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24 February 2025

Los Angeles City Council  
Arts, Park, Libraries, and Community Enrichment Committee

**Re: Support for Spay & Neuter Voucher Increase (Item 23-0452)**

Dear Committee Chair Jurado and Committee members,

I am writing to convey support from Best Friends Animal Society for the proposed increase in reimbursement rates for the Los Angeles City spay and neuter voucher program.

Los Angeles is currently experiencing a severe shortage of spay and neuter services for dogs and cats, resulting in unplanned litters and overcrowded shelters. Elected officials, veterinarians, and animal welfare experts agree that expanding spay and neuter services is a critical tool to address this crisis. To help families who cannot afford these essential services, the city has long offered a voucher program.

Unfortunately, the reimbursement rates have remained unchanged since the last voucher rate increase in 2015. Recognizing that these outdated rates no longer cover the current costs of spay or neuter surgeries—due to inflation and rising veterinary expenses—the City Council voted unanimously in 2024 to increase the voucher reimbursement rates. While this decision was met with widespread approval, the increase has not yet been implemented.

Without an increase in reimbursement rates, too few veterinarians will be able to afford to accept the vouchers, leaving families and rescue organizations without access to vital spay and neuter services and putting thousands of shelter animals at risk of losing their lives. Although Los Angeles law mandates that all dogs and cats over four months old be spayed or neutered, many pet owners and rescues wait months for an appointment due to the shortage of participating veterinarians, allowing their animals to produce unwanted litters.

By fully implementing the voucher rate increase, you will see an immediate effect throughout our city. More veterinarians will join the voucher program and more families will receive the critical services they need.

Together, we have an opportunity to make a direct and positive impact on the well-being of pets and families throughout Los Angeles, while stemming the flow of animals coming into our shelters.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Oreck  
Senior Manager, Community Engagement  
Best Friends Animal Society – Los Angeles

[bestfriends.org](https://bestfriends.org)