

**WRITTEN
PUBLIC
COMMENTS**

**CITY COUNCIL
MEETING**

OCTOBER 15, 2024

20+ years ago, myself and others with the CVAG's Animal Commission, asked for your consideration to support and participate in what became the Coachella Valley Animal Campus. At that time, our valley worked collaboratively, focusing on improving shelter conditions, promoting adoptions, and spaying and neutering. And, as a community, we were successful in accomplishing many of the goals set at the time. Today, we need to build on those accomplishments by being more strategic with a focus on policies. So today I have provided information on a few items contained in the proposed contract to hopefully foster further discussion leading to the development of policies that will benefit the City of La Quinta and the entire region.

I would like to begin with a statement that our valley has a mechanism in place to work collaboratively to develop and maintain policies to support the Coachella Valley Animal Campus. Specifically, we have the Coachella Valley Animal Campus Commission, complete with Bylaws, to help support the success of the Campus. There are 2 sections within the bylaws I would like to brief review:

First:

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE AND INTENT

The purpose of the Animal Campus Commission is to provide direct input into the operation of the Coachella Valley Animal Campus to create a community of no more homeless, unwanted, or lost animals. The Animal Campus Commission pledges to the community to:

- A. Foster a caring environment of respect, responsibility and compassion for all;
- B. Provide humane sheltering;
- C. Provide education to undertake and collaborate with Animal Samaritans and other animal welfare organizations for educational programs for the care and treatment of animals;
- D. Reunite pets and owners;
- E. Promote an aggressive adoption campaign; and
- F. Promote vigorous spay/neuter programs within the Coachella Valley.

Second:

ARTICLE IX: DUTIES AND POWERS

The Animal Campus Commission shall have the following duties and powers:

- A. Establish Mission Statement for the Animal Campus Commission;
- B. Establish the date, time, and place of regular meetings of the Animal Campus Commission ;
- C. Review and recommend a budget for the Animal Campus Commission;
- D. Recommend policies for the operation of the Animal Campus, receive public comments, and respond to complaints;
- E. Establish policies and Administrative Regulations for responding to complaints; such Policies and Administrative regulations shall include referring complaints to the Director of Animal Services as deemed necessary;
- F. Notify member jurisdictions of vacancies on the Animal Campus Commission;
- G. Advise Riverside County Department of Animal Services when amending any ARTICLES of this Chapter or repealing this Chapter in its entirety; and the Animal Campus Commission shall maintain current by-laws at all times;
- H. Appoint committees of the Animal Campus Commission or the members of these committees and fill any vacancies on any committee;
- I. Observe Conflict of Interest Code; and
- J. Undertake such activities as may be necessary in order to support animal control services within the serviced cities and unincorporated areas of the county and otherwise act in an advisory capacity for the Department of Animal Services.

Regarding Item D. Recommend policies for the operation of the Animal Campus, . . .

Adoptions, spaying, and neutering are often the first things we think about when talking about animal welfare. But effective policies are an important and significant part of improving outcomes for our community and its animals. I have highlighted a few items in the proposed contract that I hope will demonstrate the need for a collaborative approach to developing effective policies for the operation of the Animal Campus.

Review municipal code :

Policy discussion: Dog License/Microchipping

1. Is the contract consistent with the municipal code?
2. Is there a barrier for constituents to comply?
3. Is there a CA State requirement?
4. Does this satisfy Article 2, D. - Reunite pets and owners?

The following is a screenshot of the La Quinta municipal code 10.08 Dog Licenses.

The City's municipal code consistently reads that a microchip be implanted by a CA licensed veterinarian. This requirement is not mentioned in the contract.

10.08.050 - Application.



The owner shall state at the time application for licensing is made, and upon standard printed forms of applications provided for such purpose, the following information and documentation for each dog:

- A. Name, address, telephone number, and email address of owner;
- B. Address where dog is kept;
- C. Name, breed, age, sex, whether dog is spayed or neutered, and the color of the dog;
- D. Proof of microchip by written statement of a California licensed veterinarian and microchip number.

The following is a screenshot from the contract: EXHIBIT B-1, C, 18:

18. **Microchipping:** In accordance with California Food and Agricultural (“F&A”) Code Sections 31108.3 and 31752.1, COUNTY shall ensure that all dogs and cats being reclaimed, adopted, or transferred to a new owner are microchipped with current information prior to leaving the shelter.

The following is a screenshot from the Veterinary Medical Board regarding Microchip Implantation. Please note the following in the final paragraph: *The VMB accepted the opinion by a 4/2 majority; therefore concluding that the microchip procedure was not the practice of veterinary medicine.*

Microchip Implantation

The VMB hopes that the following historical overview will help to clarify the current status of the microchip issue:

The microchip procedure was deregulated in 1997. Currently, the microchip procedure is not considered the practice of veterinary medicine, it can be done by unlicensed persons and it does not require any supervision of a licensed veterinarian. The following is a historical overview of micro chipping procedure in California.

In 1987, microchip implantation was a new technology for identifying ownership of animals, similar to tattooing and ear tagging. Because the implants were new, there were concerns regarding consumer protection and the potential for animal harm due to the size of the needle, infection, rejection, and possible migration. Legal counsel determined that the VMB would have jurisdiction over the process only if it was a "surgical operation." Based on the fact that a 12-gauge needle was required for implanting microchips, the VMB concluded that the procedure was surgical and could be performed only by licensed veterinarians.

In 1993, the Marin County Humane Society, several other humane groups, and representatives from the profession and the microchip industry asked the VMB to allow veterinarians to delegate microchip implants to persons working under their supervision. Strong evidence was presented to the VMB that since 1987, the use of the microchip implantation system had become widespread at animal shelters and humane societies and that concerns regarding the needle size, infection, and migration had proved unfounded. Legal counsel cautioned the proponents of the change that if the procedure were not considered a "surgical operation," the VMB might not have jurisdiction to regulate the process at all. Despite the caution, the consensus was that it was a safe procedure and it would be more cost-effective for consumers if veterinarians could delegate the task. Based on testimony and evidence submitted, the VMB revised its policy removing the surgical designation on microchip implants, and allowing it to be delegated to persons working under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian.

In June 1997, the VMB's authority to regulate microchip implants was challenged. The policy revision in 1993 to remove the "surgery" classification for microchip implants was the basis for this challenge.

At the VMB's public meeting in San Diego on October 24, 1997, the VMB's legal counsel submitted an opinion that concluded that the microchip procedure was not a veterinary treatment over which the VMB had jurisdiction. The VMB accepted the opinion by a 4/2 majority; therefore concluding that the microchip procedure was not the practice of veterinary medicine.

Any questions regarding this policy, please contact the Board.

Contract: Exhibit A-1, C. SCOPE OF ANIMAL SHELTER SERVICES, Item 1., 1.8.

Policy discussion:

1. Should there be a policy on how new services will be added or changed at the Animal Campus?
 - a. Is the online service meeting the needs of the community?
 - b. Why should a change occur?
 - c. What is the expected outcome?
 - d. Can the service be improved?
2. Does this program satisfy Article 2, D: Reunite pets and owners?

From the contract:

1.8 Return of Impounded Animals: Encourage the return of any lost/stray animal (impounded by field personnel) to the rightful owner in the field, subject to the payment of impound fees. Ensure an opportunity for members of the public to report lost and found animals online.

Here is a screen shot from RCDAS website for the public to report lost and found animals online:

Petco Love | Petco Love Adopt | Petco Love Care | Español

petco **lovelost**

Lost Pet Tips Found Pet Tips How to Help About

We're here to help you find your pet

Petco Love Lost is a free and easy way to search 200K+ lost and found pets to help them return home.

[I Lost a Pet](#) [I Found a Pet](#)

Contract: Exhibit B-1, C. SCOPE OF ANIMAL SHELTER SERVICES, Item 7.

Policy discussions:

1. Is the 90% live release rate a benchmark, a policy, or goal?
2. If a policy, compare and contrast the policy to the State of California.
3. What are the supporting actions necessary to achieve the goal of a 90%?

The last sentence of this section: *COUNTY shall continue to work toward the goal of a 90% live release rate (commonly referred to as “No Kill” facility) and provide periodic updates through the Ad-Hoc approved by Riverside County Board of Supervisors on July 30, 2024.*

A screen shot of the contract discussing “No Kill”:

7. **Euthanasia:** Euthanasia is a non-preferred option and is to be used as a last resort when deemed there is no other outcome for an animal. Humane euthanasia services shall be provided as required for impounded animals held at the Shelter for the lawful number of days, if such animal is not reclaimed by the animal’s owner and is deemed not adoptable by COUNTY. Untreatable Animals that are irretrievably suffering from a serious illness or severe injury may not be held for owner redemption or adoption. Only euthanasia methods approved by the American Veterinary Medical Association shall be used. Records shall be kept for a period of not less than three (3) years on each euthanized animal shall include the following information: breed; sex; color; weight; other distinguishing characteristics; date, time and location where animal was found; method of euthanasia, and reason for use of method. COUNTY shall continue to work toward the goal of a 90% live release rate (commonly referred to as “No Kill” facility) and provide periodic updates through the Ad-Hoc approved by Riverside County Board of Supervisors on July 30, 2024.

