

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Health Code - Animal Care and Control Adoption Fee Waiver]

Ordinance amending the Health Code to Authorize the Animal Control Officer to waive adoption fees and other applicable charges upon finding that such waiver will maintain or increase the live release rate.

Existing Law

Health Code Section 41.9 allows the Animal Control Officer (ACO) to authorize the adoption, transfer, placement or other disposition of any animal that the ACO has impounded or taken into custody when the owner does not redeem the animal within the applicable holding period. The current law also sets the adoption fee for each animal adopted. The current law does not authorize the ACO to reduce or waive the adoption fee and applicable charges.

Amendments to Current Law

This ordinance amends Section 41.9 to allow the ACO to reduce or waive the adoption fee and any other applicable charges upon a finding that such reduction or waiver will maintain or increase the live release rate. This ordinance also amends Section 41 "Definitions" to add a definition of "live release rate" as the ratio of live animals impounded to live animals released per year. In addition, the ordinance amends Section 41 by alphabetizing the definitions therein.

Background Information

Animal welfare organizations typically reduce or waive adoption fees to encourage adoption of shelter animals. This amendment will allow Animal Care and Control (ACC) to follow this common industry practice by allowing the ACO to reduce or waive adoption fees and other applicable charges when the reduction or waiver will maintain or increase the live release rate of animals sheltered at ACC.

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