



**SCIL**  
Social Compassion in Legislation

Dear Commission Streamlining Task Force,

On behalf of Social Compassion in Legislation (“SCIL”), **we respectfully urge you to maintain the Commission of Animal Control and Welfare**, which has long served as a vital part of San Francisco’s commitment to protecting animals.

As the first advisory board of its kind, the Commission has played a pivotal role in advancing animal welfare by supporting landmark measures such as the bans on cat declawing and on the sale of dogs and cats from breeding mills. Over the years, the Commission has provided informed and thoughtful recommendations affecting a wide spectrum of animals—from captive wildlife to companion animals—ensuring that San Francisco remains at the forefront of humane policymaking.

Beyond its legislative contributions, the Commission has created an essential public forum for transparent, forward-thinking discussions about animal welfare. Its existence reflects San Francisco’s broader values of compassion, progress, and justice. As a city named for St. Francis, the patron saint of animals, eliminating the Commission would signal a departure from this proud and distinctive legacy.

As a California-based legislative advocacy organization for animals, SCIL recognizes how crucial this body has been in advancing animal protection laws. California’s record clearly demonstrates that animal welfare is a core concern for its residents. The state has led the nation in enacting groundbreaking reforms—including the first bans on retail sales of commercially bred dogs, cats, and rabbits; the sale of cosmetics tested on animals; and the sale of fur and fur trapping. Proposition 12 further established higher welfare standards for farmed animals, and the shelter pet was designated as California’s official state pet.

Taken together, these actions underscore California’s deep and enduring commitment to animal welfare. The San Francisco Commission of Animal Control and Welfare embodies that same commitment at the local level and is essential to maintaining the state’s leadership in humane governance.

Animal protection is a bipartisan issue, as reflected by widespread support for ending unnecessary animal testing and other inhumane practices. For these reasons, we strongly recommend that San Francisco **retain the Commission of Animal Control and Welfare** to continue advancing the city’s—and the state’s—shared values of compassion, progress, and justice.

Sincerely,

Judie Mancuso  
Founder/CEO/President  
Social Compassion in Legislation