The following screen shots are from Best Friends website, No-Kill 2025

No-kill: The goal of ending killing in shelters

No-kill is a benchmark Best Friends has established to help guide where we focus our efforts to save the lives of the pets most at risk in shelters.

For a shelter to achieve what we consider no-kill, 90% of the cats and dogs coming into the shelter must be saved.

Typically, no more than 10% of dogs and cats entering shelters are suffering from irreparable medical or behavioral issues that compromise their quality of life and prevent them from being rehomed, so that’s how we arrived at the 90% benchmark.

[Is Your Community No-Kill? »](#)

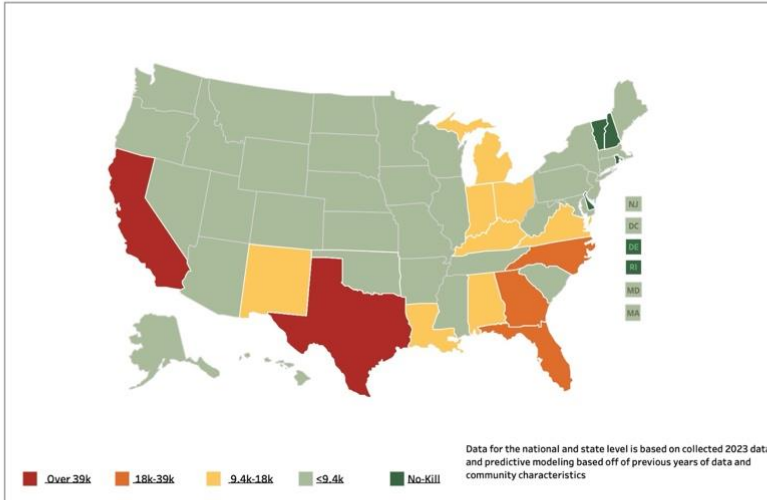
A portion of 3rd paragraph reads:

No-Kill is a collaboration between shelters and their community. The first step is for individuals to understand the progress being made in their own community and to know how they can help.

NO-KILL 2025 ▾

National Overview

Click on a state to select a specific community.



TOP PRIORITY:

- [Texas](#)
- [California](#)

HIGH PRIORITY:

- [North Carolina](#)
- [Florida](#)

MEDIUM PRIORITY:

- [Alabama](#)
- [Louisiana](#)

NO-KILL:

- [Delaware](#)
- [New Hampshire](#)

Help our shelters achieve no-kill in 2025

In 2016, 1 million cats and dogs were being killed in America's shelters because shelters didn't have the community support or the resources they needed to save them.

That same year, Best Friends committed to change that in 2025, and while incredible progress has been made, we need your help now more than ever to get across the finish line.

No-kill is a collaboration between shelters and their community. The first step is for individuals to understand the progress being made in their own community and to know how they can help. And that is the purpose of the pet lifesaving dashboard.

Whether you have 20 minutes or 20 hours a week, you can save lives. Dive into the dashboard to find out how.

Contract: Exhibit A-1, C. SCOPE OF ANIMAL SHELTER SERVICES, Item 21.

Policy discussion:

1. What should be the procedure to enact policies that materially affect the operations of the CVAC?
Ex: Should all affected jurisdictions formally approve?
2. What are the identified support actions required of the city, community, principal territory, private and non-profit sectors?

Screen shot from the contract:

21. Community Cat Program (CCP): COUNTY shall determine a cat's eligibility for the CCP. If it is determined that a cat is eligible, the cat will be spayed/neutered, vaccinated, and eartipped. Once cat has recovered, the cat will be returned to place of origin.

Screen shots from RCDAS website:

March 12, 2024

The Riverside County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously today (Mar. 12) to support two resolutions by Animal Services officials: one that would see healthy, uninjured cats returned to their native environments, and the other providing support for the [5,000 Cat Challenge](#)—an initiative that seeks to improve live outcomes for cats in Riverside County in 2024.



