



TARZANA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL COMMUNITY IMPACT STATEMENT

At a properly noticed Tarzana Neighborhood Council Special Meeting on May 4, 2026, the Tarzana Neighborhood Council Board passed the following resolution (10 in favor; 0 opposed; 2 abstentions):

Resolved: The Tarzana Neighborhood Council submits the following Community Impact Statement to the Los Angeles City Council, Board of Animal Services Commissioners, and any other City entity, regarding the Fiscal Year 2026–27 budget for the Los Angeles Animal Services Department (LAAS) if amended as follows below. This Community Impact Statement may be filed in Council File 26-0600 and any other relevant Council File.

1. The budget for animal food must be restored to no less than \$600,000.
2. The Animal Sterilization Fund and the Citywide Cat Program increased to at least total \$12 million.
3. The budget to include \$1.6 million in dedicated funding for the Dogs Playing for Life (DPFL) program.

The following document to be filed with the CIS:

1. Animal Food Funding

The budget for animal food must be restored to no less than \$600,000, consistent with prior-year funding levels. The City has a fundamental obligation to provide adequate food for animals housed in its shelters. It should not rely entirely on private donations to feed the animals.

In the Mayor's proposed budget, there is effectively no General Fund allocation for animal food, requiring the Department to rely almost entirely on donations from the Animal Welfare Trust Fund to feed animals in its care. Over time, the City's direct funding for animal food has declined significantly, while reliance on donations has increased. This reduction has led to the use of lower-cost and lower quality food, which the dogs do not like and which can contribute to diarrhea and

other health issues, increasing the burden on already strained medical staff and volunteers and reducing adoptability.

Please see Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates Report,

<https://www.tarzananc.org/assets/documents/1/committee695ad62838751.pdf>,

Appendix page 10.

2. Spay/Neuter Funding (Critical Priority)

The Council should increase spay/neuter funding in the Animal Sterilization Fund and the Citywide Cat Program so it at least totals **\$12 million**.

This investment represents **less than one tenth of one percent of the City's \$13+ billion budget**, yet it is the most effective, humane, evidence-based way to:

- Reduce shelter intake
- Reduce euthanasia of healthy adoptable animals
- Greatly reduce long-term operational costs.

Failure to adequately fund and enforce spay/neuter is fiscally irresponsible and perpetuates the current overcrowding crisis, leading to increased suffering and killing of healthy adoptable dogs. Please see CityWatchLA, [*Failure To Provide Adequate Funding For Spay/Neuter Is "Penny Wise And 'Pound' Foolish."*](#)

3. Dogs Playing for Life (DPFL)

The Council should allocate **\$1.6 million in dedicated funding** for the Dogs Playing for Life (DPFL) program.

Prior to DPFL's involvement, many dogs in City shelters went **weeks or months without leaving their kennels**. DPFL provides structured enrichment, socialization, and behavioral assessment that:

- Improves adoptability, decreasing killing of dogs for lack of space
- Reduces kennel stress and deterioration, decreasing suffering and killing of dogs
- Provides essential information to potential adopters and rescues regarding the dogs' disposition and ability to get along with other dogs
- Supports staff and volunteers.

DPFL also provides critical behavioral assessments, public education, safety risk evaluations, and training for staff and volunteers, all of which directly impact adoption success, rescue placement, and public safety.

DPFL has not been supported by a stable, dedicated City funding source. Reliance on volunteers alone is insufficient to meet the needs of the current shelter population.

Failure to fund DPFL will result in a return to conditions where dogs are confined to kennels for prolonged periods, worsening behavioral outcomes and reducing adoption rates; this was the situation prior to DPFL's involvement. Please see

L.A. Times, *'It's Inhumane': Dogs At L.A. Animal Shelters Go Weeks Or Months Without Being Walked*

L.A. Times Editorial Board, *Shelter Animals Haven't Been Walked In Weeks. Let The Dogs Out Now.*

That is why DPFL was hired.

Conclusion

The Mayor's proposed LAAS budget is insufficient to address the City's ongoing animal shelter crisis. The modest increases outlined above, approximately one twentieth of one percent of the City budget, would:

- Improve animal welfare
- Reduce euthanasia
- Greatly lower long-term costs.

Please see the Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates White Paper, Report for the Animal Services Department, https://cityclerk.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2026/26-0600_PC_PM_03-31-2026.pdf pages 16-23 for further information.