

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 89

BY REPRESENTATIVE GEYMANN

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the local governing authority of Calcasieu Parish and the Calcasieu Parish Animal Services and Adoption Center to become a "no kill" shelter by adopting 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, a national sanctuary for homeless and special needs animals with lifesaving centers and partners across the nation, Louisiana ranks sixth nationally in the number of dogs and cats euthanized in shelters; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana has the third highest euthanasia rate of dogs and cats per capita of 3.29 per one thousand population versus the national rate of 1.10 per one thousand; and

WHEREAS, the total number of deaths of dogs and cats in 2021 was fifteen thousand two hundred eighty-eight, which is three times less than in 2019; and

WHEREAS, thirty-one percent of the dogs and cats that enter Louisiana shelters do not make it out alive and less than one-third of the shelters in Louisiana are designated as "no kill"; 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 seventy-one 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 authority of Calcasieu Parish and the Calcasieu Parish Animal Services and Adoption Center to become a "no kill" shelter by adopting policies and programs which provide alternatives to euthanizing healthy dogs and cats prior to December 31, 2025.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Calcasieu Parish Animal Services and Adoption Center should make every attempt possible to identify or validate ownership of an animal prior to any euthanasia of an animal takes place.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the local governing authority of Calcasieu Parish and the manager of the Calcasieu Parish Animal Services and Adoption Center.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES