

## Community Impact Statement

TO: Mayor of Los Angeles Eric Garcetti

LA Councilman Paul Koretz, Chair of the Personnel, Audits and Animal Welfare Committee

LA Councilman Mike Bonin

LA Councilman Marqueeese Harris-Dawson

Board of Commissioners for Animal Services; Larry Gross, Chair, Alisa Finsten, Jill Ornetz Cohen, Jose Sandoval

CC: LA Councilman Joe Buscaino, 15<sup>th</sup> District

The recent LA Times reporting of the abusive and unethical treatment of animals being sheltered at the LA Animal Shelters is not surprising to the hundreds of volunteers who would work at the shelters. If those volunteers were free to speak out without getting "fired" from their volunteer position; perhaps the public would have been made aware of this situation long ago. But volunteers have remained silent because they did not want to lose the opportunity to add their loving care to these neglected animals. But apparently this came as a big surprise to the City Council's Animal Welfare Committee.

It is very disappointing that the Committee and its Chair were ignorant of the situation. One wonders if this committee ever addressed the needs of animals in the city shelters.

We appreciate that a report has been submitted to the Mayor and to the City Council. Now the challenge is to assure active oversight of suggested remedies. We urge the Mayor, City Council, and Animal Welfare Committee to take immediate action to remedy the situation of the helpless animals under our care.