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## Fwd: 23-0452 Public Comment - Please ask Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass NOT to cut funding for companion animal welfare and the shelter system

1 message

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Office of the City Clerk <cityclerk@lacity.org>  
To: City Clerk Council and Public Services <clerk.cps@lacity.org>

Mon, Apr 28, 2025 at 7:37 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Elizabeth Hunt** <bethlhunt@gmail.com>

Date: Sun, Apr 27, 2025 at 11:53 AM

Subject: 23-0452 Public Comment - Please ask Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass NOT to cut funding for companion animal welfare and the shelter system

To: <CityClerk@lacity.org>

Dear Mayor Bass, Los Angeles City Council and California State Legislators,

In a spirit of compassion and stewardship, I would like to voice my strong objection to Mayor Karen Bass' proposal to drastically cut funding for animal welfare even further and close 3 city shelters, with no apparent, publicly shared plan in place to replace these facilities with centers run by animal welfare organizations such as the Humane Society (Humane WFA/ HSUS), the SPCA, American Humane, or Best Friends.

The city of Los Angeles Animal control facilities ('shelters') are already in crisis, experiencing overcrowding and mass euthanasia of healthy, adoptable companion animals along with higher disease transmission rates for unvaccinated dogs and cats. What our beloved companion animals desperately need right now is our help through additional funding rather than slashing their welfare budget, which is a death sentence for many of them due to mismanagement, human apathy, and greed/selfishness.

Currently, Southern California is in the throes of a companion animal Holocaust. Our beloved dogs and cats are like young children deserving of our love and protection, and they are God's creatures, over whom we are commanded to be good stewards.

If the recent wildfires and floods were not a wake up call for humans to repent and become better stewards over all God has entrusted them with, including his innocent creatures and the environment, I don't know what's next-- as I am hoping and praying an earthquake is not what it takes, as the innocent always suffer right along with the those guilty of exploitation, irresponsible behavior, apathy, and cruelty.

While the city of Los Angeles may be dealing with other challenges, such as homelessness, healthcare disparities, immigration issues, economic woes, and meeting the needs of a diverse population, Los Angeles, California and its surrounding vicinities is also home to some of the wealthiest people in the nation, along with being the home of many celebrities, sports franchises, and a major hub of tourism, fashion, and the entertainment/music industry.

There is no logical reason why a city and region with this amount of wealth, celebrity, and fame cannot find a way to take care of its less fortunate, especially those in dire straits through no fault of their own, whether they be human, canine, or feline, as healthy, adoptable dogs and cats are like young children in our society.

Our beloved companion animals, who are the equivalent of infant, toddlers, and preschoolers, are part of our vulnerable populations and deserve the same protections and care we give to orphaned and abandoned children.

We would not cut funding to orphanages and the foster care system for young human children, and in the same vein, cutting funding for facilities to safely and humanely house healthy adoptable dogs and cats is draconian.

This is not what God wants for his innocent creatures, who are his property, and he is saddened and disheartened when he sees them being overbred, and then subsequently dumped or relinquished and crammed into crowded, cramped containment facilities with limited resources and outdated amenities, and then sentenced to die by lethal injection for crimes they didn't commit. Our beloved companion animals are NOT livestock to be 'culled', and they are not a commodity to be bred, bought and sold for commercial purposes.

As well, they are not fodder for rendering plants that would like to convert their bodies into products, big pharma & stem cell research companies that want to use the bodies of healthy animals that were killed as cadaver donors, or universities that dissect their bodies for educational and scientific purposes.

Neither should they be allowed to go unvaccinated, and crammed into overcrowded, outdated animal control facilities where upper respiratory and gastrointestinal viruses are allowed to spread 'like wildfire', giving animal control staff yet another excuse to kill them to 'cull' the population when they get sick.

The 'companion animal overpopulation crisis' is a man-made problem that now exists in large part due to mismanagement and lack of stronger, better laws/ enforcement/ ordinances or programs in place that would have better controlled the companion animal population and health from the beginning and could have prevented a lot of this tragic loss of the lives of innocent dogs and cats. Still, it is not too late to start now on a path to compassionate stewardship over God's innocent creatures.

The luxury tax could be increased to provide added funding for animal welfare and build additional newer animal shelters with on site veterinary care that have glass enclosures to prevent disease transmission, with better sanitation.

Spay-neuter & vaccination needs to be enforced through emergency ordinances, and breeding and buying needs to be banned completely (even from out of the area).

Programs need to be available to low income pet owners to cover shots, spay-neuter & veterinary care.

For anyone who is undocumented and in possession of companion animals, an individual who is a legal resident of the United States should be able to bring the animal in for free or low cost veterinary care and be listed as the registered owner on paper so that the dog or cat can be spayed or neutered vaccinated, and receive internal and external parasite control treatments.

While, issues like aCIRD and dog flu or bird flu in dogs and/or cats have been problems along with long time issues like distemper, kennel cough, and parvovirus,

vaccination against all possible pathogens is key to animals being more resistant and lowering rates of infection and transmission, especially in shelters.

As well, landlords should be required to allow well-behaved pets that are healthy on their premises, with caps on damage, deposits and extra rent.

In addition, the city needs to crack down on illegal dog breeding.

As many of the individuals involved in illegal breeding of Pitbulls, Rottweilers, Dobermans, Mastiff, Shepherds, and other types of guard dogs are often simultaneously involved in or connected to organized crime rings and gangs, this would help root out criminals in the region.

While it may be more difficult to prove that someone is involved in drug trafficking, smuggling of weapons, human trafficking, as well as car theft, dealing in stolen cars or stolen goods,

it is often easier to prove that someone is involved in illegal dog breeding or dog fighting.

Also, there need to be consequences for individuals who do not spay or neuter their animals or get them their shots, especially if programs are available to cover the cost.

Humans need to be accountable for their actions, and there needs to be enforcement And consequences such as fines and jail time for those who are non compliant.

Finally, wealthy individuals in the area and celebrities need to get involved in this cause, and throw their financial and public support Behind the cause of animal welfare in the Los Angeles area.

Campaigns need to be run by wealthy and well known celebrities along with benefit events, Such as a benefit concert or music festival put on by leading musicians to raise money to help our companion animals with the slogans of "Spay-neuter" Adopt, don't shop", and "Don't breed and buy while shelter animals die."

Thank you for reading my comments,

Beth Hunt,

Dog and Cat lover who is heartbroken over this crisis