforcement officials requires a significant amount of responsibility, time,
65 coordination, and accountability, and

66 WHEREAS, the reduction of recidivism for people found guilty of or charged
67 with animal cruelty requires preventative action to reduce access to animals, and

68 WHEREAS, the animal control citizen's advisory committee is responsible for
69 making recommendations on the program goals, objectives, policies, organizational
70 structure and facilities necessary to attain a model animal control program and advise the
71 county executive and council in all aspects of animal welfare and safety, and

72 WHEREAS, the success of the animal control services section to implement
73 humane standards of animal care should be measured by the percentage of animals that
74 are saved from euthanasia and adopted or placed with homes;

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

76 The county executive is requested to file with the clerk of the council by August
77 31, 2007, twelve copies of a report, for distribution to all councilmembers and the lead
78 staff of the committee of the whole, to determine how the King County Animal Control
79 Services Section will become a model program for the humane treatment of animals. The
80 county executive is to work with the animal control citizen's advisory committee, or its
81 successor, and seek the expertise of individuals and organizations in the animal sheltering

82 field with experience in implementing "no-kill" policies to develop the report. The report
83 shall include the following:

84 A. An analysis on how King County might implement a "no-kill" policy, with a
85 comparative study of other jurisdictions that have adopted "no-kill" policies, including
86 San Francisco, California, Tompkins County, New York, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania,
87 Richmond, Virginia, Reno, Nevada, and Charlottesville, Virginia;

88 B. Recommendations on staffing levels and qualifications necessary to provide
89 for the humane treatment of animals; including an animal bill of rights to set standards of
90 care and address access to medical attention, hygiene, behavioral evaluation, nutrition,
91 socialization, exercise and appropriate facilities;

92 C. Recommendations on strengthening community relations through partnerships
93 with individuals, volunteers, rescue groups, nonprofit organizations and educational
94 outreach;

95 D. Recommendations on increasing the marketing of animals and spay/neuter
96 programs to the public using community partners, local media outlets including
97 newspapers, newsletters, King County Civic Television, public service announcements,
98 newscasts and the Internet;

99 E. Recommendations on supporting community based programs for the Trap-
100 Neuter-Release of feral and free roaming cats;

101 F. Recommendations on how to improve the humane treatment of animals in
102 King County shelters through the leveraging of private funds, grants and donations;

103 G. Recommendations related to the prevention of cruelty to animals, including
104 the benefits of a dedicated staff member to oversee animal cruelty investigations, follow-

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105 up with law enforcement officials and oversee a database of persons convicted of or
106 charged with animal cruelty for the restriction of animal licensing; and

107 H. The development of performance measures that address standards of animal
108 care, adoption, euthanasia rates, the investigation of animal cruelty and coordination with
109 law enforcement officials.

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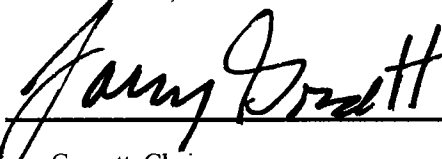
Motion 12521 was introduced on 4/30/2007 and passed as amended by the Metropolitan King County Council on 5/29/2007, by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Mr. Gossett, Ms. Patterson, Ms. Lambert, Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Phillips and Mr. Constantine

No: 0

Excused: 2 - Mr. Dunn and Ms. Hague

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON


Larry Gossett, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

Attachments None