

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [commissionstreamlining](#)
Subject: Re: Please Keep Commission of Animal Control and Welfare
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 10:44:03 PM

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Dear Commission Streamlining Task Force and Supervisor Walton,

I am writing to strongly recommend keeping the Commission of Animal Control and Welfare as a vital part of San Francisco's civic infrastructure.

This Commission speaks for those who cannot speak for themselves. As the first city body dedicated to advocating for animals, it stands as a beacon of hope and humanity in our city's government. While city departments work within rigid operational constraints, the Commission provides something irreplaceable: a heart, a conscience, and unwavering dedication to the welfare of the vulnerable creatures who share our city and depend on our care.

The Commission is where community compassion meets civic action. When residents witness an animal suffering, an injustice, or desperately need help for the animals in their neighborhoods—they turn to this Commission. Members of the Board of Supervisors and city departments know this and regularly refer concerned residents to these dedicated volunteers. This isn't bureaucracy; this is democracy in action, ensuring that every San Franciscan who cares about animal welfare has somewhere to turn to for a real chance to make change happen.

These unpaid volunteer commissioners have records of real achievement. Year after year, these passionate individuals donate countless hours to serve animals and our community. Their compassion has translated into concrete victories: liberating elephants from captivity to sanctuary life, ending the cruel practice of cat declawing, and shutting down the pipeline of suffering from breeding mills to pet stores. Each of these achievements represents not just policy change, but the alleviation of real suffering and the advancement of a more humane society.

Now, more than ever, we need voices of compassion in government. We live in a time when pandemics remind us that animal and human health are inseparable, when climate change threatens wildlife across our planet, and when urban development constantly encroaches on the natural world. The Commission provides wisdom, expertise, and most importantly, empathy at exactly the moment when these qualities are most needed. They help us remember that how we treat the most vulnerable—including animals—defines who we are as a society.

To eliminate this Commission would break faith with our values. It would silence a vital voice of compassion. It would abandon vulnerable animals and the residents who care about them. It would tell the world that San Francisco, a city that has always led with its heart, is turning away from those who depend on us most. And it would do all this while saving virtually nothing, since these are volunteers who serve purely out of love and dedication.

Please, I implore you: recommend that San Francisco keep the Commission of Animal Control

and Welfare. Let us continue to be a city that leads with compassion, that protects the vulnerable, and that listens when our residents speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves. This Commission is not just an administrative body—it is the embodiment of our city's soul.

Respectfully yours,

Alexandra Porshnikoff

San Francisco Native and Resident of District 10