

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JANUARY 16, 2018

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2017–18 REGULAR SESSION

**Assembly Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 153**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Santiago**

January 11, 2018

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Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 153—Relative to ~~animal shelters~~; *pet adoptions*.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 153, as amended, Santiago. ~~No-kill animal shelters~~; *Pet adoptions*.

This measure would urge communities in California to implement policies aimed at saving the lives of all healthy and adoptable cats and dogs by 2025.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, In 1998, the State of California enacted a policy  
2 that no adoptable animal should be euthanized if it can be adopted  
3 into a suitable home and that no treatable animal should be  
4 euthanized; and

5 WHEREAS, The number of dogs and cats leaving California  
6 animal shelters alive has increased significantly over the past  
7 decade; and

8 WHEREAS, Each year, an estimated two million healthy and  
9 adoptable cats and dogs nationwide do not leave animal shelters  
10 alive; and

11 WHEREAS, The State Department of Public Health reported  
12 that, in 2015, 672,095 dogs, puppies, cats, and kittens entered

1 California animal shelters and 409,109 left those shelters alive;  
2 and

3 WHEREAS, Handling those dogs and cats costs California  
4 taxpayers tens of millions of dollars each year; and

5 WHEREAS, Many of the dogs and cats that die each year in  
6 California animal shelters are healthy or treatable pets that could  
7 be placed in homes, or *are* animals for which shelters cannot find  
8 homes; and

9 WHEREAS, A national survey revealed that almost 70 percent  
10 of citizens do not want unowned kittens or cats picked up and  
11 killed; and

12 WHEREAS, California is home to innovative leaders in animal  
13 welfare, including the UC Davis Koret Shelter Medicine Program  
14 and Maddie’s Fund, which have invested heavily in developing  
15 cost-effective, life-saving strategies to reduce the intake of animals  
16 at shelters and to handle and place animals humanely; and

17 WHEREAS, Many leading animal shelters have implemented  
18 new and innovative programs and policies to ensure healthy  
19 outcomes for homeless cats and dogs; and

20 WHEREAS, Those policies and programs include volunteer  
21 foster care networks; comprehensive adoption programs; medical  
22 and behavioral programs; public education and awareness  
23 programs; trap, neuter, vaccinate, and return or release programs;  
24 animal socialization programs; and many others; and

25 WHEREAS, The No-Kill Los Angeles initiative is a model  
26 program that has reduced deaths of dogs and cats in the City of  
27 Los Angeles by 82 percent since its launch in 2012; and

28 WHEREAS, Best Friends Animal Society will hold its national  
29 conference in Los Angeles on July 19 through 21, 2018, in part to  
30 celebrate and replicate the collaborative efforts of the No-Kill Los  
31 Angeles initiative coalition; and

32 WHEREAS, Best Friends Animal Society and a national no-kill  
33 steering committee have launched the Save Them All campaign  
34 to end the killing of dogs and cats in shelters in the United States  
35 by 2025; now, therefore, be it

36 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
37 *thereof concurring*, That communities in California are urged to  
38 implement policies aimed at saving the lives of all healthy and  
39 adoptable cats and dogs by 2025; and be it further

- 1 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly shall transmit
- 2 copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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