



LOS ANGELES COUNTY

ANIMAL CARE & CONTROL | **redefining CARE**



Marcia Mayeda, Director

October 26, 2023

TO: Supervisor Janice Hahn, Chair
Supervisor Hilda L. Solis
Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell
Supervisor Lindsey Horvath
Supervisor Kathryn Barger

FROM: Marcia Mayeda *Marcia Mayeda*
Director

**REPORT BACK ON BOARD MOTION
(ITEM 63-D, AGENDA OF SEPTEMBER 26, 2023)
IMPACT OF SUSPENDING DOG BREEDING LICENSES**

During discussion of the subject item, your Board asked the Department of Animal Care and Control (DACC) to report back on whether DACC can temporarily pause issuing breeding licenses.

The County may impose a temporary suspension on the issuance of dog breeding licenses for emergency circumstances if the Board were to take action to amend Los Angeles County Code Title 10. However, we do not recommend taking such action as suspending breeding licenses would have little to no impact on dog admissions into DACC animal care centers (ACCs). DACC issues very few breeding licenses (zero to two annually since 2012).

The intentional breeding of dogs is not driving dog admissions at our care centers. DACC receives occasional litters, or a single or pair of puppies, from owners whose dogs became accidentally pregnant, rather than litters of purpose-bred puppies from breeders who could not find buyers or homes for them. The admission of puppies at ACCs reflects the need for more outreach on affordable and available spay/neuter opportunities for residents. When owners surrender puppies at ACCs, we offer spay surgeries for the mother dog to prevent future accidental pregnancies from occurring.

Agoura ACC
29525 Agoura Road
Agoura Hills, CA 91301
(818) 991-0071

Baldwin Park ACC
4275 N. Elton Street
Baldwin Park, CA 91706
(626) 962-3577

Carson/Gardena ACC
216 W. Victoria Street
Gardena, CA 90248
(310) 523-9566

Castaic ACC
31044 N. Charlie Canyon Rd.
Castaic, CA 91384
(661) 257-3191

Downey ACC
11258 S. Garfield Ave.
Downey, CA 90242
(562) 940-6898

Lancaster ACC
5210 W. Avenue I
Lancaster, CA 93536
(661) 940-4191

Palmdale ACC
38550 Sierra Highway
Palmdale, CA 93550
(661) 575-2888

Administrative Office
5898 Cherry Avenue
Long Beach, CA 90805
(800) 253-3555

Further, there are 10 animal control jurisdictions in Los Angeles County. Puppies can be purpose-bred in the other 9 jurisdictions where the County ordinance would have no effect. Puppies may also arrive in Los Angeles County from other sources such as being smuggled across the border from Mexico, imported from Asia and Eastern Europe, or shipped from puppy mills in other states. Prospective pet owners who desire a puppy can purchase purpose-bred dogs online or drive to surrounding counties or other states to obtain them. Puppies that are bred in Los Angeles County's jurisdiction may be sold to owners in other jurisdictions served by other animal care agencies therefore having no impact on DACC admissions.

DACC is aware there are owners who purpose-breed their dogs for profit in DACC's jurisdiction without the required license. While Los Angeles County has strong laws in place to enforce unlawful breeding, DACC does not have the resources to identify the dog breeders. Most advertise online and use untraceable mobile telephones. It is a very labor-intensive duty to identify the breeder and location of their puppies, requiring hours of telephone calls, internet searches, physical meetings, and other investigative techniques to identify just one breeder. When DACC is informed of a person breeding dogs, DACC officers do enforce the laws regarding breeding as well as any other applicable laws.

DACC has begun discussions with a local dog rescue organization who has offered to provide DACC with the names and addresses of unlicensed breeders in our jurisdiction. We hope this effort will yield the information we need to further enforce unlawful dog breeding in Los Angeles County.

To be clear, DACC strongly recommends spaying/neutering all dogs and not breeding them simply for profit. Your Board enacted mandatory spay/neuter laws for dogs and cats many years ago, which showed resulting decreases in animal admissions. However, it is important to be mindful of the root cause of animal admissions so that proper preventions can be put into practice. Placing a moratorium on issuing breeding licenses will not accomplish this.

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Conclusion

Issuing a moratorium on the issuance of dog breeding licenses is possible if your Board takes action to amend Los Angeles County Code Title 10 but will have no impact on dog admissions. Intervention programs, readily available low-cost spay/neuter services, and proper population management of care center dog populations are key practices to maintain healthy and humane housing conditions for dogs in animal care centers.

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c: Chief Executive Office
County Counsel
Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
Animal Care Board Deputies