

SUP. YAROSLAVSKY: MR. CHAIRMAN, I WOULD ASK THAT WE TAKE UP ITEM 109. I BELIEVE THAT'S THE SPAY AND NEUTER ISSUE.

SUP. ANTONOVICH, MAYOR: CAN WE ASK ONE QUESTION.

SUP. YAROSLAVSKY: I'D LIKE MISS MAYEDA COULD COME FORWARD IF SHE COULD.

SUP. ANTONOVICH, MAYOR: ONE POINT, WE HAD A COMMISSIONER FROM THE DISABILITIES RELATIVE TO ITEM NUMBER 117 BUT I BELIEVE THAT ITEM HAS ALREADY PASSED, SO...

SUP. YAROSLAVSKY: DO YOU WANT TO RECONSIDER IT?

SUP. ANTONOVICH, MAYOR: 117? OH, UNDER PUBLIC COMMENT.

SUP. YAROSLAVSKY: MISS MAYEDA, THERE SEEMS TO BE KIND OF A COMMON THREAD OF CONFUSION OR I SHOULDN'T SAY CONFUSION BUT JUST LACK OF INFORMATION THAT'S GETTING ACROSS AND I WANTED TO SHARE WITH YOU, I JUST HAD YOU READ THIS LETTER FROM ONE OF MY CONSTITUENTS WHO SAID THAT HE'S A DOG OWNER THAT OWNS AND SHOWS A GERMAN SHEPHERD AND THAT THE DOG HAS TO BE UNALTERED TO QUALIFY FOR SHOWING. AND THEN REFERENCING OUR NEW L.A. COUNTY ORDINANCE THAT WOULD REQUIRE ALL DOGS TO BE EITHER SPAYED OR NEUTERED OR QUALIFY UNDER SOME RULE FOR AN EXCEPTION IF THE DOG IS A WORKING DOG AND THEN HE GOES ON TO SAY, NEEDLESS TO SAY, AS A POTENTIAL BREEDER, MINE HAS TO BECOME A CHAMPION FIRST, HE SAYS. "I FEEL THAT THIS LEGISLATION WILL HURT PUREBRED BREEDING AND SHOWING IN OUR COUNTY. THE REGULATION WILL HAVE RESPONSIBLE PEOPLE REGISTER AND THE STREET MUTTS", QUOTE, UNQUOTE, HIS WORDS, "WILL STILL BREED. I KNOW THERE'S A GREAT DEAL OF CONCERN ABOUT DOG BITES AND LARGE POPULATION OF UNWANTED DOGS", ET CETERA, ET CETERA. "MY DOG IS THE SAME KIND OF DOG THAT POLICE DEPARTMENTS WORLDWIDE USE AS K-9 DOGS", ET CETERA. "LONG BEACH HOSTS ONE OF THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS DOG SHOWS IN THE COUNTRY AND I WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE-- I WOULD LIKE THE PARTICIPANTS AND THEIR DOGS TO BE WELCOMED IN A FRIENDLY WAY BY L.A. COUNTY." SO HE WRITES TO ME THIS AND THE IMPRESSION HE HAS IS THAT THE ORDINANCE WE'RE GOING TO DO IS GOING TO TOTALLY PREVENT HIM FROM DOING WHAT HE'S BEEN DOING. CAN YOU EITHER CONFIRM THAT OR SET ME AND MY CONSTITUENT STRAIGHT?

MARSHA MAYEDA: YES. I BELIEVE THERE'S A MISUNDERSTANDING THERE. WHAT THIS ORDINANCE WOULD REQUIRE IS FOR A PERSON TO

HAVE AN EXEMPTION FOR A COMPETITION DOG, THAT THE DOG WOULD HAVE TO BE PUREBRED AND REGISTERED WITH AN APPROPRIATE REGISTRY, REGARDLESS OF THE BREED, AND THEN THE PERSON WOULD HAVE TO DO ONE OF THREE THINGS. THEY DON'T HAVE TO DO ALL THREE. THEY CAN CHOOSE WHICH THEY PLAN TO ENGAGE IN. ONE IS THEY WOULD SHOW THE DOG AT LEAST ONCE A YEAR. MOST PEOPLE WHO SHOW DOGS SHOW MUCH MORE OFTEN THAN THAT BUT, YOU KNOW, AT THE MINIMUM, ONCE A YEAR. OR THE DOG COULD ALREADY HAVE ACHIEVED ITS TITLE, WHETHER IT'S A CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE OR THE WORKING DOGS HAVE CERTAIN OTHER TITLES THAT THEY ACHIEVE, THERE'S A NUMBER OF THEM, BECAUSE THERE'S A NUMBER OF SPORTS THAT DOGS CAN ENGAGE IN, AND WE RECOGNIZE ALL OF THOSE. SO WHETHER IT'S A HERDING DOG OR A TRACKING DOG OR A PROTECTION DOG OR A CONFIRMATION DOG, AND SO FORTH, IF IT'S ACHIEVED A TITLE IN THAT AREA, MANY TIMES THEY WON'T SHOW IT ANY FURTHER OR MAYBE EVERY COUPLE OF YEARS JUST TO KEEP GOING ON WITH THE HOBBY, BUT IF THEY'VE ACHIEVED THAT TITLE, THEN THAT ALSO EXEMPTS THEM-- OR ALLOWS THEM TO GET THE EXEMPTION. OR, THIRD, IF THEY DON'T SHOW THE DOG BUT THEY PLAN TO BREED, AS LONG AS IT'S PUREBRED AND REGISTERED, THEY WOULD THEN HAVE THE OPTION OF JOINING A DOG BREED CLUB FOR THAT BREED OF DOG THAT THEY HAPPEN TO RAISE AND SUCH CLUB WOULD HAVE TO HAVE A CODE OF ETHICS FOR DOG BREEDING AND MANY CLUBS HAVE THAT AND THE CODES OF ETHICS ARE ESTABLISHED TO MAKE SURE THAT ANIMALS, THE DOGS, ARE BRED RESPONSIBLY AND HUMANELY, AND THEY USUALLY HAVE REQUIREMENTS SUCH AS THE EARLIEST AGE A DOG COULD BE BRED TO MAKE SURE THE DOG IS SEXUALLY MATURE TO DO THAT, THE NUMBER OF LITTERS AN ANIMAL WOULD BE ALLOWED TO HAVE TO MAKE SURE THEY'RE NOT OVER BRED AND SO FORTH AND MAKE EFFORTS NOT TO BREED ANIMALS THAT HAVE GENETIC DEFECTS THAT ARE COMMON TO THAT PARTICULAR BREED. MANY BREEDS HAVE INDIVIDUAL PROBLEMS WITHIN THE BREED THAT THE RESPONSIBLE BREEDERS MAKE EVERY EFFORT NOT TO ALLOW TO CONTINUE.