Home Adopt Lost & Found Services Support About Newsroom

English Q f

What is the 5,000 Cat Challenge?

The 5,000 Cat Challenge is an initiative to improve the outcomes and promote the health of Riverside County cats. Riverside County Department of Animal Services is working toward this goal by reducing barriers to adoption, bolstering a robust community cat program, providing foster, rescue, foster and spay/neuter opportunities, as well as managing intake in a way that aims to keep cats out of local shelters. Cats that are sick or injured will be accepted into the shelter system where veterinary staff will work to restore the animal's health, along with spay/neuter services, if available, so that they can then be adopted, fostered or returned to their owner.

Ways we are helping cats in our community

RCDAS supports free roaming cats through Trap-neuter-return services and does not impound healthy adult cats unless in need.

Most "stray" cats are actually a part of the community and do not have owners, the best thing that can be done for them is Trap-Neuter-Return. This ensures that the cat is spayed or neutered, vaccinated, and returned back to their outdoor "home" where they are looked after and cared for. Despite our efforts, an animal shelter is an extremely stressful place for cats, so returning to a place they know is far better for healthy outdoor cats.

Fewer than 2% of stray cats coming in to RCDAS are reclaimed by an owner. The main reason for this is that many cats are actually free roaming cats and don't have an indoor home. Kittens who are born to these community cats make up a very large part of our stray intake, so there is no one to come looking for them. There are some occasions where an owner of an indoor-outdoor cat does not come looking for the cat before they have been adopted out because they are used to their cat being gone for a few days at time.

For more information on not impounding healthy adult cats visit the National Animal Care and Control Association [position statement here](#).

The following is the National Animal Care & Control Association's position statement for Animal Control Intake of Free-Roaming Cats referenced by RCDAS. See page 2 for a listing of program requirements and exceptions.



Animal Control Intake of Free-Roaming Cats

It is the position [policy] of the National Animal Care & Control Association that, at every opportunity, officers should [will] work to educate the public regarding humane and responsible co-existence and care of pet and community cats, to include education on the benefits and resources for spay/neuter and vaccination; responsible feeding and management practices for those choosing to care for community cats; and effective methods to humanely deter and exclude animals from homes, structures and targeted areas. It is the position of NACA that indiscriminate pick up or admission of healthy, free-roaming cats, regardless of temperament, for any purpose other than TNR/SNR, **fails to serve commonly held goals of community animal management and protection programs and, as such, is a misuse of time and public funds and should be avoided.**

- **Impoundment of healthy adult cats reduces the likelihood of reuniting families with pets:**
Lost cats are 10-50 times more likely to be reunited with their owners if they stay in the neighborhood of origin than through an animal shelter. In fact, the most successful reunification method for cats is the cat returning home on its own. A family may not consider their free-roaming cat lost until the point when the cat is removed from the neighborhood and transported to a shelter.
 - **Impoundment of healthy adult cats may disproportionately impact under-served and marginalized communities**
 - Only 16% of participants in a program supporting low income pet owners have ever called or visited an animal shelter, and only 3% of pets in the same demographic were adopted from a shelter (compared to 30-40% for the general U.S. population), suggesting that impoundment is likely to be a one way journey for pets belonging to low income community members.
 - Only ~40 % of people in the lowest income bracket (<\$30,000 annual income) that lost cats were reunited with them, compared to > 90% reunited for those making \$50,000 or more per year.
- **Impoundment has the potential to increase cat populations and impact:** The haphazard removal of individual cats is not population management. Removal of cats without concurrent control of the food source has been linked to paradoxical increases in cat populations by as much as 200%.
 - Kittens pose a greater risk than adult cats for shedding and spreading parasites with wildlife and/or public health implications (e.g. toxoplasmosis, *Toxocara cati*, *Ancylostoma* spp.),
 - therefore removing adult cats and destabilizing population age structures further increases risks to the environment.
- **Impoundment fails to resolve the inciting factors for nuisance situations:** if cats are simply impounded, community members may not be motivated to identify and remedy factors such as open garbage containers that may be attracting cats as well as nuisance wildlife. TNR programs that leave cats where they are have been associated with significant reductions in nuisance complaints.



- **Impoundment of healthy free roaming cats reduces capacity to respond to critical community needs:** historically “stray cats” have made up the majority of intake at North American shelters. This can leave shelters overwhelmed, overcrowded and less able to provide appropriate care and outcomes for those animals that do require sheltering (such as sick and injured animals, those whose owners can no longer keep them, and animals that have been neglected or abused).

