ANIMAL SHELTER DATA COLLECTION
AB 332 | ASSEMBLYMEMBER ALEX LEE

THIS BILL

AB 332 would require the Department of Public Health to resume collecting specified data from public animal shelters as part of their annual rabies control activities reporting.

BACKGROUND

Current law requires each city, city and county, or county to maintain or provide for the maintenance of an animal shelter system and a rabies control program. Additionally, current law requires the Department of Public Health to collect rabies control program data from each local entity but does not specify which categories of data shall be collected (Section 121690 of the California Health and Safety Code).

PROBLEM

From 1995 through 2016, the Department collected all of the categories of data required under this bill from all animal shelters. Starting in 2017, the Department reduced the categories of data to exclude those pertaining to animals received and discharged.

The categories of data that this bill requires are:
1. Total number of dogs and cats licensed
2. Citations issued for dog and cat license violations
3. Number of public vaccination clinics held
4. Total number of dogs and cats vaccinated or licensed at public clinics
5. Number of domestic dogs and cats received by local animal control authorities, including, but not limited to, number surrendered by owner, by the public, or transferred from other shelters
6. Total number of dogs and cats discharged by local animal control, number of domestic dogs and cats received by local animal control authorities, including, but not limited to, number reclaimed by owner, adopted, relinquished to a rescue organization, euthanized, died, or transferred to another shelter
7. Animal bite data deemed necessary by the department
8. Animal rabies quarantine data deemed necessary by the department
9. Any other data deemed necessary by the department

Cities and counties invest approximately $378,000,000 annually to operate our state's animal shelters, with much of this money coming from the state's general fund. The state also allocated an extra $50 million dollars combined in 2021 and 2022 to be distributed by UC Davis to support our state's animal shelters efforts to reduce euthanasia rates.

Additionally, the state collects and distributes approximately $400,000 annually through the Pet Lover's License Plate to increase access to free or low-cost spay and neuter. Lastly, nonprofit animal rescues pour millions of dollars into supporting shelters when there is lack of space for animals. This data is important to ensuring that resources are better optimized to help pets find their forever homes.

SOLUTION

Californians care deeply about the welfare of shelter animals. In fact, the official state pet is the "Shelter Pet." As noted above, the state, local jurisdictions, and nonprofits invest hundreds of millions of dollars on our shelter system to save animals' lives. Yet, the data these entities rely on to direct these resources is no longer available. Without proper reporting requirements, it is impossible to get accurate, reliable data on the numbers of animals entering and exiting shelters, and their outcomes.

AB 332 will ensure that the state and other entities are able to direct funding efficiently to shelters with the greatest need, while giving policy makers a more complete picture of the pet overpopulation problem in order to make informed policy decisions.

SUPPORT

Social Compassion in Legislation (Sponsor)

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