SUP. YAROSLAVSKY: ALL RIGHT. I'M NOT A DOG BREEDER AND I'M NOT EVEN A DOG OWNER, SO ALL I KNOW IS WHAT I KNOW FROM READING YOUR REPORTS. JUST CORRECT ME IF I AM WRONG. IS MOST SPAY AND NEUTERING DONE AT A VERY EARLY AGE IN THE DOG'S LIFE?

MARSHA MAYEDA: SPAY AND NEUTERING CAN BE DONE AS EARLY AS EIGHT WEEKS OF AGE. THAT'S THE AGE IT'S DONE IN ALMOST EVERY ANIMAL SHELTER, IT'S CERTAINLY DONE IN THE COUNTY SHELTERS AND HAS BEEN FOR YEARS. THE AMERICAN VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION SUPPORTS EARLY SPAY/NEUTER DOWN TO EIGHT WEEKS OF AGE, AS WELL, AND THEY'RE THE GOLD STANDARD FOR MEDICAL CARE.

SUP. YAROSLAVSKY: SO IF I HAVE A DOG, A PUREBRED GERMAN SHEPHERD AND I'M NOT SURE YET WHETHER I WANT TO EITHER SHOW HIM, CERTAINLY DON'T KNOW THAT HE'S GOING TO ACHIEVE CHAMPIONSHIP STATUS AND I'M NOT SURE, FOR WHATEVER REASON, THAT I WANT TO PUT HIM-- BECOME A MEMBER OF A DOG BREEDING CLUB WITH A CODE OF ETHICS. WHEN DO I HAVE TO SPAY OR NEUTER THE DOG? AT WHAT POINT? WHAT'S THE DEADLINE BEFORE I HAVE TO MEET THESE EXEMPTION REQUIREMENTS?

MARSHA MAYEDA: YES, SUPERVISOR. THE ORDINANCE REQUIRES THAT THE DOG BE SPAYED OR NEUTERED AT THE AGE OF FOUR MONTHS, WHICH IS OLDER THAN THE AVMA'S COMFORTABLE RECOMMENDATION THAT THEY SUPPORT IT DOWN TO EIGHT WEEKS OF AGE. THE REASON WE SELECTED FOUR MONTHS IS BECAUSE THAT'S THE AGE WHERE THE STATE REQUIRES A DOG TO BE VACCINATED AGAINST RABIES AND THAT'S THE AGE WHERE THEY'RE REQUIRED TO GET THEIR DOG LICENSE. AND THIS ORDINANCE SETS UP ALTERED AND UNALTERED DOG LICENSES. WELL, WE'VE ALWAYS HAD THOSE, BUT THE PERSON, IN ORDER TO QUALIFY FOR ONE OF THOSE LICENSES, IS GOING TO HAVE TO EITHER QUALIFY FOR AN UNALTERED DOG LICENSE OR HAVE THEIR ANIMAL STERILIZED. SO THE AGE IS FOUR MONTHS. NOW, IF A PERSON'S VETERINARIAN FEELS THAT IT'S TOO EARLY FOR THAT DOG OR THERE MAY BE SOME HEALTH CONCERNS, THE VETERINARIAN CAN GIVE US A NOTE SAYING TELLING US THAT THEY PREFER TO WAIT UNTIL SUCH AND SUCH TIME AND THEN, IN THAT CASE, THE PERSON WOULD BUY THE UNALTERED DOG LICENSE SO THEY COULD BE LICENSED AND IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE LAW AND THEN WE WOULD EXPECT, AT THE TIME THE VETERINARIAN FEELS THE ANIMAL IS OLD ENOUGH TO BE STERILIZED, THEN THAT SURGERY WOULD BE DONE.

SUP. YAROSLAVSKY: SO THE DOG LICENSE THAT I WOULD RECEIVE WHEN I HAVE A DOG, I WOULD HAVE TO DECLARE WHETHER-- I HAVE TO GET EITHER AN ALTERED OR AN UNALTERED DOG LICENSE?

MARSHA MAYEDA: YES AND THAT'S HOW IT'S BEEN FOR YEARS.

SUP. YAROSLAVSKY: AND EVERY DOG HAS A LICENSE, HAS TO BE EITHER AN ALTERED OR UNALTERED DOG LICENSE?

MARSHA MAYEDA: WE ALSO HAVE A SENIOR DOG LICENSE FOR SENIOR CITIZENS.

SUP. YAROSLAVSKY: OKAY. IT HAS TO BE ONE OF THOSE TWO OR THREE.

MARSHA MAYEDA: YES.

SUP. YAROSLAVSKY: SO THAT THIS GENTLEMAN WHO WROTE TO ME, BY THE TIME FOUR MONTHS ROLLS AROUND, WOULD HAVE TO MAKE THAT DECISION WITH OR WITHOUT THE SPAY OR NEUTERING ISSUE HANGING OVER HIS OWNERSHIP, HE'D HAVE TO DECIDE WHETHER HE WANTED TO APPLY FOR AN ALTERED OR UNALTERED DOG LICENSE, CORRECT?

MARSHA MAYEDA: RIGHT AND TO APPLY FOR AN ALTERED DOG LICENSE, THE DOG WOULD HAVE TO BE ALTERED.

SUP. YAROSLAVSKY: WOULD HAVE TO BE ALTERED. AND IF HE HAD INTENTIONS OF SHOWING THE DOG, THEN HE WOULD APPLY FOR AN UNALTERED DOG LICENSE, ASSUMING THAT THAT'S WHAT WAS REQUIRED FOR SHOWING THAT DOG.

MARSHA MAYEDA: THAT'S CORRECT.

SUP. YAROSLAVSKY: WHAT HAPPENS IF HE DOESN'T SHOW THE DOG AFTER TWO OR THREE YEARS? HOW IS IT ENFORCED?

MARSHA MAYEDA: HE WOULD HAVE TO BE A MEMBER OF A BREEDING CLUB WITH A CODE OF ETHICS.

SUP. YAROSLAVSKY: WELL, WHAT IF HE DOESN'T DO ANY-- WHAT IF HE JUST SAYS, "I'LL DO IT", I MEAN, WHAT-- DO YOU SEND THE ANIMAL CONTROL POLICE TO HIS HOUSE TO SEE IF HE'S GOT-- HIS DOG IS A MEMBER OF A CLUB?

MARSHA MAYEDA: WELL, THEY'RE GOING TO HAVE TO DEMONSTRATE COMPLIANCE WITH THE ORDINANCE AND, IF THEY DON'T, THE FIRST VIOLATION IS AN INFRACTION. SUBSEQUENT VIOLATIONS ARE MISDEMEANORS AND...

SUP. YAROSLAVSKY: WHEN DO THEY HAVE TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR COMPLIANCE WITH THE ORDINANCE?

MARSHA MAYEDA: WHEN THE DOG IS FOUR MONTHS OF AGE.

SUP. YAROSLAVSKY: SO WHEN THEY COME TO GET THE LICENSE, AT THAT POINT, IF THEY SEEK AN UNALTERED DOG LICENSE, THEY'RE GOING TO HAVE TO SHOW ONE OF THESE OTHER PIECES OF EVIDENCE?