Impounding healthy cats is not the best way to provide services to these cats and the residents in the area in which the cats are found. NACA advises officers to take proactive steps to divert intake of “stray cats” while offering services that support the goals of community animal management and protection programs:

- Refer the public to local organizations or other staff/programs within the shelter that focus on trap-neuter-return, low-cost spay/neuter clinics, or utilize a return-to-home program within the agency if outside resources are not available or accessible.
- Support ongoing care of community cats with information on best feeding practices, referrals to pet pantries and sources for outdoor cat shelters, etc. to reduce likelihood of future complaints and contribute to the wellbeing of the individual community cats. Feeding bans are not effective strategies for dispersing congregations of cats or mitigating complaints.
- Work with residents to mitigate nuisance complaints, deploying a range of available tools (e.g., humane deterrents) and collaborating with caregivers and local TNR and rescue groups.

Exceptions to this policy should be made to mitigate exigent risk or to alleviate significant nuisance situations that can't be otherwise remedied (e.g. with counseling/education of caretakers, sterilization and vaccination of cats, use of humane deterrents). These circumstances are best identified through a managed admission program that includes contact and counseling prior to intake. Staff should be informed and encouraged to use their judgement on a case by case basis. Exceptions may include the following:

- **Evidence of abandonment:** Most cats in good body condition are receiving care, however in some circumstances it may be known that a cat has been recently abandoned, e.g. because it is known that the former owners moved and are not returning to care for the cats, or because the structure where the cat was known to be living was recently destroyed.
- **Evidence of being lost and unable to reunite:** While cats are more likely to return home on their own or through posting in their neighborhood of origin, it may be appropriate to admit a healthy free roaming cat if efforts have already been made to reunite it with the owner (e.g. posting in neighborhood of origin and social media without results; cat has been seen for an extended time without encouragement by feeding).
- **Issues with larger groups:** Large aggregations of cats may be associated with greater nuisance and risks than individual free roaming cats. A multi-faceted approach should be taken in these cases that leads to gradual reduction or elimination of the group, such as: a combination of caretaker education, sterilization and gradual removal to adoption, and relocation to working cat homes.
- **Specific risks identified for wildlife:** Removal may be part of a multi-faceted approach to cat management in protected habitats for sensitive wildlife species. However, even in these cases, ad hoc



removal (lethal or non-lethal) has not been demonstrated to be effective and in some cases has led to paradoxical population increases in target areas. Unless new arrivals can be excluded by fencing, removal must be sufficiently intensive and sustained to outpace new immigration and breeding, the natural consequence of a decrease in population density. Community buy-in is critical for success and a multi-faceted approach is required that includes input from natural resource personnel, animal services staff and cat advocates.

CONTRIBUTOR CREDIT: Dr. Kate Hurley

REFERENCES:

1. Lord, L.K., et al., Search and identification methods that owners use to find a lost cat. *J Am Vet Med Assoc*, 2007. 230(2): p. 217-20.
2. E. Weiss, M. Slater, L. Lord, et al. Frequency of Lost Dogs and Cats in the United States and the Methods Used to Locate Them. *Animals (Basel)*. 2012 Jun; 2(2): 301–315.
3. *Pets For Life 2017 Program Report*. 2017. p. 16
4. Hill, et al. *Humans and Animal Vulnerability Study*.
5. Lazenby, B.T., Mooney, N.J., and Dickman, C.R. (2014). Effects of low-level culling of feral cats in open populations: a case study from the forests of southern Tasmania. *Wildlife Research*, 41, 401-420.
6. Finkler H, Gunther I, and Terkel J. "Behavioral differences between urban feeding groups of neutered and sexually intact free-roaming cats following a trap-neuter-return procedure." *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association* 238, no. 9 (2011); 1141–1149.
7. Levy JK, Isaza NM, Scott KC. Effect of high-impact targeted trap-neuter-return and adoption of community cats on cat intake to a shelter. *Vet J*. 2014 Sep;201(3):269-74.
8. National Feline Research Council: Feral cat feeding bans: The reasoning, risks, and results, 2020

Policy Discussion:

Contract: Exhibit B-1, B Definitions, Items 2 and 3

The definitions contained in the contract for Adoptable Animal, Treatable, and Untreatable Animal are different than contained in Civil Code 1834.4 and Food and Agricultural Codes 17005 and 17706.

