

From: [REDACTED]
To: [commissionstreamlining](#)
Subject: Animal Control and Welfare Commission
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To: Commission Streamlining Task Force
City and County of San Francisco

I am writing to strongly recommend keeping San Francisco's Commission of Animal Control and Welfare.

Here in the city of St. Francis, the Commission is our city's only independent voice for animal protection, speaking for animals who have no other voice in our government. The Commission advocates for the protection and well-being of animals, and it serves a unique role by making recommendations and addressing issues affecting companion animals and wildlife in ways that a city department cannot.

On the Animal Control and Welfare Commission, the commissioners are volunteers who receive no compensation. They dedicate their time and expertise purely out of dedication to animal welfare. Why eliminate a commission that delivers significant community value at almost no cost to taxpayers? It is my understanding that this particular commission has costs only approximately \$10,000 per fiscal year.

The Commission provides an essential public forum involving forward-thinking discussions and presentations. These have resulted in a number of recommendations including, but not limited to, banning cat declawing and ending pet store sales from breeding mills. City supervisors and departments regularly refer residents to the Commission when animal welfare concerns arise, and many agenda items come directly from concerns voiced by the public. It is an essential resource for the community.

I have attended many meetings of the Animal Control and Welfare Commission over the past decades. At each monthly meeting, a member of the public may make a public comment up to 3 minutes long. This Commission deals with the compassionate and humane treatment of all animals. The work of the Commission does not overlap with Animal Care and Control, although ACC is represented in the Commission.

Prior to the COVID pandemic, depending upon the agenda, the meeting room was often filled to capacity. I have seen every seat taken in the meeting room, and I had to sit on the floor. Since the pandemic, in-person attendance dropped off but meetings can be attended virtually. Many of the meetings are educartional, especially when a presenter has been invited to speak on a specific topic.

At a time when the link between animal well-being, public health, and environmental responsibility is clearer than ever, we need the Commission's voice at the table. Please do not take away this long-standing and very important Commission.

Please recommend that San Francisco keep the Commission of Animal Control and Welfare.

Sincerely,
Janet Murphy