

RESOLUTION

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

WHEREAS, animal cruelty in all its forms is malicious behavior toward creatures who often can't defend themselves; and

WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles has recognized that fact, as well as the relationship between animal cruelty and other violent crimes often committed by its perpetrators, by forming the Animal Cruelty Task Force, a partnership between the LAPD, the Department of Animal Services and the City Attorney, with the support of the County District Attorney, to investigate and prosecute animal cruelty crimes; and

WHEREAS, the state of California and all other states recognize animal cruelty as a felony; and

WHEREAS, a federal designation of animal cruelty as a felony is needed to cover cruelty that occurs in interstate commerce, across state lines or in geographic locations difficult to identify; and

WHEREAS, the Preventing Animal Cruelty and Torture (PACT) Act (H.R. 724) is a bipartisan bill to make animal cruelty a federal crime authored by Rep. Ted Deutch (D-FL) and Rep. Vern Buchanan (R-FL) which would cover crushing, burning, drowning, suffocating, impaling or sexually exploiting animals; and

WHEREAS, this federal codification is needed to secure additional protection for animals and punishments up to seven years in prison for those who hurt them; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 724 is supported by law enforcement, prosecuting attorneys and the Humane Society Legislative Fund; and

WHEREAS, the passage of this legislation will strengthen the hand of all law enforcement agencies in combatting animal cruelty in all its forms.

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2019-2020 federal legislative program SUPPORT for H.R. 724 which will make animal cruelty a federal felony.

PRESENTED BY: Paul Koretz
PAUL KORETZ, Councilmember, 5th District

SECONDED BY: [Signature]

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