



# FAQ Sheet

## Request for Recognition for Dog and Cat Registries and Associations First Round June-August 2008

An Ordinance designed to reduce pet overpopulation was approved by the City of Los Angeles in February 2008. The Ordinance, codified as Section 53.15.2 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) requires that all dogs and cats in the City of Los Angeles be spayed or neutered after four months of age, unless certain specific exemptions apply. Enforcement of the ordinance begins on October 1, 2008.

Two of the exemption categories allow the Board of Animal Services Commissioners to recognize dog and cat registries and associations that provide certification for dogs and cats registered for showing or competition, as follows.

The dog (or cat) is a breed approved by and is registered with a registry or association recognized by the Department through its Commission, whose program and practices are consistent with the humane treatment of animals, and the dog is actively used to show or compete and has competed in at least one legitimate show or sporting competition hosted by, or under the approval of the recognized registry or association within the last two years, or is being trained or groomed to show or compete and is too young to have yet competed.

The dog (or in some limited cases cat) has earned, or if under three years old, is actively being trained and in the process of earning, an agility, carting, herding, protection, rally, hunting, working, or other title from a registry or association approved by the Department through its Commission.

The Department will require that persons applying for an intake dog or cat permit under one of these two exemptions provide an **original** letter or certificate from the approved registry or association.

The Department has established an application process for interested registries and associations to be recognized by the Board for this purpose. The application process requires the registry or association to provide background and key information about the organization, and to explain the process that a dog or cat owner would follow and criteria to meet for the registry or association to issue a certification, and must affirm that they meet and will continue to meet the minimum requirements below.

- Established for three or more years.

- 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;
  - ▶ 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;
  - ▶ Requiring that animals are thoroughly examined by a veterinarian before breeding to determine that they are healthy, mature, and suitable for this purpose;
  - ▶ 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.
  
- 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.
  
- Participates in, sponsors, or organizes bona fide competitions or shows that make awards based on merit.
  
- Explains the process and criteria used in issuing a certification.

Organizations which meet the requirements above will be submitted to the Board with evaluation comments, for the Board's consideration. This process will produce an initial list of recognized registries and associations, but the application process will remain open on a continuous basis.

Additions to the Recognized List may be brought for the Board's consideration quarterly or more frequently. If a previously-approved registry or association breaches any of the requirements for recognition, and the registry or association is unable to correct the breach within 30 days after written notice by staff, the Department will recommend to the Board suspended or terminated the registry or association at the next Board meeting.

Recognized registries or associations will remain in good standing for three years, unless otherwise suspended or terminated as mentioned above. At the end of three years, they may re-apply for recognition. Registries or associations not recognized at this first round of review will be allowed to re-apply at their discretion.