MARSHA MAYEDA: THEY WILL HAVE TO-- YEAH. AND FOR A DOG AT FOUR MONTHS OF AGE, THEY USUALLY DON'T SHOW PUPPIES UNTIL THEY'RE SIX MONTHS OF AGE IN DOG SHOWS, SO, AT THAT POINT, THEY WOULD REALLY NEED TO BE A MEMBER OF A CODE OF ETHICS GROUP.

SUP. YAROSLAVSKY: AT WHAT POINT? SIX MONTHS? FOUR MONTHS?

MARSHA MAYEDA: FOUR MONTHS, UNLESS THERE'S A MEDICAL EXEMPTION.

SUP. YAROSLAVSKY: OKAY. SO IT IS NOT UNREASONABLE TO EXPECT PEOPLE TO KNOW, BY THE TIME FOUR MONTHS ROLLS AROUND, WHETHER THEY'RE GOING TO BE SHOWING A DOG OR NOT SHOWING A DOG OR SOMEHOW BEING INTO SHOW BUSINESS, IF YOU WILL.

MARSHA MAYEDA: THEY MAY NOT KNOW FOR CERTAIN WHETHER THE DOG IS GOING TO BE A SUITABLE SHOW PROSPECT AT FOUR MONTHS OF AGE BUT THEY'RE WAITING TO SEE HOW THE DOG DEVELOPS AND SO WHAT THEY WOULD BE DOING IS GETTING AN UNALTERED DOG LICENSE AT LEAST FOR THE FIRST YEAR. BY THE TIME THE DOG'S A YEAR OF AGE, THEY WOULD PROBABLY KNOW WHETHER THEY PLAN TO SHOW IT OR NOT AND THEN THEY WOULD HAVE ENGAGED IN THAT HOBBY IF THEY CHOOSE TO PURSUE THAT. OTHERWISE, THEY COULD THEN GO HAVE THE ANIMAL STERILIZED.

SUP. YAROSLAVSKY: AND, IN THAT FIRST, LET'S SAY, THE MONTHS FOUR THROUGH 12, WHEN THEY'RE TRYING TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE DOG HAS WHAT IT TAKES TO COMPETE BUT HASN'T MET ANY OF THESE EXEMPTION REQUIREMENTS, ARE THEY ALLOWED NOT TO HAVE ANY OF THESE EXEMPTIONS DURING THIS PERIOD OF TIME OR...?

MARSHA MAYEDA: NO. THEY WOULD HAVE TO DEMONSTRATE COMPLIANCE BUT THEY CAN DO THAT IN TWO WAYS: EITHER BY A VETERINARY EXEMPTION OR BY JOINING A BREED CLUB WITH A CODE OF ETHICS, SO THEY DON'T HAVE TO BE SHOWING DURING THAT PERIOD, THEY JUST HAVE TO BE DOING ONE OF THE OTHER TWO.

SUP. YAROSLAVSKY: AND THAT VETERINARY EXEMPTION, AGAIN, IS WHAT? A LETTER FROM THE VET SAYING THE DOG IS NOT READY...

MARSHA MAYEDA: YES.

SUP. YAROSLAVSKY: AND IF, AFTER A YEAR, A YEAR AND A HALF, THE DOG HAS STAGE FRIGHT AND IS JUST NOT CUTTING IT, NOW WHAT HAPPENS?

MARSHA MAYEDA: IF THEY ARE NOT SHOWING IT ANY LONGER AND IT HAS NOT ACHIEVED CHAMPIONSHIP STATUS OR A TITLE, THEN THEY COULD STILL JOIN THE BREED CLUB AND CONTINUE BREEDING THE DOG. IF THEY DON'T DO ANY OF THOSE THREE THINGS AND THERE'S NO MEDICAL EXEMPTION, THEY WILL HAVE TO HAVE IT STERILIZED.

SUP. YAROSLAVSKY: EVEN AT A YEAR, YEAR AND A HALF OLD?

MARSHA MAYEDA: YES, UNLESS, AGAIN, THERE'S A MEDICAL EXEMPTION, I MEAN, THAT COULD APPLY AT ANY AGE OF THE DOG'S LIFE FOR OTHER-- HEART MURMURS OR OTHER CONCERNS THAT THE VET DOES NOT WANT TO DO SURGERY ON THE ANIMAL.

SUP. YAROSLAVSKY: SO YOU BELIEVE THAT THIS IS NOT-- I MEAN, IT SOUNDS TO ME, AS A LAYMAN, THAT THERE ARE A REASONABLE NUMBER OF EXEMPTIONS TO PEOPLE WHO ARE LEGITIMATELY IN THE SHOW FIELD OR IN THE BREEDING, LEGITIMATE BREEDING BUSINESS THAT THEY CAN BE EXEMPTED FROM THIS ORDINANCE WITHOUT JEOPARDY. IS THAT YOUR TAKE ON THIS?

MARSHA MAYEDA: YES.

SUP. YAROSLAVSKY: OKAY. THANK YOU.

SUP. ANTONOVICH, MAYOR: OKAY. WE HAVE A NUMBER OF PEOPLE THAT HAVE SIGNED UP ON THIS ISSUE. THE HEARING HAS BEEN CLOSED, SO IF THERE'S NEW ADDITIONAL INFORMATION THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO PRESENT, YOU CAN PRESENT THAT. KAREN BETZ, GENEVA COATS, REED ADAMS, LEESA MOLINA. THE OTHER DOOR. TO YOUR LEFT. JUST GIVE YOUR NAME BEFORE YOU SPEAK FOR THE RECORD.

LEESA MOLINA: GOOD MORNING. I'M LEESA MOLINA AND I'M REPRESENTING THE CITY OF ANGELS POMERANIAN CLUB. I DO HAVE...

SUP. ANTONOVICH, MAYOR: SPEAK INTO THE MICROPHONE. MOVE INTO THE MICROPHONE. YOU CAN MOVE THE MICROPHONE OVER.

LEESA MOLINA: INTO THE MICROPHONE?

SUP. ANTONOVICH, MAYOR: YOU CAN MOVE THE MICROPHONE OVER.

LEESA MOLINA: CAN YOU HEAR ME? HELLO? OKAY. I HAVE A COUPLE OF HANDOUTS THAT I'D LIKE TO PASS OUT TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS. I JUST WANTED TO ADDRESS, NUMBER ONE, THE EIGHT WEEKS FOR MANDATORY SPAY AND NEUTER IS DETRIMENTAL TO THE DOG BUT THAT WASN'T THE REASON THAT I CAME TO SPEAK BUT THAT WAS ONE THING THAT STOOD UP FOR ME. WHAT I WANTED TO ASK THE BOARD IS IF THEY COULD PUT THIS AGENDA ON HOLD UNTIL THEY MEET WITH L.A. COUNTY DOG CLUB MEMBERS SO THAT... [INTERJECTIONS]

MALE VOICE: PLEASE, MA'AM. PLEASE. PLEASE.

