

The Honorable David Chiu, President, and
Members of the Board of Supervisors
City and County of San Francisco
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear President Chiu and Members of the Board:

I am writing to you on behalf of our San Francisco supporters, as the head of a national organization dedicated to this issue, as a Bay Area resident, and as the former Director of Operations for the San Francisco SPCA.

Today, San Francisco has the opportunity to become the nation's first *major urban community* to achieve No Kill, to lead the rest of the nation—as it has on so many other progressive issues—when it comes to saving the lives of dogs and cats. The Department of Animal Care & Control (ACC) has one of the most generous budgets of any facility in California. The San Francisco SPCA has argued that its state-of-the-art veterinary hospital, one of the largest in North America, was needed precisely because it will help the neediest of homeless animals. San Franciscans care deeply about companion animals. All the City has to do is reach out and seize the opportunity. It will *not* require additional taxpayer dollars. It will *not* require infrastructure improvements. It will *not* require setting aside other priorities, such as public health and safety. All it requires is the *will* to do so. Sadly, neither the leadership of ACC or the SPCA is willing to embrace it. We are asking the Board of Supervisors to do it for them by passing the Companion Animal Protection Act for San Francisco.

In the 1990s, the City and County of San Francisco was the national icon of the No Kill movement, the then-safest city in the United States to be a homeless dog or cat. Today, other cities have surpassed San Francisco's rate of lifesaving: Reno, NV is saving a higher percentage of animals than San Francisco, Charlottesville, VA is saving a higher percentage, Tompkins County, NY is saving a higher percentage, as are communities in Utah, Kentucky, Colorado, Kansas, and elsewhere. San Francisco has become, at best, second-rate. This is not fitting for a city named after St. Francis, the patron saint of the animals, nor is it fitting for such a vibrant, generous, and compassionate city that leads the nation on so many other progressive, social issues.

Ironically, San Francisco has never been shy about breaking new ground in other areas, and as a result, has achieved many firsts: in universal health care, in combating global warming, in gay rights. We are asking you to make animal protection another jewel in this great City's progressive crown.

Very truly yours,

Nathan J. Winograd