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January 08, 2026

XXXXXX XXXXX XXXXX
San Francisco City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room XXX
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: Recommendation in Support of Proposed Mandatory Spay/Neuter Legislation

Dear XXXXXX XXXXX,

As part of its responsibility to advise the Office of the Mayor, the Board of Supervisors, and the Office of the City Administrator on matters related to animal welfare, the San Francisco Animal Commission submits this letter in support of the proposed mandatory spay/neuter policy changes put forward by San Francisco Animal Care and Control (SF ACC).

Under the proposed mandatory spay/neuter legislation, all dogs one year of age or older would be required to be spayed or neutered (except for a few clearly defined exceptions). The legislation would also replace San Francisco's current breed-specific mandatory spay/neuter requirement for pit bulls, thereby establishing a more equitable, breed-neutral policy.

San Francisco is currently facing significant post-pandemic challenges related to animal homelessness, particularly among dogs. SF ACC has reported a sustained increase in shelter intake, including a sharp rise in puppies entering the system. In Fiscal Year 2019, SF ACC took in 2,643 dogs and placed 2,129. In the most recent fiscal year, intake increased by over 20% to 3,179 dogs, but only 2,355 placements. Puppy intake alone rose from 243 in FY2020 to 470 last year. These trends underscore the urgent need for proactive, preventative policy measures.

This legislative change is modeled after a program implemented by Los Angeles County in 2006, which has demonstrated measurable success. Since the adoption of its mandatory spay/neuter law, Los Angeles County reduced its annual dog intake from approximately 90,000 dogs per year to roughly 34,000 dogs per year. Aligning San Francisco's policy framework with this proven approach represents an innovative step toward improved animal well-being outcomes.

This proposed legislation is strategically designed to reduce the number of dogs entering San Francisco's shelter system, thereby decreasing the likelihood of prolonged shelter stays and euthanasia when placement cannot be found. The Commission recognizes that no one wants dogs to



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experience homelessness or to be euthanized, and that as a community, we share responsibility for preventing these outcomes.

It is also worth noting that California state law already requires all dogs adopted from shelters to be spayed or neutered. The proposed legislation extends this preventative framework beyond the shelter system, addressing the upstream causes of animal overpopulation. Enforcement would be complaint or report-based, further ensuring that implementation remains reasonable and targeted.

Based on the data presented by SF ACC, the demonstrated success of similar legislation in other jurisdictions, and the shared goal of reducing animal homelessness and euthanasia, the San Francisco Animal Commission strongly recommends adoption of the proposed mandatory spay/neuter legislation.

Thank you for your consideration of this recommendation. Should you have any questions or wish to discuss this matter further, please feel free to reach out to me.

Sincerely,

Michael Angelo Torres
Chair, San Francisco Animal Commission – Commission of Animal Control and Welfare

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