

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR KATHRYN BARGER

JULY 21, 2026

SUPPORTING AB 2344 (HANEY) – REHOME ABUSED ANIMALS ACT

After surviving horrific situations involving abuse, abandonment, bestiality, neglect, hoarding, poisoning, mutilation, torture, and other forms of cruelty, many rescued horses, dogs, cats, livestock, and exotic animals remain in the custody of animal welfare agencies for months or even years while the related criminal case proceeds through the justice system. Despite enduring significant neglect and trauma, animals who provide companionship, comfort, and unconditional love are denied the opportunity to heal and thrive in safe, permanent homes. This need is especially urgent as animal care centers face overcrowding and resource challenges in their mission to aid defenseless and vulnerable animals. Requiring abused and neglected animals to remain in prolonged custody while their owner fails to appear in court not only delays their recovery and placement into forever homes, but also places an unnecessary strain on the animal welfare system.

Assembly Bill 2344 (Haney) provides a path forward for criminal cases involving violations of Penal Code Sections 286.5, 596, 597, 597a, 597b, 597h, 597j, 597s, 597.1, or 597.5, recognizing that animals should not be treated as impounded property for months to years on end by allowing prosecutors to request a forfeiture hearing 30 days

MOTION

Mitchell	_____
Horvath	_____
Hahn	_____
Barger	_____
Solis	_____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR KATHRYN BARGER

JULY 21, 2026

SUPPORTING AB 2344 (HANEY) – REHOME ABUSED ANIMALS ACT

after a defendant fails to appear in court, a hearing within 14 days after the filing of the petition, and the court to order forfeiture of the animals so they can be placed in homes. The bill also prohibits individuals participating in a diversion program for qualifying animal cruelty offenses from possessing animals during the diversion period.

AB 2344 may generate cost savings for the Los Angeles County Department of Animal Care and Control by reducing the length of time animals must remain in County custody while criminal proceedings are pending. The average cost to house a dog or cat in County care is approximately \$105.08 per animal, per day. Each year, the Department receives hundreds of animals through seizures, arrests, and court-related investigations, many of which remain housed for extended periods awaiting case resolution. At a daily housing cost of more than \$100 per animal, even modest reductions in the length of stay for seized animals could result in substantial savings that could be redirected toward vital taxpayer-funded animal welfare services, medical care, shelter operations, and adoption efforts. More importantly, reducing prolonged shelter stays would allow animals that have already endured cruelty to move more quickly into permanent homes where they can recover and thrive.

The Department is currently experiencing this challenge. Following the seizure of 48 animals pursuant to a judicially authorized search warrant on August 29, 2024, the animals have remained in County custody while criminal proceedings continue. The defendant failed to appear in court until February 2026, contributing to significant ongoing housing and care costs. Based on current shelter costs, this single case has

AGN. NO. _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR KATHRYN BARGER

JULY 21, 2026

SUPPORTING AB 2344 (HANEY) – REHOME ABUSED ANIMALS ACT

resulted in more than \$500,000 in expenditures to date, not including total medical costs incurred. By reducing unnecessary delays, AB 2344 would help preserve limited shelter capacity and allow animals the opportunity to heal and thrive in permanent homes.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE, that the Board of Supervisors direct the Chief Executive Office, through the Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations Branch, to support Assembly Bill 2344 (Haney).

#

KB: lg/nv