

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Karen M. Cusolito  
**Date Submitted:** 04/07/2026 06:26 PM  
**Council File No:** 26-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** As a volunteer with the Animal Services Department, I support LAAS requested operational budget of \$31,700,000 without any cuts. This accounts for .0025% (one quarter of one percent) of the overall city budget. Volunteers have to pick up the slack when staff is forced to take furlough days because of inadequate funding. I further support the Budget Advocates recommended amounts of \$10,516,000 for the Animal Sterilization Fund and \$2,400,000 for the Citywide Cat Program. This will dramatically decrease shelter intake and future costs. By investing in spay/neuter, healthy, adoptable dogs and cats will not have to die at city shelters. According to the American Humane Society, female cats can breed three times a year and have an average of 4 kittens per litter. Dogs can breed twice a year with litters of 6-10 puppies. In seven years, one unspayed female cat and her offspring can produce 420,000 cats and one unspayed female dog and her offspring can produce 99,000 dogs. If increased spay and neuter is not addressed soon, we will have thousands of stray cats and dogs on the streets of Los Angeles during the 2028 Olympics. The other alternative is to kill a record number of dogs and cats, which is also not a good look for the City of Los Angeles. Again, the city should fund the Animal Services Department without any cuts and should fund the Animal Sterilization Fund and the Citywide Cat Program.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Anne Mathews

**Date Submitted:** 04/07/2026 07:14 PM

**Council File No:** 26-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** The Council must approve the full FY 2026–27 LAAS operational budget request of \$31,869,100 with no cuts (less than one fourth of one percent of the City budget). Trying to compensate for budget overruns in larger departments by whittling away at this small but crucial department is penny wise, but pound foolish. Providing assistance to spay and neuter animals, as well as properly funding humane law enforcement (animal license enforcement, anti-backyard breeding and animal cruelty prevention), saves money by preventing the pet overpopulation crisis at its source. The shelter crisis is both a financial and a moral burden on all Angelenos. Adequate funding for LA Animal Services is essential.