

Date of Hearing: March 20, 2018

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS

Evan Low, Chair

ACR 153 (Santiago) – As Amended January 16, 2018

**SUBJECT:** Pet adoptions.

**SUMMARY:** Recognizes California’s progress toward preventing the euthanasia of adoptable and healthy or treatable animals, and urges communities in California to implement policies aimed at saving the lives of all healthy and adoptable cats and dogs by 2025.

**EXISTING LAW:**

- 1) Establishes that no adoptable animal should be euthanized if it can be adopted into a suitable home and that no treatable animal should be euthanized. (Penal Code § 599d)

**THIS BILL:**

- 1) Acknowledges since adopting its policy against the euthanizing of adoptable and treatable animals in 1998, the State of California has successfully increased the number of healthy and adoptable dogs and cats leaving animal shelters, and that many leading California animal shelters have implemented new and innovative programs and policies to ensure healthy outcomes for homeless cats and dogs.
- 2) Cites a national survey revealing that almost 70 percent of residents do not want unowned kittens or cats picked up and killed.
- 3) Applauds local governments, nonprofits, business entities and others for their continued investment in significant efforts to improve resources, training and opportunities for animal shelters across California so that every community in the state can make progress toward the state’s twenty-year old commitment to save all adoptable and treatable animals.
- 4) Resolves that communities in California are urged to implement policies aimed at saving the lives of all healthy and adoptable cats and dogs by 2025.

**FISCAL EFFECT:** None.

**COMMENTS:**

**Purpose.** This bill is sponsored by **Best Friends**. According to the author: “As Californians we can work together to ensure no dog, puppy, cat, or kitten suffers unnecessarily and that all healthy and adoptable pets find their forever home.”

**Background.** For two decades, California has been formally committed to ensuring that any animal that is adoptable and healthy or treatable should not be euthanized, but that every possible effort should be made to see the animal placed in an adopted home. This statewide goal has been the focus of numerous localized efforts, such as the No-Kill Los Angeles initiative, which advocates for a collaborative, interorganizational approach to saving the lives of adoptable animals.

**Current Related Legislation.** AB 2300 (Maineschein) would authorize veterinarians to earn credit toward their continuing education requirements by performing pro bono spaying or neutering services to residents of low-income communities.

**Prior Related Legislation.** AB 485 (O'Donnell), Chapter 740, Statutes of 2017 prohibits pet store operators from selling a live cat, dog, or rabbit in a retail pet store unless the animal was obtained from a public animal control agency or shelter or rescue group.

**ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT:**

An alliance of supporters writing on behalf of the No-Kill Los Angeles coalition writes that this resolution is a “timely recommitment to California’s twenty-year old policy that no adoptable, healthy, or treatable animal should be euthanized.” The coalition states that its plan to implement this policy is straightforward: “Provide spay/neuter services where they are needed most so that fewer animals go into shelters and increase adoptions so that more animals are placed into new homes.” The coalition provides evidence of its success, stating that the number of pets killed in Los Angeles city shelters has decreased by 82% since the launch of the initiative in 2012.

**ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION:**

None on file.

**REGISTERED SUPPORT:**

Best Friends (Sponsor)  
Animals In Need Rescue Network  
Cat/Canine Assistance, Referral & Education  
The Daddio Collective  
Dogs Without Borders  
Downtown Dog Rescue  
Hollywoof to the Rescue  
Kitten Rescue Los Angeles  
Krazy for Kats  
Los Angeles Animal Services  
No Stray Left Behind  
Peter Zippi Memorial Fund Inc  
Project Minnie  
Stray Cat Alliance

**REGISTERED OPPOSITION:**

None on file.

**Analysis Prepared by:** Robert Sumner / B. & P. / (916) 319-3301