

Communication from Public

Name: Lisa Walker

Date Submitted: 05/04/2025 05:39 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Mayor: Please do not cut the budget for animal shelters because animals are more vulnerable than people, and have no where to go but the animal shelters. Animals cannot go find an apartment to rent, nor can they look for a new job. Animals are the most vulnerable to your budget cuts than any other budget cuts. If you close even one animal shelter, more animals will be killed to make room for even more incoming animals who need shelter. Please realize people can always look for new jobs if you cut some services to people, but animals cannot look for a new job so they have money to live somewhere and buy food to eat. Shutting down animal shelters is the most cruel and unnecessary thing you can do. Please take the correct and humane action and DO NOT close any animal shelters or cut the budget for animal services. Instead, cut the bloated budget for other services, so you can protect animals, our most vulnerable resource. Thank you in advance for not cutting animal services' budget. Sincerely, Susan Hildreth

Communication from Public

Name: Leandra Kreshek

Date Submitted: 04/27/2025 11:17 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: DO NOT CUT FUNDING TO LAAS!! How can this even be suggested when our current functioning shelters are euthanizing healthy dogs due to space and dogs are so crowded that they are spreading diseases and dying a horrible death on each other! No walks- dirty kennels- no blankets in the winter - no air conditioning in the summer! How about LA use the tax money that was raised for our shelters? How about creating mobile neuter/spay trucks to go around and provide free services? How about grooming dogs on intake and sharing on social media so they can actually get adopted?? How about fining and even jailing backyard breeders who inundate the city with unwanted animals? How about allowing animals in homeless shelters so that homeless people can keep their dogs and providing low-cost vet services to help those in need? It's as if the shelters WANT TO EUTHANIZE THE DOGS! Something is SO wrong here! Maybe this will bring attention to this issue?? The media should investigate- where has the tax money for these programs gone? Why is it that the shelters won't allow rescues to help improve the situation? Why are SO MANY dogs being euthanized?? Please say no to this budget cut- it's INHUMANE! This is literally animal cruelty and it's getting worse - this will take it over the edge!! Save our shelters - save our animals - save and improve and increase LAAS budget!!

Communication from Public

Name: Lisa Sitzman
Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 09:54 AM
Council File No: 25-0600
Comments for Public Posting: DO NOT CUT BUDGET FOR LA ANIMAL SERVICES.
MORE FUNDS ARE NEEDED, NOT LESS!! Adopt Don't Shop!

Communication from Public

Name: Nancy

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 12:45 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Why Defunding Animal Shelters is Harmful to Innocent Animals
Animal shelters play a critical role in the well-being of millions of animals across the country. They are not just places where lost pets are found or abandoned animals are housed—they are lifelines for creatures that are often vulnerable and without a voice. Unfortunately, the recent trend of defunding or reducing financial support for animal shelters is a serious issue that directly affects the welfare of countless innocent animals. The Essential Role of Animal Shelters
Animal shelters are more than just a temporary refuge; they are essential to our communities. They provide a safe space for animals who are surrendered, lost, or abandoned. Shelters offer services such as vaccinations, microchipping, spaying, and neutering, which help reduce the overpopulation crisis. They also rescue animals from abusive situations and foster programs that prepare them for forever homes. Without adequate funding, these services are at risk, and the animals suffer as a result. Increased Euthanasia and Overcrowding
Defunding animal shelters leads directly to overcrowding. When shelters don't have the resources to care for the animals that need them, they can't provide the necessary space, care, or medical treatment. As a result, more animals are left in overcrowded, unhealthy environments, leading to higher rates of euthanasia. Every year, millions of animals are put down simply because shelters lack the capacity to care for them. Defunding these organizations only exacerbates this heartbreaking issue, leaving innocent animals without a chance at a better life. Financial Strain on Already Underfunded Shelters
Many shelters already operate on tight budgets, relying heavily on donations and volunteer work to stay afloat. When government funding is reduced, these shelters face impossible choices: cutting staff, reducing services, or turning animals away altogether. It creates a cycle of neglect where fewer resources are available to help more animals, often leaving them in perilous conditions. The emotional toll on staff and volunteers who are committed to helping animals only increases, as they are forced to turn away animals in need or make the impossible decision to euthanize those they cannot care for. The Economic and Social Impact
Beyond the animals themselves, defunding shelters also has broader societal consequences. When animals aren't properly cared for, public

health and safety can be impacted. Shelters also serve as community hubs, providing education on responsible pet ownership and animal welfare. By cutting their funding, society loses a critical educational resource that can reduce pet overpopulation, prevent cruelty, and promote ethical animal care. Additionally, by ensuring that animals are placed in loving homes, shelters can contribute to stronger, healthier communities.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 05/04/2025 01:24 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: The Department of Aging has been of no use to me. I am 86 years old. Most of the services seem to be for the indigent. But people with resources who are elderly also need assistance. Getting to talk to someone has been neat to impossible. I do not believe that the Department has been very well run for those who are 'merely' elderly LA residents seeking help and not coming through via some organizations.

