

Communication from Public

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Comments for Public Posting: I'm honestly bewildered why, every year, we seem to have to claw back funding for animal services that is both absolutely vital and a tiny drop in the city's bucket. Our shelters are overcrowded for lots of reasons, many of which stem from larger social, political, and economic issues. If people are cruelly and needlessly deported, their animals are left without care. As jobs become harder to find and lower paying, people can't afford to keep their pets. The ever-rising cost of housing forces people to move where they aren't allowed pets. Dog breeding has not been effectively stopped, as it should be. And on and on. The Dogs Playing For Life Program is quite literally the least we can do for the animals in the city's care. Shelter dogs having the chance to socialize and play and run reduces their stress, makes them calmer and more adoptable, and helps staff and volunteers get to know them. Do we want dogs to get adopted out of shelters? Or do we want to euthanize ever-growing numbers? To end this program would be petty and cruel and frankly inexplicable. It should be expanded. Animals are a part of our community and a bellwether of its health.