

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 153

Introduced by Assembly Member Santiago

January 11, 2018

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 153—Relative to animal shelters.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 153, as introduced, Santiago. No-kill animal shelters.

This measure would urge communities in California to implement policies aimed at saving the lives of all healthy and adoptable cats and dogs by 2025.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, In 1998, the State of California enacted a policy
2 that no adoptable animal should be euthanized if it can be adopted
3 into a suitable home and that no treatable animal should be
4 euthanized; and

5 WHEREAS, The number of dogs and cats leaving California
6 animal shelters alive has increased significantly over the past
7 decade; and

8 WHEREAS, Each year, an estimated two million healthy and
9 adoptable cats and dogs nationwide do not leave animal shelters
10 alive; and

11 WHEREAS, The State Department of Public Health reported
12 that, in 2015, 672,095 dogs, puppies, cats, and kittens entered
13 California animal shelters and 409,109 left those shelters alive;
14 and

1 WHEREAS, Handling those dogs and cats costs California
2 taxpayers tens of millions of dollars each year; and

3 WHEREAS, Many of the dogs and cats that die each year in
4 California animal shelters are healthy or treatable pets that could
5 be placed in homes, or animals for which shelters cannot find
6 homes; and

7 WHEREAS, A national survey revealed that almost 70 percent
8 of citizens do not want unowned kittens or cats picked up and
9 killed; and

10 WHEREAS, California is home to innovative leaders in animal
11 welfare, including the UC Davis Koret Shelter Medicine Program
12 and Maddie’s Fund, which have invested heavily in developing
13 cost-effective, life-saving strategies to reduce the intake of animals
14 at shelters and to handle and place animals humanely; and

15 WHEREAS, Many leading animal shelters have implemented
16 new and innovative programs and policies to ensure healthy
17 outcomes for homeless cats and dogs; and

18 WHEREAS, Those policies and programs include volunteer
19 foster care networks; comprehensive adoption programs; medical
20 and behavioral programs; public education and awareness
21 programs; trap, neuter, vaccinate, and return or release programs;
22 animal socialization programs; and many others; and

23 WHEREAS, The No-Kill Los Angeles initiative is a model
24 program that has reduced deaths of dogs and cats in the City of
25 Los Angeles by 82 percent since its launch in 2012; and

26 WHEREAS, Best Friends Animal Society will hold its national
27 conference in Los Angeles on July 19 through 21, 2018, in part to
28 celebrate and replicate the collaborative efforts of the No-Kill Los
29 Angeles initiative coalition; and

30 WHEREAS, Best Friends Animal Society and a national no-kill
31 steering committee have launched the Save Them All campaign
32 to end the killing of dogs and cats in shelters in the United States
33 by 2025; now, therefore, be it

34 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
35 *thereof concurring,* That communities in California are urged to
36 implement policies aimed at saving the lives of all healthy and
37 adoptable cats and dogs by 2025; and be it further

- 1 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly shall transmit
- 2 copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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