Communication from Public

Name: The Empowerment Congress North Area Neighborhood Development Council (NANDC)

Date Submitted: 05/04/2025 01:38 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: The Empowerment Congress North Area Neighborhood Development Council (NANDC) at its May 1, 2025, Board meeting voted unanimously to ask both you and members of the city Council to not cut L.A.'s Animal Services. We ask the Budget Committee to restore funding to L.A. Animal Services this fiscal year. This disproportionate reduction to the department — including \$5 million and the loss of 122 positions — could translate directly to the killing of thousands more pets in the city's shelters, according to the administration's own projections. The cuts will also jeopardize public safety and put more pressure on an already overburdened rescue community.



Julianne Burg
President

Marco Flores
Vice President

Samantha Burg
Secretary

Julie Burg
Treasurer

Anna Joyce
Area 1
Representative

Vacant
Area 1
Representative

Edwin Ramirez
Area 2
Representative

John Noyola
Area 2
Representative

Jean Frost
Area 3
Representative

Nicolas Creighton
Area 3
Representative

John Broadway
At Large
Representative

Jim Childs
At Large
Representative

Nicolas Kiet Quach
At Large
Representative

Karen Borglund
USC Interest
Representative

Vacant
Business Interest
Representative

May 4, 2025

Hon. Mayor Karen Bass
Hon. Marqueece Harris-Dawson, President
Hon. Members of the City Council

RE: **CF-25-0600**, NANDC opposes budgets cuts for Animal Shelters
via e mail

Hon. Mayor, Council President and Councilmembers:

The Empowerment Congress North Area Neighborhood Development Council (NANDC) at its May 1, 2025, Board meeting voted unanimously to ask both you and members of the city Council to not cut L.A.'s Animal Services.

We ask the Budget Committee to restore funding to L.A. Animal Services this fiscal year. This disproportionate reduction to the department — including \$5 million and the loss of 122 positions — could translate directly to the killing of thousands more pets in the city's shelters, according to the administration's own projections.

The cuts will also jeopardize public safety and put more pressure on an already overburdened rescue community.

We would appreciate the city moving quickly on a budget item that will negatively affect our South Los Angeles community. We thank you for considering the budget adjustment and not closing animal shelters and funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Julianne C. Burg".

Julianne C. Burg, President

Empowerment Congress North Area Development Council (NANDC)

www.nandc.org

P.O. Box 18769
Los Angeles, CA. 90018

Cc: Albizael Del Valle, CD8
Ghandy Diaz, CD8
Louie Lieva, CD 1
Carlos Juarequi, CD 9

Communication from Public

Name: Sandra Chao

Date Submitted: 05/04/2025 09:20 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: This is a written testimony for LA Animal Services requesting to elevate to crisis status for budget consideration.

Dear Honorable Council Members,

URGENT! LA Animal Services in State of Crisis Due to Underfunding for 2.5 years.

- Elevate Animal Services to Crisis Level. Consider Crisis as a Key Component to budget review.
- Request performance audit of department. Request performance audit of changing euthanasia policy. Request procedure audit of neuter and spay policy. Are the animals safely neuter and spay based on breed and breed size qualifications?
- Review budget not from this point in time, but from December 2022 which underfunding and understaffing created a crisis of overcrowding, high euthanasia rate with no standard euthanasia protocol which “changed five times in 2023.”¹
- Request Line-Item Review and Analyses of Proposed Budget FY 2025-26 compared to FY 2023-24 and 2024-25 on pp. 56-57 of proposed budget.
- Do not cut budget allocated for animal services or cut staff positions filled or non-filled as department is understaffed and underfunded.

