

Communication from Public

Name: Susan Hildreth

Date Submitted: 05/12/2026 03:43 PM

Council File No: 26-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Please DRASTICALLY INCREASE funding for LA Animal Services. They are in desperate need of it! You have been ignoring abuse and cruelty of animals by neglecting money for spay and neuter surgeries. You need to fund at least \$1 million dollars for spay and neuter surgeries. Also, please re-fund the LA Police Department's Animal Cruelty Task Force. Animals are being abused in public and tortured because you have not funded the Animal Cruelty Task Force. Would you let your kids be tortured in public? No! Then please don't let animals be tortured in public! PLEASE take the right and humane action and do the above things! Sincerely, Susan Hildreth Los Angeles Resident

Communication from Public

Name: Diane Lotzer

Date Submitted: 05/12/2026 03:26 PM

Council File No: 26-0600

Comments for Public Posting: In reference to File #26-0600 – Please fully fund at \$31.8 million for 2026-27 for the LA Animal Services Dept. It seems that our pets have been the last priority in this city – people are not the only homeless beings who are being abandoned and suffering. I agree with the Best Friends and ASPCA philosophies and urge you to renew your partnership with these organizations. The animals need food, medical supplies, spay/neuter vouchers, and the Dogs Playing for Life program. Please allow the funding for these important programs. I will be voting with this in mind this year.

Communication from Public

Name: Susan Smith

Date Submitted: 05/12/2026 03:27 PM

Council File No: 26-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I'm writing to urge you to fully fund the Dogs Playing for Life (DPFL) contract in the 2026-27 budget. DPFL playgroups are the only structured out-of-kennel time most LA shelter dogs ever get. Without them, dogs sit in concrete kennels 24 hours a day — no walks, no play, no joy. Playgroups are also how LA Animal Services learns the most important thing about every dog: how they behave with other dogs. That single data point drives adoptions, rescue pulls, and every lifesaving decision the shelter makes. The DPFL contract costs less than 1/100th of 1% of LA's \$14.85B budget. Cutting it costs the city every claim to being a Humane LA. Please restore DPFL funding before Council locks the budget June 6. Don't let this lifesaving program lapse on July 1. This saves lives, we were promised no kill but the euthanasia rate is higher than ever with the excuse of kennel anxiety. Without the DPFL the rate will go up even higher. This is not what humane. Their blood is on your hands.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 05/12/2026 03:33 PM

Council File No: 26-0600

Comments for Public Posting: To the Los Angeles City Council, I strongly urge you to restore funding for Dogs Playing for Life at LA Animal Services shelters. Eliminating this program is not just a budget decision — it is a direct threat to the welfare, mental health, and survival of hundreds of shelter dogs. At South LA Animal Shelter alone, over 200 dogs spend day after day confined to concrete kennels, often without meaningful exercise, enrichment, or social interaction. Dogs Playing for Life provides many of these animals with the only opportunity they have to leave their kennels, decompress, socialize, and maintain adoptability. Removing this program will increase fear, anxiety, behavioral decline, and ultimately euthanasia risk. A city with a multi-billion-dollar budget should not abandon one of the few lifesaving programs that directly improves quality of life for vulnerable animals. Humane treatment cannot be treated as optional. These dogs are living beings who depend entirely on us for care, compassion, and advocacy. Please do not allow funding for Dogs Playing for Life to lapse on July 1. Restore funding immediately and show Los Angeles residents that this city values humane treatment, public safety, and responsible shelter care. The dogs cannot speak for themselves. We must. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name: Rose Villasenor
Date Submitted: 05/12/2026 10:12 AM
Council File No: 26-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I am writing to urge the Los Angeles City Council to fully fund the LA Animal Services Department at its requested level of \$31.8 million for 2026 - 27. I ask you to restore funding for dog and cat food, medical supplies, spay/neuter vouchers, and the Dogs Playing For Life program, and to approve the historic Best Friends Animal Society and ASPCA partnership. These investments protect animals and our communities. Please do the right thing.

