

2021 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 120

BY REPRESENTATIVE MCKNIGHT

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the local governing authorities and animal shelters of the state to adopt policies and programs which provide alternatives to euthanizing healthy dogs and cats prior to December 31, 2025.

WHEREAS, safe and humane communities for the citizens and pets of Louisiana is a universal goal; and

WHEREAS, according to the Best Friends Animal Society, Louisiana ranks fifth in the number of dogs and cats euthanized in the nation; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana has the second highest euthanasia rate of dogs and cats per capita of 7.09 per one thousand population versus the national rate of 1.90 per one thousand; and

WHEREAS, the total number of deaths of dogs and cats in 2019 was forty-four thousand four hundred fifty-eight; and

WHEREAS, thirty-nine percent of the dogs and cats that enter Louisiana shelters do not make it out alive; and

WHEREAS, many of the pets that are euthanized each year are healthy or treatable pets that could be placed in homes or feral cats that could be trapped, neutered, and released; and

WHEREAS, a national survey conducted for the Best Friends Animal Society revealed that almost seventy percent of citizens do not want cats impounded and euthanized; and

WHEREAS, many Louisiana shelters are implementing new and innovative programs and policies to provide alternatives to euthanizing dogs and cats; and

WHEREAS, these policies and programs include volunteer foster care networks; adoption programs; medical and behavioral programs; public education and awareness programs; feral cat trap, neuter, vaccinate, and return programs; animal socialization programs; and many others; and

WHEREAS, the Best Friends Animal Society has introduced a humane initiative to end the euthanization of dogs and cats in shelters in the United States by 2025.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the local governing authorities and animal shelters of the state to adopt policies and programs which provide alternatives to euthanizing healthy dogs and cats prior to December 31, 2025.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Louisiana Animal Control Advisory Task Force and the Best Friends Animal Society.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES