

News Release

Jefferson Parish, Louisiana

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Our Mission Is:

“Provide the services,
leadership, and vision to
improve the quality of life
in Jefferson Parish.”

Aaron F. Broussard
Parish President

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 2, 2009

PUBLIC HEARINGS SET FOR ANIMAL WELFARE RECOMMENDATIONS

Jefferson Parish’s Animal Welfare Committee is holding two public hearings for all citizens to review and comment on its proposed recommendations to the Parish Council.

The first hearing will be held on Wednesday, November 4, 2009 beginning at 6:30 p.m. and ending at 8:30 p.m at the Joseph S. Yenni Building in Elmwood, 2nd floor, Council Chambers.

The second hearing will be held on Tuesday, November 10, 2009 beginning at 6:30 p.m. and ending at 8:30 p.m. in the General Government Building on Derbigny Street in Gretna, Council Chambers.

See the following list of recommendations created and adopted by the Presidential Committee on Animal Welfare in response to Council Resolution #113026 passed on September 2, 2009.

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RECOMMENDATIONS:

1C:

It is the recommendation of the Animal Welfare Committee that Jefferson Parish should not adopt a mandatory spay/neuter law for dogs and cats. It is further recommended that the Parish Animal Shelter Department should amend its ordinance that establishes penalties and fines for violations of the leash laws to require all dogs or cats found to be stray or in violation of the leash laws twice in their lifetime to be spayed or neutered prior to being returned to their owner with the exception of the following cases:

1. Animals that cannot be altered due to the health of the animal; only when certified by a licensed veterinarian.
2. Pet owners that can provide proof from their veterinarian that their animal has been surgically altered (spayed/neutered).
3. Dogs that are less than three months in age and cats that are less than two months in age or less than two pounds.
4. Any purebred animal with a know owner that can present valid ownership papers, can verify purebred status and is willing to pay a repeat offender penalty to not have his/her pet altered.

For the first offense of an intact, unaltered dog/cat found to be a stray or in violation of the leash law, the owner of the animal will be given the option of paying the fines/redemption fees or paying the fees to have the animal spayed/neutered by the shelter or a low cost spay/neuter clinic prior to being redeemed.

For the second offense of an intact, unaltered dog/cat found to be a stray or in violation of the leash law, the fines/redemption fees will be reduced by the cost of the spay/neuter fees and the animal altered prior to being redeemed.

2:

It is the recommendation of the Animal Welfare Committee that Jefferson Parish increase it rabies license fee from five dollars (\$5) per year, per animal to ten dollars (\$10) per year, per animal. The additional five dollars (\$5) per year, per animal shall be dedicated to a low cost/no cost spay/neuter program for Jefferson Parish and to create an educational program on responsible pet ownership for our citizens and to be taught in the Jefferson Parish School Systems.

3:

That Jefferson Parish create and fund two new paid positions in the Animal Shelter Department to be called "Volunteer Coordinators"; whose job duties are to solicit, train and schedule volunteers and rescue groups.

4:

That Jefferson Parish hire or identify a self-supporting grant writer to solicit grants and cooperative endeavor agreements to take advantage of funding opportunities for low cost/no cost spay/neuter programs and animal welfare improvements.

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5:

That Jefferson Parish seek all funds available and strongly consider building a high volume, low cost, spay/neuter clinic and that it follows the Human Alliance model for the operation of said clinic. Those additional fees collected through the increase in rabies license fees are not to be used to build the clinic.

6:

That the Jefferson Parish Council seek funding for two separate adoption centers (one on the east bank and one on the west bank) for the animals from the Jefferson Parish Animal Shelters and that the adoption centers must be in different locations than the existing shelters.

7:

That the Jefferson Parish Council amend the code of Ordinances to include and support trap, neuter/spay and return programs for feral cats.

8:

That the Jefferson parish Council amend the Code of Ordinances to require anyone breeding any animal for the purpose of selling the offspring or charging a stud fee to breed any animal to obtain a Parish permit to be called the "Responsible Breeder Permit". That Jefferson Parish should charge five dollars (\$5) for this permit and dedicate all proceeds from the sale of said permits to an annual low cost spay/neuter program. It is further recommended that anyone advertising the sale of animal or animal breeding services in Jefferson Parish be required to include their "Responsible Breeder Permit" number in the advertisement.

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