

From: [REDACTED]
To: [commissionstreamlining](#)
Subject: Commission of Animal Control and Welfare (CACW)
Date: Wednesday, November 5, 2025 11:16:14 AM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Members, Commission Streamlining Task Force:

I understand that the Commission of Animal Control and Welfare (CACW) is on the chopping block of one of those commissions recommended to be eliminated by your commission. However, I am strongly compelled to urge you to take a contrary stance on the matter. As CACW members receive no compensation, thus costing the city nearly zero tax dollars, it cannot be economically prudent to axe such a commission. Further, considering the role the CACW plays in giving the public an avenue to voice any and all concerns regarding animals within the city limits, and consequently relaying those concerns to the Board of Supervisors, and ultimately other city departments, the CACW is a key advocate for the consideration and compassion for animals in our midst -- whether they be companion animals, the wild and feral animals about us, the animals at the zoo, or those animals under the charge of Animal Care and Control.

Further, in some cases the CACW can lead the City of San Francisco to more efficient, as well as humane, alternatives regarding its policies toward animals. Cases in point include the ban on pet store sales of dogs and from breeding mills in 2017, the ban on cat declawing (in 2003), and the zoo's release of two elephants to a sanctuary (in 2004-05), where they could roam more freely with other elephants there. And lately the CACW is hearing, and perhaps ultimately generating, more visionary, compassionate, and potentially more financially feasible, ways to care for the animals at the zoo.

In conclusion, the CACW is a valuable advisory body that can well be thought of as a think tank for better and more compassionate ways to interact with other animals among us. Thus for those reasons the CACW deserves to be taken off the commission chopping block -- for the sake of our fellow animals, as well as all San Franciscans and visitors to our city.

Thank you for hearing my concerns.

R. A. F. O'Brien