Communication from Public

Name: Isabella Paniagua-Novak

Date Submitted: 05/12/2026 12:31 PM

Council File No: 26-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I write to urge you to fully fund the Los Angeles Animal Services Department and approve critical programs that protect the welfare of animals and the safety of our communities. The Los Angeles Animal Services Department has requested \$31.8 million for its 2026-27 operational budget. We are deeply concerned that the Mayor's current budget proposal falls significantly short of this amount, and worse, includes potential cuts that will have negative consequences for the animals in our city's care and the communities that depend on these services. Specifically, the proposed budget: - Includes NO funding for dog and cat food - Reduces medical supply allocations - Eliminates three positions - Reduces funding for spay/neuter vouchers - Defunds Dogs Playing For Life: a proven program that enriches the lives of shelter dogs and creates safer environments for both animals and shelter staff Eliminating positions and gutting enrichment programs will lead to worse outcomes for animals, increased euthanasia, and reduced public safety. At the same time, the City has a historic opportunity before it: a landmark partnership between Best Friends Animal Society and the ASPCA that would improve shelter operations across all six Los Angeles shelters. This partnership would create badly needed positions to improve fostering, adoptions, and community cat programming, and would support meaningful improvements in shelter medicine. We urge you to approve this partnership without delay. We ask you to: - Reinstate funding for dog and cat food and medical supplies, and add back in the eliminated positions - Increase spay/neuter voucher funding - Restore funding for the Dogs Playing For Life program - Approve the historic Best Friends Animal Society and ASPCA partnership The animals in our shelters cannot speak for themselves. We are their voices. Please do not let them down.

Communication from Public

Name: Shannon

Date Submitted: 05/11/2026 05:29 PM

Council File No: 26-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I am writing to express my strong support for AB 1999. California is currently facing a dire veterinary shortage, with 64% of animal shelters unable to meet basic medical needs. This bill provides necessary tools to address this crisis by: Expanding the Workforce: It creates streamlined pathways for retired volunteers and out-of-state veterinarians to support overwhelmed shelter teams. Modernizing Care: Reforming the VCPR statute removes "cumbersome" requirements for repeat examinations, making follow-up care and telemedicine more accessible for low-income pet owners. Protecting Animal Welfare: By narrowing the "owner exemption" to exclude surgical procedures, the bill ensures that high-risk surgeries are performed only by qualified professionals, preventing needless suffering. AB 1999 removes unnecessary regulatory bottlenecks and prioritizes the health of our state's domestic animals. I respectfully urge your "Ayes" vote on this essential measure.

Communication from Public

Name: Elaine Livesey-Fassel

Date Submitted: 05/11/2026 06:19 PM

Council File No: 26-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Deeply appreciating the brutal financial challenges which our Los Angeles City currently faces on so many fronts, as an active citizen and animal advocate may I please add my voice to the thousands of others who are concerned with the dysfunctional state of our L.A. Animal Shelters and the suffering sentient animals who reside there. I still hope that that L.A. can find a way to initiate a robust , accessible ,accountable Spay & Neuter task force, identified as the Prevention Model, as opposed to current' No Kill' model as we must cut back production of puppies and kittens at the outset so as to lessen the burden of too many dogs and cats entering the system and hoping to find good homes. With the country's overall politically shrinking economic health and the strains on our State, many pet guardians cannot afford high vet costs or provide suitable homes for their animals, so Spay & Neuter is the only solution to shelter overcrowding. Our streets are becoming overridden by abandoned animals which is dangerous for both them and public health. However, for those already housed in Shelters, they must be fed & watered and receive medical help when needed.They also need some form of socialization so as to assist them become adoptable and not deteriorate further. This is our city's legal & humane obligation. Years of underfunding have led us to where we are today, added to what many feel is the misguided 'No Kill' model that has dominated the manner in which our Shelter System has been mismanaged. We also need to restore the critical Animal Cruelty Task force which is especially needed now that citizens are under such financial personal financial strain. With respect and thanks for your consideration.

Communication from Public

Name: Chantal Aida Gordon
Date Submitted: 05/12/2026 05:35 PM
Council File No: 26-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Councilmember, Our two dogs, Jazzy (linebacker with the face of an angel) and Marlowe (scruffy rambunctious muppet), are rescues who could have easily had the same fate as the many, many dogs waiting to find homes in our city's shelters. I can't imagine them languishing in concrete kennels for months or even years, with intake notes deciding their fates. Not being able to socialize or get some time in the sun. Playgroups are where we see scared pups come out of their shells. Playgroups are a way for these dogs to grow, and shine as adoptable future family members. As a constituent and an Angeleno who cares about our city's shelter dogs, I'm writing to urge you to fully fund the Dogs Playing for Life (DPFL) contract in the 2026-27 budget. DPFL playgroups are the only structured out-of-kennel time most LA shelter dogs ever get. Without them, dogs sit in concrete kennels 24 hours a day — no walks, no play, no joy. Playgroups are also how LA Animal Services learns the most important thing about every dog: how they behave with other dogs. That single data point drives adoptions, rescue pulls, and every lifesaving decision the shelter makes. The DPFL contract costs less than 1/100th of 1% of LA's \$14.85B budget. Cutting it costs the city every claim to being a Humane LA. Please restore DPFL funding before Council locks the budget June 6. Don't let this lifesaving program lapse on July 1. Thank you, Chantal Aida Gordon Highland Park

