



**Signature Report**

**October 9, 2007**

**Motion 12600**

**Proposed No.** 2007-0533.2

**Sponsors** Patterson and Phillips

1           A MOTION accepting the King County animal care and  
2           control citizen's advisory committee's report on improving  
3           the humane care of animals in King County's shelters and  
4           requesting that the executive take immediate steps to  
5           determine the feasibility of the recommendations identified  
6           in the report, in addition to exploring the business decision  
7           of discontinuing the provision of animal sheltering services  
8           and declaring an urgent need for action.

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10           WHEREAS, on May 29, 2007, the council adopted Ordinance 15801 to reduce  
11           rates of euthanasia, redefine the roles and responsibilities of the animal care and control  
12           citizen's advisory committee, and reduce access to animals by individuals convicted or  
13           charged with animal cruelty, and

14           WHEREAS, on May 29, 2007, the council passed Motion 12521 relating to the  
15           provision of services to animals and requesting that the executive transmit a report to  
16           include recommendations to improve the humane care of animals and develop a model  
17           animal services program, and

18 WHEREAS, Motion 12521 further requested that the executive work with the  
19 animal care and control citizen's advisory committee to develop the report, and

20 WHEREAS, the animal care and control citizen's advisory committee has  
21 completed a special report to the council and the executive, and

22 WHEREAS, the animal care and control citizen's advisory committee's special  
23 report states that King County's animal services program has deplorable shelters, does not  
24 offer sufficient programs to move animals out of the shelter or stem the flow of animals  
25 into the shelter and systemically fails to properly investigate animal cruelty, and

26 WHEREAS, the animal care and control citizen's advisory committee's special  
27 report contains forty-seven recommendations to improve King County's humane care of  
28 animals and develop a model animal services program, and

29 WHEREAS, there is an urgent need for action to address the deplorable  
30 conditions at King County animal shelters, and

31 WHEREAS, the feasibility of implementing the recommendations of the animal  
32 care and control citizen's advisory committee's special report is unknown;

33 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

34 A. The metropolitan King County council accepts the report of the animal care  
35 and control citizen's advisory committee recommending improvements for the humane  
36 care of animals and the development of a model animal services program. The executive  
37 is requested to urgently act on the report and work diligently to determine the feasibility  
38 of implementing the recommendations contained in the report as well as consider the  
39 business decision of discontinuing the provision of animal sheltering services. The  
40 executive should provide weekly progress reports to the council through March 31, 2008,

41 regarding changes to the animal services program. Should the executive find the  
42 feasibility and benefits of continuing the provision of animal sheltering services a prudent  
43 business decision, the executive is requested to implement, at minimum, the following  
44 recommendations:

45 1. Develop a facilities plan for King County's animal shelters with identified  
46 renovations that are aligned with current best practices in animal sheltering and  
47 architecture;

48 2. Reorganize staff and evaluate appropriate staffing levels and training to  
49 address access to medical care, the coordination of volunteers, community and media  
50 outreach and improve the safety of employees, the humane care of animals and customer  
51 service;

52 3. Institute an intake exam for every animal, to be performed by clinic staff;

53 4. Review and implement cleaning protocols to reduce rates of disease and  
54 improve sanitation;

55 5. Cover open sewer drain in the Kent shelter;

56 6. Develop new performance measures that increase accountability for  
57 euthanasia decisions, record keeping, animal care and other activities;

58 7. Purchase new animal control transport enclosures for all vehicle chassis that  
59 are insulated and temperature controlled for the humane transport of animals;

60 8. Provide social housing and enrichment programs and protocols to improve  
61 socialization of animals and reduce behavior problems;

62 9. Increase the spay/neuter program and participate in spay/neuter awareness  
63 campaigns to reduce the flow of animals into the shelters;

64           10. Oversee discussions between the sheriff and prosecuting attorney's office to  
65 develop a plan to improve in animal cruelty investigations;

66           11. Revitalize the volunteer program to maximize community participation and  
67 care for animals in the shelters and expand community adoption events;

68           12. Develop a media plan to maximize community exposure to information  
69 about animals available for adoption and resource needs; and

70           13. Revise shelter hours to be open additional evenings and weekends when the  
71 public is more likely to visit the shelters; and

72           B. The metropolitan King County council reasserts its policy directive for the  
73 executive to implement a "no-kill" type animal services program that reflects King  
74 County's prosperity, compassion, and generosity. A "no-kill" type animal services  
75 program would save all healthy and treatable cats and dogs and euthanize only those cats  
76 and dogs with severe health problems that preclude a reasonable quality of life or  
77 temperament problems that pose a threat to public safety. A "no-kill" type animal  
78 services program would permanently place animals into homes within its community and  
79 have a euthanasia rate of less than fifteen percent, and potentially as low as ten percent.  
80 This program would require an aggressive and innovative approach to achieve "no-kill"  
81 standards and draw upon the available resources in King County and reflect community  
82 values. This program should pursue grants, donations and partnerships to accomplish its  
83 objectives and look to the model jurisdictions identified in the animal care and control  
84 citizen's advisory committee's special report as well as local programs such as the

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85 Humane Society for Seattle/King County and the Seattle Animal Shelter for information  
86 on how to meet these objectives.

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Motion 12600 was introduced on 10/8/2007 and passed as amended by the Metropolitan King County Council on 10/8/2007, by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Mr. Gossett, Ms. Patterson, Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Phillips and Mr. Constantine

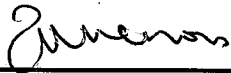
No: 0

Excused: 2 - Ms. Lambert and Ms. Hague

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

  
Larry Gossett, Chair

ATTEST:

  
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Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

**Attachments**      None