



CALIFORNIA HEALTHY PETS ACT 2007
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**Los Angeles City Council Votes Unanimously to Approve
California Healthy Pets Act Resolution**

*Universal spaying and neutering of dogs and cats
would save taxpayers millions*

LOS ANGELES – The Los Angeles City Council today voted unanimously to support the California Healthy Pets Act, a proposed state law that would enact a requirement for most dogs and cats to be spayed or neutered.

“Having thousands of animals stranded on our streets is animal cruelty and poses a risk to our public safety,” said Councilmember Tony Cardenas, who co-authored the resolution with Councilmember Herb Wesson. “An animal that is neglected is more likely to attack a human being than one that is domesticated and has a home, plain and simple. This legislation is about the health of our animals and the safety of our communities.” When signed by the Mayor, the Cardenas resolution will officially put the city on record in support of the state legislation.

Addressing the City Council, Los Angeles Animal Services Director Ed Boks said, “I am here today representing the 400 employees of Animal Services and the hundreds of volunteers and partners we have throughout Los Angeles who carry the burden and brunt of pet overpopulation everyday – as we take in, care for and ultimately kill 50% of the animals in our charge. This act is both a fiscally responsible and humane solution to our City’s vexing pet overpopulation woes, and I ask for your support today.”

The California Healthy Pets Act (AB 1634) is largely modeled upon a successful spay and neuter ordinance that the County of Santa Cruz implemented in 1995. By 2005, although the county’s human population had grown by 15%, the animal shelter intake numbers had plummeted by 64%. This clear success has inspired other jurisdictions, including the cities of Sacramento and San Bernardino and Lake and Stanislaus counties, to adopt similar measures.

Dog or cat owners found to be in violation of AB 1634 would be given a ticket. It would operate as a “fix-it” ticket - no fine would be assessed if the pet owner spayed or neutered their pet within a certain period of time.

“Gaining the support of the state’s largest city is an important milestone for the California Healthy Pets Act. Local governments across California are recognizing the serious consequences of the enormous number of unwanted pets that arrive at their shelters every year. The California Healthy Pets Act will help save taxpayer dollars and help reduce the number of pets that are unwanted and abandoned in our communities,” said Judie Mancuso, Campaign Director for the California Healthy Pets Coalition.

The resolution received a unanimous vote from the Intergovernmental Relations Committee on Friday whose members include Committee Chair Greig Smith, the resolution’s co-author Councilmember Herb Wesson, and Councilmember Dennis Zine.

Councilmember Zine, who serves as a reserve police officer, stated during the committee hearing, “I can’t tell you how many dogs are running the streets and eating out of trash cans that are just abandoned. It’s an epidemic that Animal Services has to address.” Referring to the Healthy Pets Act, he said, “I totally support this.”

Last week, the California Healthy Pets Act was heard by the Assembly Business and Professions Committee. More than 100 supporters turned out to participate in a rally in front of the State Capitol and testify in support of the legislation. The Committee is likely to vote on the California Healthy Pets Act at its meeting on April 24.

For more information, please visit www.cahealthypets.com <<http://www.cahealthypets.com/>> .

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