

**Assembly Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 150**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Atkins  
(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Maienschein)**

March 7, 2016

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Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 150—Relative to prevention of cruelty to animals.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 150, as introduced, Atkins. American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

This measure would commend the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals on the celebration of its 150th anniversary and for the myriad contributions it has made to the health and well-being of animals nationwide and would extend best wishes for continued success in the future.

Fiscal committee: no.

1       WHEREAS, The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty  
2 to Animals (ASPCA) is celebrating its 150th anniversary on April  
3 10, 2016, and it is appropriate at this time to highlight its many  
4 achievements as North America's first humane society and  
5 underscore the positive impact it has made throughout the State  
6 of California and across the nation; and  
7       WHEREAS, The ASPCA was founded by Henry Bergh in 1866  
8 on the belief that protecting animals was an issue that crossed party  
9 lines and class boundaries; and  
10       WHEREAS, Motivated to act after witnessing the regular  
11 beating, abuse, and overworking of cart horses, Henry Bergh made

1 a commanding moral and legal case to protect animals, and in so  
2 doing, persuaded prominent leaders of the time, including members  
3 of the Rockefeller family, to support him in enacting the first  
4 anti-cruelty law in the United States; and

5 WHEREAS, Henry Bergh personally fought for animal welfare  
6 on New York City streets, as well as in the courtroom, regularly  
7 inspecting slaughter houses, working with police to close down  
8 dog fighting pits, lecturing at schools, and operating the nation's  
9 first ambulance for overworked horses that frequently collapsed  
10 from dehydration and exhaustion; and

11 WHEREAS, Henry Bergh's outspoken crusade on behalf of  
12 animals inspired those activists seeking to protect abused children  
13 to establish the New York Society for the Prevention of Cruelty  
14 to Children, the first child protective agency in the world, for which  
15 he served as a founding vice president; and

16 WHEREAS, By 1888, the year Henry Bergh died, 37 of the  
17 country's then 38 states had passed animal anti-cruelty laws, and  
18 the ASPCA today continues his legacy by working to enhance  
19 laws to protect animals by advocating nationally for the strongest  
20 possible protections for animals; helping animals in crisis by  
21 responding to requests for assistance by law enforcement and  
22 emergency response agencies around the country; and, since 2008,  
23 providing \$93 million in grants to various partners nationwide,  
24 including over \$12.3 million to organizations throughout California  
25 in support of programs in line with its mission; and

26 WHEREAS, Since its founding, the American Society for the  
27 Prevention of Cruelty to Animals has evolved into a dynamic voice  
28 for improving the quality of life for animals throughout the United  
29 States; now, therefore, be it

30 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
31 *thereof concurring,* That the American Society for the Prevention  
32 of Cruelty to Animals be commended on celebrating its 150th  
33 anniversary and for the myriad contributions it has made to the  
34 health and well-being of animals nationwide and wished the best  
35 for continued success in the future.