LEESA MOLINA: YEAH. I'M JUST REQUESTING THAT THIS BE TABLED OR THE BILL PUT ON HOLD UNTIL THIS BOARD MEETS WITH ACTUAL MEMBERS OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY DOG SHOW MEMBER CLUBS. EVERY WEEKEND, THERE'S DOG SHOWS, THERE'S 2,000 TO 6,000 DOGS ENTERED IN THESE SHOWS IN L.A. COUNTY. THERE'S LOTS OF PEOPLE THAT HAVE JOBS, HANDLING DOGS, COMPETITION DOGS, PHOTOGRAPHERS. I, FOR ONE, HAVE FOR FIVE YEARS BEEN APPRENTICING WITH THE AKC HANDLING ASSOCIATION IN THE HOPES OF HAVING A CAREER AS A DOG HANDLER AND I FEEL THAT ANY MORE RESTRICTIVE LAWS ARE REALLY GOING TO HURT THE PROFESSION OF PROFESSIONAL DOG HANDLING. ALSO, I THINK THAT THE LAWS YOU'RE PUTTING FORTH-- I'M NOT ARGUING WITH THEM BUT WHAT IT DOES IS IT OPENS UP A DOOR FOR BLACK MARKET BREEDING. PEOPLE ARE GOING TO BE SMUGGLING DOGS IN BECAUSE THEY DON'T WANT TO COMPLY WITH THE LAW AND THAT'S WHAT THE MAIN PROBLEM IS. THIS LAW IS NOT GOING TO STOP THAT. WE DON'T SUPPORT THAT, AS DOG SHOW PEOPLE, AND WE'VE NEVER HAD A CHANCE TO SIT DOWN AND MEET WITH THE BOARD AND DISCUSS WHAT WE THINK WOULD HELP WITH THE PROBLEMS THAT WE'RE HAVING IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY AND IT'S MY SUGGESTION THAT THIS BE HELD UNTIL WE CAN DO THAT. THERE'S LOTS OF PEOPLE THAT WILL TALK. SO, UNTIL YOU READ THAT, CAN YOU HOLD THIS BILL? PLEASE? (GIGGLING)

SUP. ANTONOVICH, MAYOR: OKAY. NEXT.

GENEVA COATS: OKAY. WELL, I'M NOT AS ELOQUENT A SPEAKER AS LEESA. I'M ALSO WITH THE CITY OF ANGELS POMERANIAN CLUB. MY NAME IS GENEVA COATS AND YOU ALL HAVE IN YOUR PACKETS A LETTER WHICH OUR CLUB DRAFTED AND ALL OUR MEMBERS UNANIMOUSLY SUPPORT THAT MANDATORY SPAY AND NEUTERING IS UNNECESSARY AND ALSO INEFFECTIVE IN REDUCING ABANDONMENT. IT IS A MISGUIDED ATTEMPT TO REDUCE SHELTER POPULATIONS. SHELTER STATISTICS ON EUTHANASIA ARE USED TO SUPPORT THE NEED FOR THIS TYPE OF LEGISLATION, YET THESE STATISTICS ARE NOT ACCURATE AS THEY REFLECT DOGS EUTHANIZED DUE TO ILLNESS, INJURY, AS WELL AS UNPLACEABLE, VICIOUS AND END-OF-LIFE DOGS WHICH ARE BROUGHT IN FOR EUTHANASIA. NEUTERING AT AN EARLY AGE IS DETRIMENTAL TO THE HEALTH OF THE DOG. THERE ARE STUDIES WHICH PROVE SIGNIFICANT HEALTH RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH EARLY NEUTERING. THE MOST PROBLEMATIC IS THE DELAYED CLOSURE OF THE GROWTH PLATES, RESULTING IN ABNORMAL SKELETAL DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF HIP DYSPLASIA AND PATELLA LUXATION. OTHER ADVERSE HEALTH EFFECTS OF EARLY NEUTERING INCLUDE AN INCREASED RISK OF BONE CANCER, HEMANGIOSARCOMA, URINARY INCONTINENCE, HYPOTHYROIDISM, COGNITIVE DYSFUNCTION IN OLDER DOGS AND BEHAVIOR PROBLEMS, SUCH AS NOISE PHOBIAS, FEARFULNESS

AND AGGRESSION. DOGS NEUTERED AT AN EARLY AGE HAVE INCREASED SUSCEPTIBILITY TO INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND ALSO A HIGHER INCIDENCE OF ADVERSE REACTION TO VACCINES. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT NO DOG BE NEUTERED BEFORE MATURITY, AND YOU ALL HAVE A D.V.M. AUTHORED ARTICLE WITH MANY REFERENCE STUDIES. MANDATORY SPAY/NEUTER IS AN UNREASONABLE INFRINGEMENT ON ETHICAL DOG BREEDERS IN THE AREA. ASIDE FROM THE HEALTH RISKS OF NEUTERING AT AN EARLY AGE, IT PUNISHES ETHICAL BREEDERS BY EXCESSIVELY RESTRICTING THEM. BREEDERS SHOULD DECIDE WHICH DOGS BE BRED AND NOT THE GOVERNMENT. DOG BREEDERS ARE THE ONES THAT ARE FAMILIAR WITH K-9 GENETICS AND NOT POLITICIANS. FURTHER, NOT EVERY DOG IS DESTINED FOR THE SHOW RING AND SHOULD NOT BE REQUIRED TO BE A SHOW DOG TO BE PART OF A BREEDING PROGRAM. AND BREED CLUBS CANNOT AND SHOULD NOT ACT AS BREED WARDENS TO THEIR MEMBERS...

SUP. ANTONOVICH, MAYOR: OKAY. DO YOU WANT TO WRAP IT UP.

GENEVA COATS: ...MANDATING BREEDING PARAMETERS. THIS GENTLEMAN IS DONATING ME HIS TIME.

SUP. ANTONOVICH, MAYOR: YOU'RE GIVING HER YOUR TIME?

SPEAKER: YES, I DONATE HER, MY TIME TO HER.

GENEVA COATS: WE HAVE A BREED OF POMERANIAN, WHICH IS A TOY BREED. TOY BREEDS HAVE VERY SMALL LITTERS. OUR BREEDS CANNOT PHYSICALLY SURVIVE THESE TYPE OF STRINGENT BREEDING RESTRICTIONS. IT IS OUR UNDESIRABLE TO LIMIT OUR GENE POOLS THROUGH SEVERE CULLING OF BREEDING STOCK. GENETICISTS HAVE ADVISED US THAT A RESULTANT DECLINE IN HEALTH AND FITNESS WILL OCCUR FROM THIS SEVERE CULLING, WHICH OCCURS THROUGH MANDATORY SPAY/NEUTER AND INCREASED BUREAUCRACY. WE ARE ALREADY SEVERELY RESTRICTED IN MOST AREAS OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY WITH A LIMIT OF THREE DOGS PER HOUSEHOLD. I WOULD HAVE LOVED TO HAVE TAKEN THAT PUPPY HOME BUT THAT WOULD PUT ME OVER THE THREE-DOG LIMIT. REVENUES TO CITIES AND COUNTIES WILL SUFFER. WE'VE ALREADY TOUCHED ON THAT. HOBBY BREEDERS WILL NECESSARILY BECOME MORE DISCREET IN THEIR ACTIVITIES TO AVOID BEING TARGETED FOR NONCOMPLIANCE WITH THE LAW. AS A RESULT OF FEWER DOGS AVAILABLE LOCALLY, PET STORE SALES AND UNDERGROUND SALES OF IMPORTED DOGS FROM OTHER STATES WILL INCREASE. WE WILL SEE AN INCREASE IN DOGS SMUGGLED HERE FROM MEXICO. THESE OUT OF STATE DOGS ARE FROM UNSCRUPULOUS PUPPY MILL BREEDERS AND COMMERCIAL BREEDERS WHO DO NO HEALTH TESTING OR SOCIALIZATION OF THEIR DOGS, YET THE PRICE FOR THEIR