Policy discussion: Definitions:

1. Are these definitions used uniformly in CVAC's principal territory?
2. When using these definitions, what are the potential or possible implications and outcomes for a contractor, staff, constituents, and the animals?
3. How will these definitions be used and for what purpose?
4. Why are these definitions different from CA Civil Code and the Food and Agricultural Code?
5. Can we compare and explain the difference in language between the CA codes and contract?

Here is a screen shot from the contract - Exhibit B-1, B Definitions, Items 2 and 3

2. "Adoptable Animal" shall mean an animal eight (8) weeks of age or older that at or subsequent to the time the animal is impounded or taken into possession, has manifested no sign of disease, injury, or congenital or hereditary condition that adversely affects the health or temperament of the animal, or that is likely to adversely affect the animal's health in the future. Dogs declared "vicious" or "potentially dangerous" under State and/or local laws shall be deemed unadoptable.
3. "Treatable" shall mean an animal with a medical condition such as skin problems, bad flea or skin infestations, a broken limb, abscesses, or problems that may be treated with appropriate resources, holding space, treatment and/or time. "Treatable" shall also mean an animal with behavioral

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conditions that may be corrected with time and proper training, such as chasing animals/objects, food aggression, etc.

4. "Untreatable Animal" shall mean any animal that is irremediably suffering from a serious illness or physical injury or behavioral condition and shall not be held for owner redemption or adoption.

Here screen shots from California Legislation Information website:

The screenshot shows the California Legislative Information website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for skip to content, home, accessibility, FAQ, feedback, sitemap, and login. A search bar is located in the top right corner. Below the navigation bar, there is a breadcrumb trail: Home > Bill Information > California Law > Publications > Other Resources > My Subscriptions > My Favorites. The main content area displays the following structure:

- CIVIL CODE - CIV**
- DIVISION 3. OBLIGATIONS [1427 - 3273.69]** (Heading of Division 3 amended by Stats. 1988, Ch. 160, Sec. 14.)
- PART 4. OBLIGATIONS ARISING FROM PARTICULAR TRANSACTIONS [1738 - 3273.69]** (Part 4 enacted 1872.)
- TITLE 3. DEPOSIT [1813 - 1881.2]** (Title 3 enacted 1872.)
- CHAPTER 2. Deposit for Keeping [1833 - 1867]** (Chapter 2 enacted 1872.)
- ARTICLE 1. General Provisions [1833 - [1840.]]** (Article 1 enacted 1872.)

Section 1834.4 is detailed as follows:

1834.4. (a) It is the policy of the state that no adoptable animal should be euthanized if it can be adopted into a suitable home. Adoptable animals include only those animals eight weeks of age or older that, at or subsequent to the time the animal is impounded or otherwise taken into possession, have manifested no sign of a behavioral or temperamental defect that could pose a health or safety risk or otherwise make the animal unsuitable for placement as a pet, and have manifested no sign of disease, injury, or congenital or hereditary condition that adversely affects the health of the animal or that is likely to adversely affect the animal's health in the future.

(b) It is the policy of the state that no treatable animal should be euthanized. A treatable animal shall include any animal that is not adoptable but that could become adoptable with reasonable efforts. This subdivision, by itself, shall not be the basis of liability for damages regarding euthanasia.

(Added by Stats. 1998, Ch. 752, Sec. 5. Effective January 1, 1999.)

The screenshot shows the California Legislative Information website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for skip to content, home, accessibility, FAQ, feedback, sitemap, and login. A search bar is located in the top right corner. Below the navigation bar, there is a breadcrumb trail: California Law > Code Search > Code Section. The main content area displays the following structure:

- FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL CODE - FAC**
- DIVISION 9. ANIMALS GENERALLY [16301 - 19700]** (Division 9 enacted by Stats. 1967, Ch. 15.)
- PART 1. ANIMALS AT LARGE [16301 - 17153]** (Part 1 enacted by Stats. 1967, Ch. 15.)
- CHAPTER 7. Estrays [17001 - 17128]** (Chapter 7 enacted by Stats. 1967, Ch. 15.)
- ARTICLE 1. Definitions and General Provisions [17001 - 17006]** (Article 1 enacted by Stats. 1967, Ch. 15.)

Section 17006 is detailed as follows:

17006. Animals that are irremediably suffering from a serious illness or severe injury shall not be held for owner redemption or adoption. Except as provided in subdivision (b) of Section 31108 and subdivision (c) of Section 31752, newborn animals that need maternal care and have been impounded without their mothers may be euthanized without being held for owner redemption or adoption.

