

**Councilman**  
**TONY CARDENAS**  
6<sup>th</sup> Council District



***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***  
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**CARDENAS WINS SUPPORT FOR PET RESPONSIBILITY GUIDELINES**  
***City Supports State Legislation Curbing Animal Cruelty and Overpopulation***

Today, the Los Angeles City Council unanimously passed a resolution authored by Councilman Tony Cardenas that supports state legislation mandating that pet owners be more accountable and responsible with their animals. The resolution says the city supports State Assembly Bill 1634 (Levine) which requires California owners to spay or neuter their cat or dog at four months of age unless the owner obtains a breeder's permit. About one million stray and abandoned animals are euthanized in California each year due to overpopulation, costing taxpayers \$259 million. Los Angeles spends about \$18 million in euthanasia costs. \$2.2 million is spent on front-end prevention.

Cardenas, who put together the city's first task force on animal cruelty, said the new policy is vital in making sure fewer animals are neglected and residents are more accountable, responsible pet owners.

"Leaving animals destitute is animal cruelty," said Cardenas. "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 – having thousands of animals stranded on our streets is animal cruelty and poses a risk to our public health."

Cardenas highlighted a recent case where a Rancho Cucamonga woman was attacked by two stray Rottweiler dogs while jogging, emphasizing the need for pet control. Animal groups say that one pair of cats or dogs can have up to 25,000 offspring in their lineage. Los Angeles picks up about 50,000 stray animals a year and 19,000 of those are euthanized.

"This new legislation is a vital tool for the city's animal control to get to a no-kill policy," said Ed Boks, General Manager of Los Angeles Department of Animal Services. "With these spay and neuter guidelines and the city's voucher program to help low-income families afford to alter their pets, Los Angeles is at the forefront of compassionate animal care."

The bill sets aside revenue collected from the state's permit process to be spent for local agencies' administration of the program. A person found with an unaltered pet with no permit would be fined \$500. Part of that revenue would go towards spay/neuter vouchers to help lower-income families afford to have their pets altered. The city currently provides about \$2.2 million in free mobile spay/neuter services.

Cardenas also explained that the new spay/neuter policy, if passed in the state, would be cost-cutting front-end prevention that would save taxpayers money by curbing expensive euthanasia fees. This year alone, the city's animal control has seen a 36% increase in services due to the increase in stranded animals.

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