On May 3, 2025, 924 dogs at shelter. Capacity of shelter 737 dogs according to LAAS Dog Occupancy Meter. **187 dogs are at risk** with the following announcement:

Press Release May 1, 2025: LA Animal Services Faces Critical Overcrowding. **“Without immediate help, healthy, adoptable pets are at risk of euthanasia simply due to lack of space...”**²

On May 1, 2025, LA Animal Services has publicly announced killing of adoptable dogs for no reason but to make kennel space. In this public statement, Animal Services and the City of Los Angeles (which supervises this department) have made public a precedent of killing adoptable animals due to over max capacity. Without a standard policy for euthanasia, the animals are not safe in this time ticking, limited kennels, high stakes environment.

LA Animal Services is among the lowest-funded large shelter systems in the country according to Kristen Hassen, an animal welfare consultant hired to review shelters.¹ She expressed without enough staff, there is “inconsistent cleaning and feeding” and “ongoing illness” at the facilities.¹

In wake of the fires, crisis determined the need for additional funding to the Fire Department. I ask the Budget Committee and Council Members to raise status to Crisis Level for Animal Services and allocate funds based on Crisis Status.

The fires intensified the crisis at the shelters. Please place precedence to shelter animals who are fire victims directly and indirectly. Homeless, displaced fire victim dogs took up needed kennels (for longer periods) that would have gone to non-fire victim dogs. Having a kennel is essential to being seen and adopted in a time ticking, high stakes euthanasia environment.

“The animals in our shelters are not just numbers on a budget sheet. They are living beings who experience fear, pain, joy, and love.”³ Please stop this killing cycle of our abandoned pets and fund animal services appropriately to ensure a more humane Los Angeles. Thank you.

¹ LA Times 11/22/24: Mayor Bass said she'd save L.A.'s shelter animals. More dogs and cats are dying
<https://www.aol.com/news/mayor-bass-said-shed-save-110028015.html>

² May 1, 2025, Press Release from @laanimalservices LA Animal Services is urgently calling on the community to help save lives as our shelters face a severe overcrowding crisis. More than 900 dogs are in our custody and the numbers continue to climb. The Chesterfield Square/South LA shelter is especially overwhelmed, housing nearly 250 dogs and puppies. Without immediate help, healthy, adoptable pets are at risk of euthanasia simply due to lack of space...”

³ @beezys_rescue

Communication from Public

Name: Wendy Pfeifle
Date Submitted: 05/04/2025 10:15 PM
Council File No: 25-0600
Comments for Public Posting: This is Wendy Pfeifle. See attached for my written testimony for LA Animal Services. Requesting to elevate to Crisis Status for budget consideration.

Dear Honorable Council Members,

URGENT! LA Animal Services in State of Crisis Due to Underfunding for 2.5 years.

- Elevate Animal Services to Crisis Level. Consider Crisis as a Key Component to budget review.
- Request performance audit of department. Request performance audit of changing euthanasia policy. Request procedure audit of neuter and spay policy. Are the animals safely neuter and spay based on breed and breed size qualifications? [See American Kennel Club info.](#)
- Review budget not from this point in time, but from December 2022 which underfunding and understaffing created a crisis of overcrowding, high euthanasia rate with no standard euthanasia protocol which “changed five times in 2023.”¹
- Request Line-Item Review and Analyses of Proposed Budget FY 2025-26 compared to FY 2023-24 and 2024-25 on pp. 56-57 of proposed budget.
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The fires intensified the crisis at the shelters. Please place precedence to shelter animals who are fire victims and non-fire victims indirectly affected. Homeless, displaced fire victim dogs took up needed kennels (for longer periods) that would have gone to non-fire victim dogs affecting their chances of getting adopted and saved. Having a kennel is essential in a time ticking, high stakes euthanasia environment.

“The animals in our shelters are not just numbers on a budget sheet. They are living beings who experience fear, pain, joy, and love.”³ Please stop this killing cycle of our abandoned pets and fund animal services appropriately to ensure a more humane Los Angeles. Thank you.

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³ @beezys_rescue

Communication from Public

Name: Gina Davis

Date Submitted: 05/04/2025 11:08 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Fund the Public Bank Feasibility Study. My name is Gina Davis and I've been a long-time resident of the city of Los Angeles. I urge the Council to immediately fund the next phase of the public bank feasibility study. Let's figure out a way to take the over \$1 billion/year that we give to Wall Street banks and keep it local at a LA public bank to address issues like our \$1 billion budget deficit, housing shortage, disaster recovery, and infrastructure decay. The State of North Dakota has a state-level public bank that has operated for over 100 years, while maintaining profitability (like a 18% ROE in 2023). That means there is a precedent set in this country to successfully run a municipal bank, so this idea is not new. I believe we can do the same, if not better in our city. Thank you.