INFERIOR ANIMALS WILL BE VERY HIGH. STIFLING HOBBY BREEDERS AND PROMOTING POORLY BRED, POORLY SOCIALIZED PET STORE DOGS WILL RESULT IN AN INCREASE IN ABANDONMENT OF DOGS AT SHELTERS. PETS OBTAINED FROM OUT OF THE LOCAL AREA ARE THE ONES WHO WILL END UP IN SHELTERS DUE TO HEALTH OR TEMPERAMENT ISSUES. THE BREEDERS SUPPLYING THESE DOGS ARE NOT WILLING OR AVAILABLE TO TAKE THEM BACK WHEN THE NEW OWNER CAN NO LONGER CARE FOR THEM AS A REPUTABLE HOBBY BREEDER WOULD. THIS FURTHER INCREASES THE CYCLE OF ABANDONMENT AT THE LOCAL ANIMAL SHELTER. IT'S IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT IT'S IRRESPONSIBLE OWNERS WHO REMAND THEIR DOGS TO THE SHELTERS AND NOT BREEDERS. MANDATORY SPAY/NEUTER WILL NOT PREVENT OWNERS FROM REMANDING THEIR DOGS TO SHELTERS. ETHICAL BREEDERS UTILIZE CONTRACTS WHICH STATES THAT THE DOG MAY BE RETURNED FOR ANY REASON AT ANY TIME. PET STORE AND CASUALLY BRED DOGS DON'T HAVE THAT SORT OF CONTRACT. PUBLIC EDUCATION AND LOCAL COST, MICROCHIP AND NEUTER CLINICS ARE THE ANSWER.

SUP. ANTONOVICH, MAYOR: DO YOU WANT TO WRAP IT UP.

GENEVA COATS: AND NOT STRINGENT RESTRICTIONS.

SPEAKER: I'M RELINQUISHING SOME OF MY TIME TO HER.

SUP. ANTONOVICH, MAYOR: OKAY. GO ON. WAIT. LET ME-- GO AHEAD. THEN LET ME CALL UP ALSO ROBIN MATA, DEANNE WELLY, NANCY LARSEN. OKAY. CONTINUE.

GENEVA COATS: INCREASED RESTRICTIONS ON PET OWNERSHIP WILL ACTUALLY PROMOTE ABANDONMENT. ONLY THE AFFLUENT CITIZENS WILL BE ABLE TO AFFORD THE HIGHER LICENSE FEES, FURTHER PROMOTING ABANDONMENT BY THE LESS AFFLUENT CITIZENS. THERE ARE MULTIPLE FAILED TRIALS WHICH DEMONSTRATED THE INEFFECTIVENESS OF MANDATORY SPAY/NEUTERS. YOU HAVE SOME STUDIES IN YOUR FOLDERS. THESE TRIALS INCLUDE SAN MATEO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND AND THE EFFECTIVE STRINGENT LIMITS ON BREEDING WILL BE TO DRIVE THE VERY BEST BREEDERS TO STOP BREEDING OR LEAVE THE AREA. MANDATED NEUTERING AND INCREASED FEES WILL ONLY SERVE TO INCREASE NONCOMPLIANCE AND WILL ACTUALLY RESULT IN A DROP IN REVENUES. LICENSING WILL DECLINE AS DOG BREEDERS ARE FORCED UNDERGROUND BY THESE OPPRESSIVE RESTRICTIONS. COMPLIANCE WITH RABIES VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS WILL DROP, THREATENING PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOME OF THESE EFFECTS ARE DOCUMENTED IN YOUR ATTACHED STATISTICAL STUDY. I THINK THAT'S ALL I HAVE.

SUP. ANTONOVICH, MAYOR: THANK YOU VERY MUCH. LET ME ALSO CALL UP J. FARLEY. J. FARLEY. OKAY. JUST GIVE YOUR NAME FOR THE RECORD BEFORE YOU SPEAK WHEN YOU SPEAK.

DIANE WELLY: HI. MY NAME IS DIANE WELLY. ESTEEMED BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, I HAD INTENDED TO ADDRESS YOU AS THE HONORABLE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS; HOWEVER, I BELIEVE THIS ORDINANCE REVISION HAS BEEN DRAFTED AND PRESENTED IN A MOST DISHONORABLE MANNER. IT BEGAN FOR THE COUNTY AS A CONCERN FOR DOG BITES. HOWEVER, IT WAS SHOWN THAT BREED SPECIFIC LEGISLATION WAS UNFAIR AND UNWARRANTED. DOG BITE STATISTICS SHOW THAT LESS THAN 35% OF DOG BITES COME FROM STRAY DOGS, EVEN THOUGH MAYEDA WOULD CONTINUE TO ADVISE YOU OTHERWISE. DOG BITES ALMOST ALWAYS HAPPEN IN THE HOME. A REVISION WAS PROPOSED TO DECREASE BITES THROUGH MANDATORY SPAY AND NEUTER OF ALL BREEDS, WITH MAYEDA AGAIN STATING IT WOULD LIMIT ALL STRAY ANIMALS. AGAIN, NATIONAL DOG BITE STATISTICS SHOW THAT BITES ARE NOT A RESULT OF STRAY DOGS IN MORE THAN 65% OF THE CASES. IT HAS BEEN DEMONSTRATED TO YOU THAT DIRECTOR MAYEDA HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO UPHOLD THE LAWS ALREADY IN PLACE, YET SHE PROPOSES MORE RECORDKEEPING FOR HER DEPARTMENT, THE NEED FOR MORE OFFICERS, THE NEED FOR MORE ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS. IF THE INTENT WAS SIMPLY TO RAISE FUNDS FOR AN INCREASE IN STAFF TO UPHOLD THE LAWS, THIS COULD HAVE BEEN ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH A SIMPLE INCREASE IN FEES ACROSS THE BOARD. THIS LADY HAS GIVEN ME HER TIME, OKAY? AND CONTINUED EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC TO SPAY AND NEUTER THEIR PETS. INSTEAD, THIS ORDINANCE REVISION IS A DIRECT LINK TO DIRECTOR MAYEDA'S INTEREST IN ELIMINATING ALL PUREBRED DOGS. IT HAS BEEN DEMONSTRATED THAT ONLY A SELECT FEW DOGS IN THE SHELTER ARE PUREBREDS. THE SHELTERS ARE FILLED WITH MIXED BREED DOGS PRODUCED BY UNLICENSED ANIMALS THAT THIS DIRECTOR CAN'T FIND. TO DATE, NO LIST OF APPROVED CLUBS HAS BEEN DEFINED OR NAMED, YET COMPLIANCE IN THIS LAW REQUIRES MEMBERSHIP IN AN APPROVED CLUB. IT WAS-- IT IS UNCONSTITUTIONAL TO REQUIRE A CITIZEN TO PAY FOR MEMBERSHIP IN A PRIVATE CLUB TO BE IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE LAW. IT WILL BE SHOWN THAT DIRECTOR MAYEDA WILL FAIL TO UPHOLD THIS NEW ORDINANCE ANY BETTER THAN SHE HAS BEEN ABLE TO UPHOLD THE LAWS CURRENTLY IN PLACE. I HAVE OBSERVED, IN TWO SEPARATE MEETINGS OF THIS BOARD, THAT SMALL MIXED BREED PUPPIES ARE BROUGHT IN TO PARADE IN FRONT OF ATTENDEES. I COUNTED AS 14 PEOPLE HANDLED THAT PUPPIES. PUPPIES ARE NOT PROTECTED FROM VIRUS UNTIL THEIR INOCULATION SCHEDULE IS COMPLETE AT FOUR MONTHS. EACH TIME THAT PUPPY WAS HANDLED, IT WAS EXPOSED TO WHATEVER VIRUS MIGHT BE IN THE HANDS OF THOSE 14 PEOPLE. ANY VIRUS THIS PUPPY HAS ON ITS BODY FROM THE SHELTER

