



Dear Mayor and Council Members:

On behalf of City Manager Ed Shikada, please find below the staff response to a question made by Councilmember Filseth regarding the [Monday, February 14 Council Meeting](#) action agenda item:

**Item 9 (Action),** Provide Direction to Staff on Negotiations with Pets in Need for Operations and Capital Improvements at the City's Animal Shelter

Staff response is below:

**Item 9 (Action), Provide Direction to Staff on Negotiations with Pets in Need for Operations and Capital Improvements at the City's Animal Shelter**

1. In addition to the Kennel dialogue, the Staff report mentions several other points still under discussion between the City and PIN: Wildlife handling, feral cat policy, etc. One I did not see there was: "Non Dog-and-Cat Pet Animals." Such as pet rabbits, turtles, chickens, hamsters etc, which fall under neither the "dog and cat" (normally full-service: spay/neuter, house temporarily, adopt out, etc) category, nor the "wildlife" (normally no-service: transport to Humane Society or Wildlife Rescue) category. These animals represent a relatively small share of pets, but not zero; and losing a pet rabbit can be just as distressing as losing a pet cat.

Is a policy for handling these "Non Dog-and-Cat Pet Animals" on the discussion agenda as well?

**Answer:** The handling of small pet animals has not been recently identified as an issue needing attention by PIN or Palo Alto Animal Control Officers. If concerns or issues are raised in the future, staff will work with PIN to resolve them.

Thank you,  
Joanna



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