



92678

Tax ID # 20-3255341

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April 29, 2025

L.A. Mayor Karen Bass
200 N Spring St #303
Los Angeles, CA 90012
via email: CityClerk@lacity.org

Dear Mayor Bass:

I was very disappointed when I learned that you were planning on closing three different animal shelters in Los Angeles County. We have taken in horses, our volunteers have taken in dogs from these shelters, and I can attest that these shelters are incredibly overwhelmed already. There is a huge need in Los Angeles for shelters with updated facilities and greater capacity- closing the shelters that are already in place, however, is not the way to ensure that the animal population is adequately protected.

I cannot fathom why closing shelters that are already overwhelmed is the answer to the growing need. Indeed, you would be better off offering FREE spay and neuter services (not just low-cost- that is still overwhelmingly expensive for most people) as well as FREE vaccination clinics. We cannot kill our way out of the pet population issue, nor can ignoring the fact that the issue continues to plague our cities. You may feel that there is a need to slash the budget somewhere, but I can tell you that this is not the place; these services need to be expanded, not culled.

For the welfare of all of the animals and citizens of L.A. County, I implore you to rethink your current decision and instead invest in modernizing and updating the facilities that are in place.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Zarkos

Elizabeth Zarkos, Ph.D.
President and Founder, Hanaeleh



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