

RESOLUTION

OPPOSING THE GOVERNOR'S PROPOSED REPEAL OF MANDATED PORTIONS OF THE HAYDEN LAW

WHEREAS, in 1998, the California Legislature passed the Hayden Law, with a vote of 94 to 12, with the intent that all animal shelters humanely provide animals under their care with necessary and prompt veterinary care, nutrition and shelter; and

WHEREAS, the law also lengthened holding time requirements for impounded animals in order to increase shelter adoptions and provide time for lost pets to be reunited with their families; and

WHEREAS, financial analysis conducted shortly after the bill's passage by the Governor's Office, State Legislature and the California Department of Finance showed that implementation of the Hayden Law would reduce sheltering costs by increasing adoptions and reducing euthanasia; and

WHEREAS, Governor Brown recently proposed to repeal the Hayden Law; and

WHEREAS, if the Hayden Law is repealed, animal shelters would no longer be required to hold cats and dogs beyond 72 hours regardless if the facility is open to the public, provide veterinary care to incoming animals, or accept other animals such as rabbits and reptiles; and

WHEREAS, permanently repealing the law would not provide a new stream of budgetary relief given that the mandated reimbursements were suspended in 2009 but instead would reverse bipartisan support for a popular law and undermine future benefits that may be realized by shelter animals; and

WHEREAS, the East Bay SPCA reported that over 20,000 cats and dogs were taken in by Alameda County shelters in 2010 that resulted in over 9,000 successful adoptions and nearly 3,000 reunifications with pet owners; and

WHEREAS, Alameda County Animal Control, which has a minimum five to seven day holding period for animals, took in more than 4,000 domesticated pets in 2011 and transferred over 1,000 animals to organizations like the SPCA, Tri-Valley Rescue and other adoptive service organizations; and

WHEREAS, Alameda County should join the City of Los Angeles, the Humane Society of the United States and other statewide efforts in opposing the repeal of the Hayden Law so that animal adoption programs throughout the County and State continue to have resources available to them to increase the number of shelter animal adoptions;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that this Board of Supervisors of the County of Alameda, recognizes the importance of protections for stray and lost animals and urges the Governor to suspend, not repeal, the Hayden Law and work with the State Legislature and California animal protection experts to develop a sustainable plan that promotes life-saving efforts for homeless animals.

NATE MILEY, President
Supervisor, Fourth District

March 13, 2012

KEITH CARSON, Vice President
Supervisor, Fifth District

SCOTT HAGGERTY
Supervisor, First District

Approved as to Form

DONNA R. ZIEGLER, County Counsel

By 

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