



April 28, 2025

Honorable Katy Yaroslavsky  
Chair, Budget and Finance Committee  
200 N. Spring Street, Room 440  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**RE: Opposition to Proposed Cuts to Animal Services Department Budget**

Dear Honorable Members of the Budget and Finance Committee,

As Councilmembers representing the Westside and the North Valley, we write to share our deep concern regarding the proposed budget cuts to the Department of Animal Services, which would result in the closure of three regional animal shelters: West Los Angeles, West Valley, and Harbor. These closures would severely impair the City's ability to provide humane and essential care to animals and would disproportionately affect communities already underserved by City services.

Each of these facilities plays a critical role not only in housing and rehoming animals, but also in supporting public safety, facilitating pet reunification, and promoting community engagement around animal welfare. The West LA and West Valley shelters serve vast geographic areas with high demand for these services. Their closure would displace animals, force residents to travel unreasonable distances for assistance, and add significant pressure to remaining shelters, which are already stretched beyond capacity.

The City of Los Angeles has long prided itself on its commitment to compassionate and effective animal care. Abandoning that commitment now, especially in communities that depend on their local shelters, would be a short-sighted decision with long-term fiscal and ethical consequences.

We urge the Budget and Finance Committee to work with us to identify alternative paths toward fiscal responsibility, like utilizing the \$5 million set aside in the Unappropriated Balance, that do not undermine the City's capacity to protect our most vulnerable animals. The services these shelters provide are not optional, they are essential to the humane functioning of our city.

Thank you for your consideration.

With kind regards,

  
**TRACI PARK**

Councilwoman, 11th District  
City of Los Angeles

  
**JOHN S. LEE**

Councilmember, 12th District  
City of Los Angeles