

**From:** [Ashleigh Lutz-Nelson](#)  
**To:** [commissionstreamlining](#)  
**Subject:** Letter of Support: San Francisco Commission of Animal Control and Welfare  
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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, and 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 come directly from concerns voiced by the public.

Over the years, the commissioners (who receive no compensation for their work) have provided an essential public forum and compassionate, forward-thinking discussions and presentations. These have resulted in a number of recommendations that include the releasing of elephants from the San Francisco Zoo to a sanctuary, the banning of cat declawing, and ending pet store sales of dogs and cats from breeding mills.

With San Francisco Animal Care and Control operating with a small team that handles everything in the city from animal abuse claims and investigations, roadkill incidents, and mitigating human-wildlife conflict (including with large carnivores such as mountain lions, coyotes), etc, it's an absurd amount of work and scope for such a small team to take on the policy and advocacy role the Commission serves so well.

I support keeping the Commission given they are volunteering their time and support positive moves for animal welfare in San Francisco for both domestic and wild animals.

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.

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

Respectfully,

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