

MOTION

As of October 24, 2007, a firestorm continues to ravage Southern California for the fourth consecutive day, destroying scores of homes and businesses, blackening thousands of acres and forcing tens of thousands to evacuate ahead of blowtorching flames. Among those in danger are horses and large animals located in the Topanga Canyon area. Thus far, the Los Angeles County Fire Department has issued animal evacuation orders for these animals. In addition, the Los Angeles County Animal Control Center has directed evacuation of animals to the Agoura Hills Animal Shelter and the Pierce College Equestrian Center.


However, animal control authorities are scrambling for staff as they are being flooded with evacuation requests, and struggling to keep afloat of emergency rescue calls and requests. In addition, evacuation spaces for large animals are limited.

Although the affected areas are under the County's jurisdiction, it is critical that for future emergency fire situations, the City team with the County to create a comprehensive action plan. Specifically, the Los Angeles City Fire Department should collaborate with the County Fire Department to implement a cohesive evacuation plan for future emergency fire situation in the City. Also, to ensure the effectiveness of future large animal evacuations, the Los Angeles City Animal Services Department should coordinate with the County Animal Services Department to formulate a plan for emergency animal evacuations in the City of Los Angeles.


**I THEREFORE MOVE** that the Animal Services Department, the Emergency Preparedness Department, and the Fire Department be directed to report immediately to the Public Safety Committee on the following issues:

- (1) Successes and failures of the large animal evacuation processes during these recent fires, including an evaluation of the effectiveness of using Agoura Hills Animal Shelter and the Pierce College Equestrian Center as emergency evacuation centers; and
- (2) The City's plan of action for large animal evacuations if a future wildfire is within City limits, including the City's agreements with animal evacuation centers, the City's coordination efforts with the County Fire and Animal Services Departments.

PRESENTED BY

  
 DENNIS P. ZINE  
 Councilmember, 3<sup>rd</sup> District

SECONDED BY



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