

Senate Bill 1478

Senator Janet Nguyen (36th District)

Summary

SB 1478 which establishes the essential elements of protocols for veterinarians who practice in animal shelters.

Background

Unwanted pets remain a serious problem in California. An estimated 500,000+ cats and dogs entered California animal shelters in 2023. Unfortunately, over 10% of them did not find a home and were euthanized. With 232 animal shelters in California there is no standard guidance in the code for what constitutes a reasonable and efficient protocols for the management of shelter animals. SB 1478 will provide a standard by which animal shelters can judge the adequacy of their daily treatment and management of the animals in their care.

Problem

Animal care in shelters varies widely and there are many reports of inexcusable conditions and animal outcomes in several animal shelters

Solution

Create, in statute, a template for animal care that contains the following elements:

1. Time periods within which animals must be assessed at intake and regularly monitored;
2. Protocols for treating common medical conditions;
3. Protocols for controlling infectious diseases and preventing environmental contamination;

4. How to manage acute pain;
5. Communication standards between technicians and veterinarians;
6. Criteria for medically related euthanasia cases.

Support

Status

Set for hearing in Senate Business, Professions and Economic Development Committee on April 22, 2024.