

Local Health Jurisdictions (LHJ) in California are required by law to report the number of animals euthanized in their shelters. According to the report “**Annual Report of Local Rabies Control Activities – California, 2006**”, issued by the California State Veterinarian’s office, 52 out of 61 (85%) of the jurisdictions reported in 2006 (the latest year available) that a total of **349,000** animals were euthanized in Government shelters. This number can be extrapolated to 100%, which yields roughly **410,000** animals euthanized in Government shelters. This number is conservative, as the jurisdictions not reporting are primarily located in areas of the state with higher than average euthanasia rates, and several other jurisdictions reported that they only delivered partial or incomplete numbers.

Hundreds of non-governmental shelters in California are not included in the figures, and when all factors are added the *most conservative estimates* yield **over 500,000 cats and dogs euthanized in California shelters each year.**

The estimated total operational cost per animal is \$308, based on costs incurred by Los Angeles City Shelters. This number excludes Capital Costs. Estimates provided by other jurisdictions have been higher than Los Angeles, for example, Riverside County reports a cost per animal of \$440.

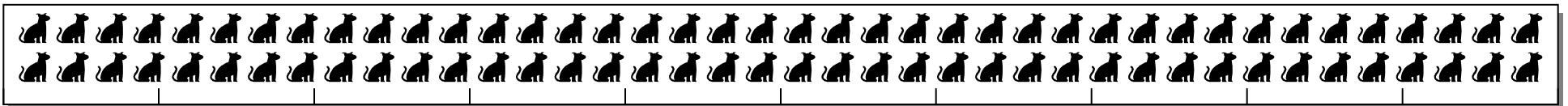
Based on \$308 per animal and the intake numbers reported by LHJ’s to the California State Veterinarians office, the cost to taxpayers of California is **over \$250 million dollars each year.**

The ruler below is 10 inches long and contains 80 animals.

If you were to print this out enough times to make a

**one mile long ruler**

*it would represent the number of animals killed in California’s shelters each year.*

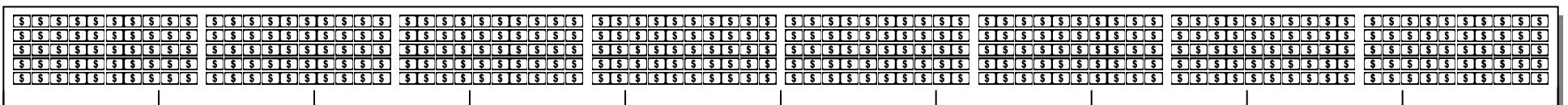


The ruler below is 10 inches long and contains 40,000 dollars. Each bill in the ruler represents \$100 of taxpayer money.

If you were to print this out enough times to make a

**one mile long ruler**

*it would represent the amount of taxpayer money spent holding and euthanizing animals in California’s shelters each year.*



Visit [www.CAHealthyPets.com](http://www.CAHealthyPets.com) to find out how you can join the responsible pet owners fighting for a better future for California’s pets.