

From: [USF SALDF](#)
To: [commissionstreamlining](#)
Cc: [Samantha Cano](#); [Karen Ramos-Paglino](#); [awhoffmann@usfca.edu](#)
Subject: Public Comment Submission for 10/15 Meeting
Date: Thursday, October 9, 2025 7:24:07 PM

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Dear Members of the Commission Streamlining Task Force,

On behalf of the University of San Francisco School of Law's Animal Legal Defense Fund Student Chapter, we write to strongly request the preservation of the Commission of Animal Control and Welfare. Our student members have actively participated in this commission throughout 2025, witnessing both its educational value for emerging legal professionals and its essential service to our city.

This commission serves as San Francisco's only dedicated space for addressing animal welfare concerns with city officials and the local community. For our law students, it offers an invaluable window into local governance, demonstrating how animal law principles become tangible policy through grassroots passion. The proposed city ban of glue traps particularly galvanized our chapter into civic action: we collected over 60 petition signatures in October alone, and USF Law Students under faculty mentorship drafted the ordinance which was submitted to the commission. This exemplifies how the commission inspires meaningful student engagement with local government and cultivates genuine investment in policy advocacy.

The commission also uniquely sheds light on local animal welfare issues like zoo animal neglect. They consult specialists such as wildlife rehabilitators and law professors, and monitor Animal Care & Control shelter statistics and trends. Dissolving this body would create a significant void, leaving no dedicated entity to represent animal interests within San Francisco's governance. Animal issues matter both intrinsically and related to human health, including monitoring access to veterinary care and vaccinations for unhoused residents' pets.

We hope you'll recognize the commission's unique value to both our educational mission and San Francisco's commitments to compassion and civic participation. Rather than elimination, we would encourage the task force to enhance this commission's authority—transforming it from advisory status to one where its guidance carries binding weight. Thank you for considering our perspective.

Sincerely,
Samantha Cano, President
Karen Ramos-Paglino, Vice President
Ashley Hoffmann, 1L Representative

USF Animal Legal Defense Fund Student Chapter
President, Samantha Cano (she / hers)
Vice President, Karen Ramos-Paglino (she / hers)

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