

December 20, 2022

**MOTION BY SUPERVISORS HILDA L. SOLIS
AND JANICE HAHN**

**Reducing the Rate of Euthanasia on Animals in the Care of the Department of Animal
Care and Control**

The Los Angeles County Department of Animal Care and Control (DACC) is one of the largest animal control agencies in the United States. DACC provides animal control and rescue services to unincorporated Los Angeles County and 45 contract cities with a combined total population of over three million residents.

Early this month, a DACC employee erroneously authorized the euthanasia of a 3-month-old puppy named Bowie at the Baldwin Park Animal Care Center. His death sparked outrage among community members who reasonably expect the County’s services to be conducted with care and precision.

Between July 1, 2022, and November 30, 2022, of the 12,547 animals that entered DACC care, 3,741 were euthanized. That amounts to a roughly 30% rate of euthanasia. By comparison, in October 2022, the City of Los Angeles achieved an 86.79% saving rate.

DACC has embraced a policy of “Socially Conscious Animal Sheltering”. This policy strives to achieve 8 primary goals: 1) ensure every unwanted or homeless pet has a safe place to go for shelter and care, 2) place every healthy and safe animal, 3) assess the medical and behavioral needs of homeless animals and ensure these needs are thoughtfully addressed, 4) align DACC

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policy with the needs of the community, 5) alleviate suffering and make appropriate euthanasia decisions, 6) consider the health and wellness of animals for each community when transferring animals, 7) enhance the human-animal bond through thoughtful placements and post-adoption support, and 8) foster a culture of transparency, ethical decision-making, mutual respect, continual learning, and collaboration.

However, the death of Bowie demonstrated that despite this policy, many animals are not being successfully placed with viable adopters or rescues. It is time for the County to rethink its animal care strategy to maximize the number of animals that find their forever homes.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Los Angeles County Department of Animal Care and Control in collaboration with rescue partners and animal welfare stakeholders to:

1. Report back in 30 days with a full accounting of what led to the use of euthanasia on the 3-month-old puppy, Bowie, at the Baldwin Park Animal Care Center and a plan to prevent similar incidents.
2. Report back in 90 days with a 5-year plan to decrease the number and percentage of animals who are euthanized with built-in, annual benchmarks, including:
 - a. An accounting of the reasons for animals being euthanized including illness, safety, lack of rescue availability, etc., broken down by species and animal care center.
 - b. A review of DACC policies and recommended changes that would help decrease the rate of euthanasia.

- c. An analysis of the feasibility of achieving a 90% live release rate.
- d. Gaps analysis to determine what resources and staffing may be needed to reduce the euthanasia rate.
- e. Assessment on the number of rescue and community partners needed to decrease the euthanasia rate without decreasing the number of intakes to animal care shelters.
- f. Recommendations for expanding and improving partnerships with rescues, fosters, and volunteers.
- g. Plan to expand prevention programs to minimize owner surrenders.
- h. Analysis of potential costs incurred by DACC to reduce the rate of euthanasia.
- i. Plan to expand DACC's Spay4LA program to make it more financially accessible.

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