

## REPORT OF THE CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

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DATE: February 14, 2020

TO: Honorable Members of the Rules, Elections, and Intergovernmental Relations Committee

FROM: Sharon M. Tso  Chief Legislative Analyst Council File No: 20-0002-S14  
Assignment No: 20-02-0138

SUBJECT: California for All animal sheltering program

CLA RECOMMENDATION: Adopt Resolution (Ryu – Koretz) to include in the City's 2019-2020 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for the California for All animal sheltering program proposed by Governor Newsom in the 2020-21 State Budget.

### SUMMARY

Governor Newsom's proposed 2020-21 State Budget, released on January 10, 2020, includes \$50 million in comprehensive program, training, and funding support for California animal shelters to implement best practices regarding shelter animal management.

The Resolution recommends support for the California for All animal sheltering program in the Governor's proposed 2020-21 State Budget.

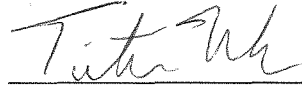
### BACKGROUND

The animal sheltering program proposed in the budget is led by the UC Davis Koret Shelter Medicine Program. The proposed funding is designed to support California's long-standing policy that no healthy or treatable dog or cat be euthanized in an animal shelter. Despite this policy, there were over 150,000 cats and dogs euthanized statewide in California in 2016. Estimates put this number at around 100,000 in more recent years.

The \$50 million in proposed funding will provide \$37.5 million in direct grant funds to California animal shelters. Additional funding will be allocated for a variety of purposes, including: intense focus on shelters in under-resourced and overburdened communities; a five-year local assistance program for any shelter that wants to participate; regional best-practice summits; access to the most current research and shelter management models available, as well as the subject matter experts that pioneered the veterinary medicine field that concentrates on the health and wellbeing of animals living in shelters; interactive group training that guarantees shelters have access to best-practice protocols and models; and robust resource library complete with sample forms, protocols, case studies, policies and tool kits. Spay and neuter assistance is one of the most successful approaches to reducing euthanasia rates. Under this funding proposal, the program would provide spay and neuter services to shelters and pet owners.

Prior to the Hayden Act, introduced as SB 1785 (Hayden) in 1998, animal shelters in California could euthanize animals 72 hours after they were impounded. The Hayden Act, enacted in 1999,

requires public shelters to impound animals at least four business days, and prohibits shelters from euthanizing animals that nonprofit animal rescue or adoption groups are willing to save. Costs associated with the mandates of the Hayden Act have been scarcely reimbursed or enforced since the Hayden Act was enacted in 1999. In 2012, then Governor Jerry Brown attempted to repeal a number of unfunded mandates, including the Hayden Act. Governor Newsom's proposed funding for this program is one of few significant attempts since the Hayden Act to reduce the incidence of euthanasia in California animal shelters.



Tristan Noack  
Analyst

SMT:tcjn

Attachment: Resolution

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles, with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state, or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, Governor Newsom's proposed 2020-21 State Budget, released on January 10, 2020, includes \$50 million in comprehensive program, training, and funding support for California animal shelters to implement best practices regarding shelter animal management; and

WHEREAS, the animal sheltering program proposed in the budget is led by the UC Davis Koret Shelter Medicine Program, which is administered by a preeminent institution in the field of veterinary medicine; and

WHEREAS, over 100,000 animals are still euthanized annually in California for lack of space and resources; and

WHEREAS, the proposed funding is designed to support California's long-standing policy that no healthy or treatable dog or cat be euthanized in an animal shelter; and

WHEREAS, the state of Delaware is designated as a "no-kill" state, meaning that its animal shelters have achieved a save rate of at least 90 percent; and

WHEREAS, in 2012, the City of Los Angeles committed to becoming a "no-kill" city, and by 2017, the City achieved "no-kill" status for dogs, with a 92.4 percent save rate, and the live/save rate for all shelter animals soared from 57.7 percent to 87.2 percent in the six-year period; and

WHEREAS, additional support in the State Budget would help to further improve the save rate of animals in shelters in the Los Angeles area, and in animal shelters throughout California;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes into its 2019-2020 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for the California for All animal sheltering program proposed by Governor Newsom in the 2020-21 State Budget.

PRESENTED BY:

  
DAVID E. RYU  
Councilmember, 4<sup>th</sup> District

SECONDED BY:



  
tcjn

JAN 29 2020

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