IS NOW ON THE PERSONS HANDLING IT. NO REPUTABLE BREEDER WOULD ALLOW A PUPPY TO BE SO EXPOSED. NO REPUTABLE BREEDER WOULD DISTRESS A PUPPY BY HAVING IT IN PUBLIC. A STRESSED PUPPY IS A DISTRESSED PUPPY IS A SICK BUT NONE OF THIS IS REALLY ABOUT THIS SINGLE PUPPY THAT HAS BEEN EXPLOITED TO MAKE THIS POLITICAL STATEMENT. THANK YOU. [APPLAUSE]

SUP. ANTONOVICH, MAYOR: YES, MA'AM. [GAVEL]

SUP. ANTONOVICH, MAYOR: OKAY. WAVE YOUR HANDS.

NANCY LARSEN: MY NAME IS NANCY LARSEN AND I WANT TO ADDRESS YOU REGARDING THIS BECAUSE, FIRST OFF, I HAVE HAD DOGS ALL MY LIFE AND THOSE WHO DON'T HAVE DOGS DON'T UNDERSTAND THAT THEY ARE LIKE CHILDREN TO US. AND I HAVE NEVER BEEN AN IRRESPONSIBLE OWNER, NOR HAVE I HAD ANY LITTERS AND YET YOU'RE AFFECTING THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE DONE NOTHING WRONG LIKE THAT. THERE'S A SMALL MINORITY OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE MADE BAD DECISIONS WITH DOGS. IT'S NOT THE DOGS' FAULT. THE PEOPLE WHO DO THIS SHOULD BE LOCKED UP, AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED. IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT TO DO, GO FOR THOSE PEOPLE. DON'T GO AFTER PEOPLE WHO ARE BEING LAW ABIDING. DON'T TRY AND ATTACK PEOPLE WHO ARE PUTTING YOU IN OFFICE. I HAVE THE ELECTIONS AT MY HOUSE EVERY YEAR. I'M A INSPECTOR FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES AND I DON'T DESERVE TO HAVE TO PUT A LOT OF MONEY OUT FOR MY DOG WHEN MY DOG'S DONE NOTHING WRONG. I MEAN, I UNDERSTAND, I DON'T WANT TO SEE DOGS PUT DOWN, I DON'T WANT TO SEE THEM IN THE-- IN THE SHELTERS AND I DON'T WANT TO SEE THEM BITE PEOPLE, BUT VERY FEW PEOPLE MAKE DOGS THAT BITE AND THOSE PEOPLE ARE WRONG, NOT THE DOGS. IT WILL BE NICE IF YOU WOULD RESPECT THE CITIZENS OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES. THANK YOU. [APPLAUSE]

SUP. ANTONOVICH: WAVE. WAVE. YES, SIR? MR. FARLEY?

JOHN FARLEY: I'M JOHN FARLEY. I'M A VERY CONCERNED CITIZEN OF L.A. COUNTY AND I'M REALLY BOTHERED BECAUSE I FEEL, IN L.A. COUNTY, WE HAVE OVERCROWDED SCHOOLS, OVERCROWDED JAILS, DRIVE-BY SHOOTINGS, RAPISTS AND CHILD MOLESTERS WALKING THE STREETS, GANG PROBLEMS ALL OVER THE COUNTY, UNHEALTHY AIR, AWFUL TRAFFIC, HOSPITALS CLOSING ALL OVER THE CITY, UGLY GRAFFITI AND POLICE, WHEN CALLED, SOMETIMES DON'T COME TO YOUR HOUSE. AND I REALLY AM OFFENDED THAT ALL OF THIS TIME AND THE TAXPAYERS' MONEY IS BEING CONCENTRATED ON THE DOGS THAT ARE UNSPAYED AND NEUTERED, WHERE WE HAVE CHILDREN IN THIS COUNTY THAT ARE IN VERY POOR SITUATIONS AND THEY DON'T HAVE ENOUGH TO EAT AT NIGHT. I THINK THE BOARD NEEDS TO REESTABLISH THEIR

PRIORITIES AND I THINK YOU NEED TO REALLY THINK ABOUT THE TAXPAYERS OF L.A. COUNTY AND NOT THINK SO MUCH ABOUT HOW WE CAN PLEASE P.E.T.A. [APPLAUSE]

JOHN FARLEY: IN FACT, I THINK IF WE MAYBE DEVELOPED A PROGRAM WHERE CHILD MOLESTERS AND RAPISTS WERE NEUTERED, IT WOULD BE A LOT MORE EFFECTIVE FOR THE COUNTY. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

SUP. ANTONOVICH, MAYOR: THANK YOU. [APPLAUSE]

SUP. ANTONOVICH, MAYOR: LET ME AND-- RELATIVE TO THE POINTS THAT WERE MADE AS TO THE ECONOMIC IMPACT, OPENING UP THE DOOR TO ILLEGAL BREEDING AND THE OTHER ISSUES THAT WERE RAISED, COULD YOU COMMENT ON THAT?