Communication from Public

Name: Seth Coffey

Date Submitted: 05/12/2026 05:51 PM

Council File No: 26-0600

Comments for Public Posting: The City Council Budget Committee will make critical decisions that will directly impact overcrowding and suffering at LA shelters. Our priorities are clear: the City must increase the proposed spay/neuter funding by at least \$1 million. This investment would support 10,000–13,000 additional surgeries annually and is one of the only real solutions to the shelter overcrowding crisis. Without expanded spay/neuter access: Shelter overcrowding will worsen Roaming and abandoned animal populations will continue to grow Intake pressure on already overwhelmed shelters will increase Increased bites as neutered dogs are three times less likely to bite than intact dogs, according to studies At the same time, the City must RESTORE the slashed funding for: Animal Food budget: Increase from the proposed \$0 to \$200,000 Medical Supplies funding: Increase from the proposed \$48,968 to \$388,591 Dogs Playing for Life (DPFL) Restore \$1.53 Million for the final year of the contract. The program is one of the only ways shelter dogs get enrichment and structured time out of kennels. Food, medicine, and humane care are not optional budget line items, they are the bare minimum required to meet the City’s legal and statutory obligations to animals in its custody. Denying shelter animals adequate food, medical treatment, and basic enrichment during an overcrowding crisis is inhumane and unacceptable.

Communication from Public

Name: L. D.

Date Submitted: 05/12/2026 06:36 PM

Council File No: 26-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Los Angeles animals urgently need MY voice. This week, the City Council Budget Committee will make critical decisions that will directly impact overcrowding and suffering at LA shelters. We need advocates, and community members to contact the five Finance and Budget Committee members before Friday's vote and show up to speak at City Council hearings on May 20. Our priorities are clear: the City must increase the proposed spay/neuter funding by at least \$1 million. This investment would support 10,000–13,000 additional surgeries annually and is one of the only real solutions to the shelter overcrowding crisis. Without expanded spay/neuter access: Shelter overcrowding will worsen Roaming and abandoned animal populations will continue to grow Intake pressure on already overwhelmed shelters will increase At the same time, the City must RESTORE the slashed funding for: Animal Food budget: Increase from the proposed \$0 to \$200,000 Medical Supplies funding: Increase from the proposed \$48,968 to \$388,591 Dogs Playing for Life (DPFL) Restore \$1.53 Million for the final year of the contract. The program is one of the only ways shelter dogs get enrichment and structured time out of kennels. Food, medicine, and humane care are not optional budget line items, they are the bare minimum required to meet the City's legal and statutory obligations to animals in its custody. Denying shelter animals adequate food, medical treatment, and basic enrichment during an overcrowding crisis is inhumane and unacceptable. "The shelter overcrowding crisis is not a mystery, it is a policy failure. Year after year, City leaders allow conditions to worsen by underfunding LA Animal Services and neglecting proven solutions like spay and neuter," said Dr. Gary Michelson, founder and co-chair of Michelson Philanthropies & Michelson Center for Public Policy. "The Los Angeles Police Department's Animal Cruelty Task Force was created in 2005, but defunded in 2021. Since then, animal abuse crimes have too often been committed in plain sight with little fear of consequences. Animal cruelty is not an isolated issue, it is well documented to be linked to domestic violence, child abuse, and other violent crimes against people. It is beyond past due for the City to restore this critical unit. The proposed budget already includes more than 500 new LAPD positions, and we are urging Los Angeles to dedicate positions to reestablishing a dedicated

Animal Cruelty Task Force. Protecting animals from torture and abuse must once again be treated as a serious public safety priority,” said Judie Mancuso, Founder and President of Social Compassion in Legislation. Please HELP OUR ANIMALS! Please HELP OUT SHELTERS! Please DO THE RIGHT THING! Thank you for your consideration Sincerely, LD

Communication from Public

Name: Blima

Date Submitted: 05/12/2026 08:17 PM

Council File No: 26-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Members of the Finance and Budget Committee, I'm writing to ask you to restore and increase funding for LA Animal Services. The animals in our city's shelters cannot advocate for themselves — we must do it for them. Cutting food budgets, medical supplies, and enrichment programs doesn't just impact numbers on a spreadsheet. It means real animals going hungry, untreated, and without basic care while already living in an overwhelming and stressful environment. I urge you to restore these essential budget lines and increase investment in spay and neuter services. These aren't extras — they are the foundation of humane, responsible animal care and the only real path to reducing shelter overcrowding long-term. Los Angeles can and should do better for the animals in its custody. Please vote to protect them. With compassion and gratitude for your consideration.