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Report to the Board of Animal Services Commissioners
Edward A. Boks, General Manager

COMMISSION MEETING DATE: August 25, 2008 **PREPARED BY:** Miki Shaler

REPORT DATE: August 21, 2008 **TITLE:** Management Ass't

SUBJECT: Requests for Recognition for Dog and Cat Registries and Associations,
First Round June-August 2008

BOARD ACTION RECOMMENDED:

That the Board:

1. Review and approve the applications for the following dog and cat registries or associations: the American Kennel Club, the United Kennel Club, and the International Cat Association, Inc.; and,
 2. Recommend that staff follow-up with the remaining registry applicant, the American Rare Breed Association, to obtain more information about the organization, and to re-advertise the registry recognition process as widely as possible.
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SUMMARY:

On February 12, 2008, the City Council of Los Angeles approved a new law that requires all cats and dogs in the City to be spayed or neutered after the age of four months, with some specific exemptions allowed. One of the exemptions to the ordinance is "a breed approved by and registered with a registry or association approved by the Animal Services Commission, (which) does or will actively show or compete."

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On June 20, 2008, the Department released a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) inviting dog and cat registries and associations to apply for recognition by the Board of Animal Services Commissioners to provide certification that may exempt certain dogs and cats from the spay and neuter requirements of Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) 53.15.2.

In addition to posting the RFQ on the Department’s website, a letter regarding the RFQ and application process was mailed to thirty dog and cat registries and associations throughout the country to inform organizations of the August 12, 2008 first round deadline. Many inquiries were fielded, but only four application packets were received. The evaluation of each application is provided below:

ORGANIZATION NAME	Animal Kennel Club (AKC)	United Kennel Club (UKC)	American Rare Breed Association	The International Cat Association, Inc. (TICA)
Type of Registry	Purebred dog	All-breed performance dogs	Purebred dog	Cat
Includes background information	Y	Y	Y	Y
Includes explanation of certificate process	Y	Y	Y	Y
Established 3 + years	Y	Y	Y	Y
Maintains and Enforces a code of ethics for breeding that includes:				
Knowledge of the breed standard, the basic principles of genetics, and the pedigrees of prospective stud and matron;	Y	Y	Y	Y
Restricting the breeding of animals that are not physically or temperamentally sound or have defects and life-threatening health problems that commonly threaten the breed;	Y	Y	No Information Provided	Y

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	Animal Kennel Club (AKC)	United Kennel Club (UKC)	American Rare Breed Association	The International Cat Association, Inc. (TICA)
Requiring that animals are thoroughly examined by a veterinarian before breeding to determine that they are healthy, mature, and suitable for this purpose;	Unknown. Provided age restrictions on breeding.	Unknown. Stipulates that dogs must be physically and mentally mature.	No Information Provided	Unknown.
Denying, suspending, or revoking membership of any breeder in violation of its code of ethics or who is proven to have been convicted of a crime against an animal.	Y	Y	No Information Provided	Y
Does not allow, endorse, or engage in any activity that is determined to be intentionally harmful or detrimental to the health and/or safety of animals or humans	No information provided	Y	No Information Provided	Y
Participates in, sponsors, or organizes bona fide competitions or shows that make awards based on merit	Y	Y	Y	Y
Explains the process and criteria used in issuing a certification	Y	Y	Y	Y
RECOMMENDATION	APPROVE	APPROVE	REQUEST MORE INFORMATION	APPROVE

The Department recommends that the Commission approve the applications submitted by the American Kennel Club (AKC), the United Kennel Club (UKC), and the International Cat Association, Inc. Department staff will follow-up with the American Rare Breed Association to obtain the missing information and request that the organization resubmit their application for review at a later date. Staff also will re-notify

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all original organizations and seek new ways to alert registries and associations of the necessity to receive recognition. Without recognition by the Board, registries and associations will not be able to provide valid certification to their members, leaving dog and cat owners without the tools to obtain exemptions.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Dog and cat owners, who provide an original letter or certificate from an approved dog or cat registry or association, can receive an exemption from the Spay/Neuter Ordinance, (LAMC) Section 53.15.2. Exempted dog owners will be required to purchase a \$100 unaltered dog license and a \$100 breeding permit (the altered dog license is \$15). The potential increase in revenue to the Department is directly correlated to the number of dog owners who request exemption from the Spay/Neuter Ordinance citing this exemption.

Approved:

Edward A. Boks, General Manager

BOARD ACTION:

_____ Passed	Disapproved _____
_____ Passed with noted modifications	Continued _____
_____ Tabled	New Date _____