MARSHA MAYEDA: YES, SUPERVISOR. IT'S TRUE THAT THERE ARE PUPPIES SMUGGLED ACROSS FROM MEXICO AND OUR DEPARTMENT PARTICIPATES IN AN ORGANIZATION CALLED THE BORDER PUPPY TASK FORCE THAT'S DESIGNED TO INTERVENE AND PROTECT THOSE ANIMALS. WHETHER PEOPLE ARE RESTRICTED FROM BREEDING OR NOT WILL NOT STOP THAT. WHAT WILL STOP THAT IS ENFORCEMENT OF THE BORDERS AND BY ENFORCEMENT OF LOCAL ORDINANCES BY LOCAL ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL AGENCIES, WHICH WE'RE DOING NOW, EVEN WITHOUT THIS PROPOSED ORDINANCE BEING IN EFFECT YET. PEOPLE-- THE BIGGEST REASON FOR THIS ORDINANCE, THERE ARE TWO, PUBLIC SAFETY AND THE OVERWHELMING NUMBERS OF ANIMALS IN THE SHELTERS AND, ALTHOUGH RESPONSIBLE BREEDERS HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN, I CAN TELL YOU THIS ORDINANCE WAS NOT DIRECTED AT THEM AND IT MOST LIKELY WILL NOT AFFECT THEM. WHAT THIS WILL AFFECT ARE THE PEOPLE WHO ARE JUST NOT STERILIZING THEIR PETS AND ALLOWING THEM TO CREATE DANGEROUS SITUATIONS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD. WE TOOK IN 27,000 STRAY DOGS LAST YEAR, MORE THAN ANY OTHER AGENCY IN THE UNITED STATES. STRAY DOGS ARE A PUBLIC SAFETY THREAT. THEY BITE PEOPLE, THEY CHASE CHILDREN, THEY CAUSE TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS, THEY SPREAD DISEASE, AND AN UNSPAYED FEMALE THAT COMES INTO HEAT CAN MAKE AN ENTIRE NEIGHBORHOOD UNSTABLE BY ATTRACTING THE UNNEUTERED MALES THAT WILL THEN FIGHT FOR THE PRIVILEGE OF BREEDING. THESE ARE DANGEROUS SITUATIONS. IN ADDITION, IN OUR LICENSING DATABASE IN THE UNINCORPORATED AREA, HALF OF THE PEOPLE HAVE NOT SPAYED AND NEUTERED THEIR ANIMALS, DESPITE ALL THE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH AND ATTEMPTS TO CONVINCING THEM THAT THIS IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO FOR THEIR PETS AND FOR PUBLIC SAFETY. THEY STILL HAVEN'T. SO WHAT WE NEED NOW IS AN ADDED INCENTIVE TO HELP ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO DO THAT. THERE ARE REASONABLE EXEMPTIONS IN THIS ORDINANCE TO ALLOW PEOPLE WHO BREED AND SHOW TO

CONTINUE WITH THEIR HOBBY. THERE'S REASONABLE EXEMPTIONS FOR MEDICAL PROBLEMS. SOME PEOPLE EXPRESSED CONCERNS ABOUT THAT. A LETTER FROM THEIR VETERINARIAN WILL TAKE CARE OF THAT AND WE WON'T REQUIRE THE ORDINANCE TO BE ENFORCED ON THAT ANIMAL. WE ARE NOT GOING TO QUESTION THE VETERINARIANS. 75% OF BITES ARE CAUSED BY UNNEUTERED MALE DOGS, SO PEOPLE ARE NOT STERILIZING THESE ANIMALS. THESE ARE CAUSING PUBLIC SAFETY CONCERNS AND THIS IS A WAY TO HELP REDUCE THAT. THIS WILL NOT AFFECT THE DOG SHOWS. WE HAVE NEVER GONE TO A DOG SHOW AND TRIED TO ENFORCE ANY LOCAL ORDINANCES. IN FACT, DOG SHOWS ARE-- DOGS THAT ARE TRAVELING INTO L.A. COUNTY FOR THE PURPOSE OF A DOG SHOW ARE NOT SUBJECT TO THE ENFORCEMENT OF THIS OR ANY OTHER ANIMAL CONTROL ORDINANCE-- WELL, ANY OTHER LICENSING ORDINANCE IN L.A. COUNTY BECAUSE WE UNDERSTAND THEY'RE THERE TEMPORARILY AND THEY'LL BE LEAVING SOON. NOT ALL DOGS ARE SUITED FOR SHOW, AS ONE OF THE SPEAKERS COMMENTED ON AND THAT'S TRUE, BUT PEOPLE IN THOSE SITUATIONS WHO INTEND TO BREED THOSE DOGS CAN STILL DO SO THROUGH HAVING A MEMBERSHIP AND A CODE OF ETHICS CLUB. I DON'T BELIEVE THAT THIS WILL PROMOTE ABANDONMENT. IT'S NOT OUR INTENTION TO DO THAT. WE WANT TO SEE THE NUMBERS OF ANIMALS BEING KILLED IN ANIMAL SHELTERS GREATLY REDUCED. WE SAW A SUCCESSFUL MODEL IN THE COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ WHERE 57% OF THEIR INCOMING ANIMALS REDUCED AFTER A SIMILAR ORDINANCE AND, IN ORDER TO HAVE THAT SORT OF IMPACT IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY, WE NEED TO TAKE THIS NEXT STEP TO HAVE A PROACTIVE ORDINANCE. THIS ORDINANCE BEFORE YOU HAS RECEIVED A LOT OF ATTENTION AND OTHER JURISDICTIONS ARE CURRENTLY CONSIDERING ADOPTING A SIMILAR ORDINANCE BECAUSE THEY RECOGNIZE THE BENEFITS THAT WILL COME TO THEM, NOT ONLY FOR PUBLIC SAFETY, FOR THE QUALITY OF LIFE. WHEN THE GENTLEMAN SPOKE ABOUT THE SOCIAL ILLS THAT OUR COMMUNITY IS DEALING WITH NOW WITH CRIME AND GRAFFITI AND SO FORTH, MAHATMA GANDHI SAID THE MEASURE OF THE QUALITY OF THE SOCIETY IS HOW ITS ANIMALS ARE TREATED AND, RIGHT NOW, OVER 18,000 DOGS A YEAR ARE BEING KILLED IN COUNTY SHELTERS AND IT UPSETS MANY, MANY PEOPLE. EVERYBODY THAT WORKS IN MY DEPARTMENT, THE PEOPLE WHO CARE ABOUT ANIMALS, I KNOW THE BREEDERS THAT WERE HERE TODAY DON'T LIKE THAT, EITHER, BUT THESE ANIMALS ARE COMING FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE JUST NOT TAKING THE RESPONSIBLE STEPS THAT THEY NEED TO DO. MOST OF THEM ARE NOT PEOPLE WHO INTEND TO BREED OR SHOW THEIR ANIMALS AND THEY CAN'T BECAUSE THEY'RE NOT SPAYED AND NEUTERED-- I MEAN-- YEAH, BECAUSE THEY'RE NOT PUREBRED BUT THEY DON'T SPAY OR NEUTER THEM, EITHER, THERE'S NO REASON TO DO THAT. PERHAPS AN EXAMPLE MIGHT BE IS I MIGHT NOT CHOOSE TO SMOG MY CAR JUST BECAUSE IT'S AN INCONVENIENCE AND I DON'T HAVE THE TIME AND THE MONEY BUT I HAVE TO BECAUSE, OTHERWISE, I WON'T GET MY DRIVER'S LICENSE-- MY