(Amended by Stats. 2018, Ch. 194, Sec. 1. (AB 2791) Effective January 1, 2019.)

The screenshot shows the California Legislative Information website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for skip to content, home, accessibility, FAQ, feedback, sitemap, and login. A search bar is located in the top right corner. Below the navigation bar, there is a breadcrumb trail: California Law > Code Search > Code Section. The main content area displays the following structure:

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- PART 1. ANIMALS AT LARGE [16301 - 17153]** (Part 1 enacted by Stats. 1967, Ch. 15.)
- CHAPTER 7. Estrays [17001 - 17128]** (Chapter 7 enacted by Stats. 1967, Ch. 15.)
- ARTICLE 1. Definitions and General Provisions [17001 - 17006]** (Article 1 enacted by Stats. 1967, Ch. 15.)

Section 17005 is detailed as follows:

17005. (a) It is the policy of the state that no adoptable animal should be euthanized if it can be adopted into a suitable home. Adoptable animals include only those animals eight weeks of age or older that, at or subsequent to the time the animal is impounded or otherwise taken into possession, have manifested no sign of a behavioral or temperamental defect that could pose a health or safety risk or otherwise make the animal unsuitable for placement as a pet, and have manifested no sign of disease, injury, or congenital or hereditary condition that adversely affects the health of the animal or that is likely to adversely affect the animal's health in the future.

(b) It is the policy of the state that no treatable animal should be euthanized. A treatable animal shall include any animal that is not adoptable but that could become adoptable with reasonable efforts. This subdivision, by itself, shall not be the basis of liability for damages regarding euthanasia.

(Added by Stats. 1998, Ch. 752, Sec. 10. Effective January 1, 1999.)

Policy decisions discussions - Special considerations:

1. Effect of policy decisions by a city and the surrounding cities.
2. Are the policies meeting the needs of the citizens of the jurisdiction?

Differing policy decisions can have a material impact on adjacent and neighboring jurisdictions. Here is an overview of the intakes on a jurisdiction adjacent to the CVAC. Specifically, how the Palm Springs Animal Shelter (PSAS) compares to CVAC.

There is strong evidence to support that policies can affect constituent behavior and preferred animal welfare service provider.

Policy information provided by PSAS from their website:

1. The following is a screenshot of a portion of the mission from the Palm Springs Animal Shelter's website: <https://psanimalshelter.org/about/mission-and-history/>

Committed to being a humane and compassionate animal care and adoption center, the shelter does not euthanize for space, or for length of stay. As a public, open admissions shelter we provide a safe haven for ALL animals; adoptable, those who require rehabilitation and training and those requiring minor to critical medical treatment.

2. Also, PSAS reports that the Live Release Rate (LRR) is a meaningful *parameter* to indicate a community's progress toward improving outcomes for its animals. Please see PSAS's 2023 statistical reports below.

The following charts show that strays and owner relinquished animal rates are significantly higher in Palm Springs than any other Coachella Valley city. The reason for the significant difference can be attributed to the differing policies between the shelters. PSAS is considered a shelter that will *treat* the animals in their care.

The following information has been taken from the published 2023 Riverside County By City Impounds report and the published 2023 PSAS Shelter Statistics:

Stray Intakes in 2023: Summary of ALL Coachella Valley Cities

STRAYS - 2023	CATS		DOGS		TOTAL	
	COUNT	%	COUNT	%	COUNT	%
Cathedral City	291	14%	262	13%	553	13%
Coachella	335	16%	318	16%	653	16%
Desert Hot Springs	7	0%	8	0%	15	0%
Indian Wells	10	0%	1	0%	11	0%
Indio	362	17%	546	27%	908	22%
La Quinta	75	4%	97	5%	172	4%
Palm Desert	130	6%	78	4%	208	5%
Rancho Mirage	36	2%	15	1%	51	1%
Palm Springs	846	40%	726	35%	1,572	38%
Total for all CV Cities	2,092	100%	2,051	100%	4,143	100%

The Palm Springs Animal Shelter accounted for 38% of all stray cats and dogs brought into the 2 shelters (CVAC and PSAS).

Owner Surrender Intakes in 2023: Summary of ALL Coachella Valley Cities

OWNER SURRENDERS 2023	CATS		DOGS		TOTAL	
	COUNT	%	COUNT	%	COUNT	%
Cathedral City	9	3%	19	5%	28	4%
Coachella	15	4%	46	13%	61	9%
Desert Hot Springs	0	0%	3	1%	3	0%
Indian Wells	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Indio	3	1%	45	13%	48	7%
La Quinta	21	6%	21	6%	42	6%
Palm Desert	23	7%	12	3%	35	5%
Rancho Mirage	2	1%	0	0%	2	0%
Palm Springs	265	78%	205	58%	470	68%
Total for all CV Cities	338	100%	351	100%	689	100%

The Palm Springs Animal Shelter accounts for 68% of all Owner Surrendered cats and dogs brought into the 2 shelters (CVAC and PSAS).

Owner Surrender & Stray Intakes in 2023: Summary of ALL Coachella Valley Cities

STRAYS & OWNER SURRENDERS 2023	CATS		DOGS		TOTAL	
	COUNT	%	COUNT	%	COUNT	%
Cathedral City	300	12%	281	19%	581	12%
Coachella	350	14%	364	25%	714	15%
Desert Hot Springs	7	0%	11	1%	18	0%
Indian Wells	10	0%	1	0%	11	0%
Indio	365	15%	591	40%	956	20%
La Quinta	96	4%	118	8%	214	4%
Palm Desert	153	6%	90	6%	243	5%
Rancho Mirage	38	2%	15	1%	53	1%
Palm Springs	1,111	46%	931	63%	2,042	42%
Total for all CV Cities	2,430	100%	1,471	100%	4,832	100%

The Palm Springs Animal Shelter accounts for 42% of all Owner Surrendered and Stray cats and dogs brought into the 2 shelters (CVAC and PSAS).

Animal Shelter Annual Activities and Live Release Rate

01/01/23 to 12/31/23

Activity	Cat	Dog	Other Domestic	Wildlife	Total
Shelter Animals (Excludes TNR Program - see section below)					
Intakes					
Confiscate by ACO	11	127	26	0	164
Guardian Surrender	265	205	13	0	483
Adopter Return	119	182	4	0	305
Stray	846	726	50	81	1,713
Transfer In	20	241	0	0	261
TNR Kept by Shelter	117	N/A	0	N/A	117
TOTAL INTAKES	1,378	1,481	93	81	3,043
Outcomes					
Adopted	986	1,012	68	11	2,077
Died	151	25	5	12	193
Euthanasia					0
Medical	69	25	3	21	118
Behavior	0	0	0	1	1
Court/ACO Mandated-Animal Control	0	1	0	0	1
Return to Field (SNR & Wildlife)	1,361	N/A	0	22	1,383
Return to Guardian	49	300	3	0	352
Transfer	76	105	0	41	222
Admin Review/Other	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL OUTCOMES	2,692	1,468	79	108	4,347
DOAs (Animal Control)					
	85	27	16	58	186
DOAs (Shelter)					
	52	51	3	2	108
Live Release Rate					
Palm Spring Animal Shelter Live Release Rate (LRR): LRR is a meaningful parameter to indicate a community's progress toward improving outcomes for its animals. LRR is calculated by dividing the number of animals that enter PSAS alive less those who die or are euthanized (or are lost), by the total number of live animals received. PSAS tracks LRR for cats only, dogs only, other animals only, and combined. This is the method previously required for reporting to Best Friends Animal Society and does not include TNR numbers.					
	Cat	Dog	Other Domestic	Wildlife	Total*
PSAS Shelter LRR	84.0%	96.8%	91.4%	62.6%	90.5%
* Note: Total LRR is not including Wildlife in the calculation.					
Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) Program					
Included in "Shelter" Section Above					
	TNR Cats	Cats Trapped But Kept by Shelter	Return to Field (SNR)	Total	
Intakes	1,410	117	0	1527	
Returned to Field	1,361	4	0	1365	
Died	3	22	N/A	25	
Euthanized - Medical Reasons	25	8	N/A	33	
Adopted/Transferred/RTG	20	91	N/A	111	
Outcomes **	1,409	125	0	1534	
PSAS TNR Program LRR	98.0%	74.4%	0.0%	96.2%	
** Notes:					
<u>TNR Cats:</u> 1,527 TNR cats intaked during 2023.					
<u>TNR Cats but kept by Shelter:</u> 117 TNR cats intaked during 2023, 125 Cats outcome in 2023, 8 where from 2022					
<u>Cats SNR:</u> No activity for this period.					
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