

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [commissionstreamlining](#)  
**Subject:** Do not eliminate the SF Commission of Animal Control and Welfare  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 4, 2025 12:36:16 PM  
**Attachments:** [image.png](#)

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Dear Members of the Commission Streamlining Task Force:

I was disheartened and disappointed to see the Task Force's recommendation to eliminate the SF Commission of Animal Control and Welfare. I strongly urge you to reconsider this recommendation.

I have served on the Animal Commission since May 2021 and as Vice-Chair since January 2022. In addition to my Commission work, I am also a certified wildlife rehabilitator and hold another certificate in Zoo & Aquarium science. I have a decade of hands-on experience working with various domesticated, exotic, and wild animals.

One of my main reasons for joining the Commission was to advocate for change that would improve the lives of all of the animals with whom we share our beautiful city. I have spent these last four and a half years working on a potential glue trap ban, investigating animal injuries sustained at a PG&E lot, talking to members of the public and stakeholders from other agencies, coordinating speakers for our education series, doing my own exhaustive research, and obviously participating in the many action and discussion items brought to the table by the other Commissioners.

All of us are volunteers, collectively spending hundreds (and perhaps thousands) of unpaid hours annually on Commission work. And many of us, myself included, put those hours in while simultaneously holding down demanding full-time jobs. We do all of this out of love for our city and its animals. It is disingenuous to assume that this work could and would be absorbed by staff at Animal Care & Control (ACC) as is suggested by your recommendation. What would be the added costs to the city to bring our (unpaid) work in-house, to be taken over by a paid ACC staffer? I'm certain that it would be greater than the \$10,964 in "staff soft costs" allegedly incurred in support of the Commission as cited in the Budget and Legislative Analyst's Financial Analysis report.

Additionally this suggestion does not factor in the reality that many of the conversations / issues brought to the Commission's attention have historically been about ACC. Long before I was a Commissioner, I attended Commission meetings that specifically challenged questionable ACC policies. The open dialogue over the years

has led to meaningful change and real policy improvements.

Contrary to your recommendation, the Commission has not outlived its useful purpose. Its scope goes far beyond what you have written in your report. To my knowledge, no attempt by the task force was made to speak with any current or past Commission members, nor to fact-check your report for accuracy. Comments throughout the report that appear intended to undermine and devalue the work done by the Commission over the years are misleading, deceptive and incorrect. As but one example, the report states: "The Commission's most noteworthy recent accomplishment is cited as its involvement with the Joint Zoo Committee's 2024 Animal Welfare Advisors' Report; **though the Commission voted in support of this report, it did not have a role in preparing it.**" That is absolutely false: **former Commissioner Jane Tobin wrote the report** along with Dr. Joe Spinell and it was a topic of discussion at numerous Commission meetings.

<https://www.sf.gov/sites/default/files/2024-10/SF%20ZOO%20RECOMMENDATIONS%2010OCT2024.pdf>)

Without the Animal Commission, there would be no forum to hear the concerns of the many San Franciscans who care about how the animals with which we share this city are treated. It is entirely unrealistic to expect ACC to question its own policies or to bring animal welfare recommendations from members of the public to other city departments or the Board of Supervisors. **The Animal Commission gives the members of the public a voice and must be strengthened, rather than eliminated.**

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

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