CAR REGISTERED, SO I DO IT. IT'S A SIMILAR ANALOGY HERE. IF PEOPLE ARE NOT PLANNING TO SHOW THEIR DOGS, IF THEY AREN'T SUITABLE BREEDING MATERIAL, THEN THEY NEED TO BE SPAYED OR NEUTERED TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC SAFETY AND TO REDUCE THE NUMBERS OF ANIMALS COMING INTO ANIMAL SHELTERS. WE DO ENFORCE THE LAWS. THERE'S CONCERN ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT NOT ENFORCING THE DANGEROUS DOG LAWS AND WE'VE HAD THAT CONVERSATION BEFORE THE BOARD BEFORE. WE ENFORCE EVERY ORDINANCE AND STATE LAW THAT'S OUT THERE VERY SUCCESSFULLY AND WE GIVE VERY STRONG PENALTIES AGAINST PEOPLE WHO HAVE DANGEROUS DOGS THAT CAUSE SERIOUS HARM AND INJURY TO PEOPLE AND OTHER ANIMALS, BUT THAT'S REACTIVE, THAT'S AFTER THE FACT, THESE DOGS HAVE ALREADY DONE THE DAMAGE AND WHAT WE NEED TO DO IS REDUCE THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR THOSE EVENTS TO OCCUR. I'LL BE HAPPY TO ANSWER ANY OTHER QUESTIONS.

SUP. ANTONOVICH, MAYOR: WHAT OUR MUNICIPALITIES HAVE ADOPTED THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE?

MARSHA MAYEDA: SANTA CRUZ COUNTY HAS ADOPTED ONE. OTHERS THAT ARE CONSIDER IT ARE SACRAMENTO CITY AND COUNTY, LOS ANGELES CITY, COUNTY OF ORANGE, COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, THAT I'M AWARE OF. OH, AND THE CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE. THOSE ARE WHAT I'VE BEEN MADE AWARE OF IN THE LAST COUPLE OF WEEKS.

SUP. ANTONOVICH, MAYOR: PART OF THIS IS COMMUNICATING WITH THE OTHER MUNICIPALITIES IN OUR COUNTY, THE OTHER CITIES THAT ARE NOT PART OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES ANIMAL CONTROL OR UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF L.A. CITIES TO DO COMPARABLE TYPE OF ORDINANCE.

MARSHA MAYEDA: YES.

SUP. ANTONOVICH, MAYOR: ANY OTHER COMMENTS? SUPERVISOR KNABE?

SUP. KNABE: I JUST HAD A COUPLE QUESTIONS. ON THE REVIEW PROCESS, YOU KNOW, THERE'S NUMEROUS COMMENTS TODAY, AS WELL AS IN OUR PREVIOUS TESTIMONY, ABOUT THE CONCERN THAT WE'RE GOING AFTER THE GOOD FOLKS. I MEAN, AS FAR AS, YOU KNOW, THE PEOPLE THAT ARE ABIDING BY THE LAW AND THERE'S SOME QUESTION OR SOME PROCESS AS FAR AS YOUR REVIEW PROCESS, THERE'S NOTHING INSTANTANEOUS THAT YOU'RE GOING TO GO ON SOME HUNT FOR THESE DOGS OR THOSE KINDS OF THINGS, IS THAT CORRECT?

MARSHA MAYEDA: WE DON'T INTEND TO GO ON A WITCH HUNT. WE TEND TO-- INTEND TO FAIRLY ENFORCE THE ORDINANCE FOR EVERY DOG OWNER AND TO REVIEW THE DOCUMENTATION THAT'S PRESENTED TO US. OUR INTENT IS NOT TO END PUREBRED DOG BREEDING. WE REALIZE THAT MANY PEOPLE DESIRE A DOG OF A PARTICULAR BREED FOR THE REASONS THAT THEY'RE ATTRACTED TO THAT BREED AND WE DON'T INTEND TO STOP THAT. WHAT WE WANT TO STOP IS THE UNCONTROLLED STRAYS AND UNCONTROLLED, UNWANTED BREEDINGS AND, FIRST, THE PUBLIC SAFETY. OUR REVIEW PROCESS WILL CONSIST OF LOOKING AT THE DOCUMENTATION THAT THE PEOPLE WILL SUBMIT TO US AND VERIFYING ITS AUTHENTICITY AND THEN MAKING A FAIR DECISION ONE WAY OR THE OTHER WHETHER THEY QUALIFY.

SUP. KNABE: AND THERE WILL BE A TIME PERIOD, LIKE, IF THEY NEED ADDITIONAL PAPERWORK THAT THEY CAN RESPOND ACCORDINGLY?

MARSHA MAYEDA: YES AND THERE'S ALSO AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THEM TO APPEAL A REVOCATION OR A DENIAL OF AN UNALTERED DOG LICENSE. ALL THE DUE PROCESS REQUIREMENTS ARE IN THIS ORDINANCE, THEY'VE BEEN REVIEWED BY COUNTY COUNSEL.

SUP. KNABE: OKAY. AND JUST ANOTHER QUESTION. YOU SAID 27,000?

MARSHA MAYEDA: STRAY DOGS.

SUP. KNABE: STRAY DOGS. ALL FROM THE UNINCORPORATED AREA OR IS THAT JUST COUNTYWIDE?

MARSHA MAYEDA: THAT'S IN TOTAL IN ALL THE SHELTERS.

SUP. KNABE: IN ALL THE SHELTERS.

MARSHA MAYEDA: COUNTY SHELTERS. NOT L.A. CITY OR THE OTHERS.

SUP. ANTONOVICH, MAYOR: AND THE POTENTIAL SAVINGS THAT THIS WOULD GENERATE?

MARSHA MAYEDA: WE HAVEN'T CALCULATED THAT OUT YET BUT IF THE COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ HAS EXPERIENCED A 57% DECREASE IN INCOMING ANIMALS, THERE'S A CORRESPONDING DECREASE IN NET COUNTY COSTS TO OPERATING AN ANIMAL CONTROL PROGRAM AND WE WOULD EXPECT TO SEE A SAVINGS, OVER TIME, NOT THE FIRST YEAR OR SECOND YEAR; THEIRS HAPPENED OVER A 10-YEAR PERIOD BUT IT'S CERTAINLY WORTH AN INVESTMENT INTO THE FUTURE FOR THE COUNTY AND A COST SAVINGS DOWN THE ROAD.

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, May 2, 2006, Agenda Item 109.

SUP. ANTONOVICH, MAYOR: ANY OTHER COMMENTS? MOVE IT.
SECONDED BY MOLINA. WITHOUT OBJECTION, SO ORDERED. THANK YOU.
SUPERVISOR YAROSLAVSKY.