

From: [Francisco Velasquez](#)
To: [commissionstreamlining](#)
Subject: Commission of Animal Control and Welfare - Nov 5, 2025
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Dear Commission Streamlining Task Force,

I am writing to strongly recommend keeping the **Commission of Animal Control and Welfare**.

The Commission is the first city body dedicated to advocating for the protection and well-being of animals. It serves a unique role by making recommendations and addressing issues affecting companion animals and wildlife in ways that a city department cannot. Members of the Board of Supervisors and city departments often refer residents to the Commission, and many agenda items arise directly from concerns voiced by the public.

Over the years, the commissioners—who receive no compensation for their service—have provided an essential public forum for compassionate and forward-thinking discussions. Their work has led to meaningful policy recommendations, including the release of elephants from the San Francisco Zoo to a sanctuary, the ban on cat declawing, and the end of pet store sales of dogs and cats from breeding mills.

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 silence or take that voice away.

I respectfully urge you to recommend that San Francisco keep the **Commission of Animal Control and Welfare**.

Sincerely,
Francisco A. Velasquez
District 1 – Richmond Neighborhood
Marine Corps Veteran | Community Advocate