

**COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO
CALIFORNIA**

For the Agenda of:
September 14, 2006

To: Board of Supervisors

From: Department of Animal Care and Regulation

Subject: Report back on increased staffing request for kennel program and staffing enforcement relevant to adoption of pet overpopulation ordinance.

Contact: Pat Claerbout – 875-5051

BACKGROUND

Your Board requested further clarification on the request for two additional kennel attendants, one senior animal control officer position and the impact on field staff if the pet overpopulation ordinance is adopted in the future.

On August 2, 2006, the Department presented a workshop discussing Animal Care and Regulation programs and corresponding staffing levels. During that workshop the challenges facing the kennel program was stressed. Currently 10 kennel attendants provide for the care of all shelter animals (average 250 daily), process adoptions and perform euthanasia seven days a week. Over the past two years the kennel program has taken on additional programs including:

- standardized behavior evaluations on every dog,
- adoption application,
- interview screening; and,
- collaboration with increased number of rescue organization to further reduce euthanasia.

The staffing request for two kennel attendants and one senior officer are required to continue this level of service and to continue improving customer service. The additional staffing will provide quicker adoption processes, daily behavior evaluations on adoption dogs, making them available for adoption sooner, and overall improved customer service. The additional senior animal control officer position assigned to the kennel will provide better collaboration with our rescue partners and allow seven day a week hands on supervision in the kennel.

Twenty one (21) animal control officers are currently assigned to the Field Services program. With staff schedules designed around high volume hours and areas we are able to provide 24 to 48 hours response time to all service calls. If the pet overpopulation ordinance is adopted it will not noticeably affect the service call level. Enforcement of the license requirements of the ordinance will be handled in conjunction with officers responding to other nuisance complaints such as loose or biting dogs. The ordinance will generate new service calls for violations such as selling animals in public places or the sale of underage/sick animals but these numbers are not expected to be large enough to impact the service level.

FISCAL IMPACT

Additional three positions in kennel program \$163,108

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED:

Pat Claerbout, Director
Animal Care and Regulation

Terry Schutten
County Executive

By: _____
Cheryl Creson, Administrator
Municipal Services Agency

cc: Director of Finance
 Human Resources Agency Administrator