

Health

Testimony of Daniel Kass
Deputy Commissioner
Bureau of Environmental Health
NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Before the NYC Council Committee on Health

On Intro 655

September 9, 2011

Good morning Chairperson Arroyo, Council Member Lappin and members of the City Council Health Committee. My name is Daniel Kass, and I am the Deputy Commissioner for the Division of Environmental Health at the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. On behalf of Commissioner Farley, I want to thank you for the opportunity to testify today regarding Intro 655. With me is Mario Merlino, our Assistant Commissioner who oversees Veterinary Services, and Julie Bank, Executive Director of Animal Care and Control of New York City.

I would like to begin by providing a brief overview of the Department's public health work as it relates to animals. The Department promotes and protects public health by working to prevent, discover, and intervene in cases of animal-borne diseases, hazards and complaints of animal nuisances. Our functions include issuing state-mandated dog licenses; permitting and inspecting animal handling facilities such as pet shops, animal boarding facilities and pet grooming facilities; licensing commercial horses and issuing permits to boarding stables; receiving and responding to reports of animal bites; and investigating animal nuisance complaints. We monitor both wildlife and domestic animals for diseases, such as rabies, that can impact human health, and issue permits for the exhibition of wild and exotic animals.

The Department is also charged with managing and caring for the City's population of owner-surrendered, abandoned, and lost animals. To that end we operate, by contract with the non-profit Animal Care and Control, animal shelters in Manhattan, Brooklyn, and Staten Island, and animal receiving centers in the Bronx and Queens.

Animal Care and Control – AC&C – receives about 40,000 dogs and cats in its facilities every year. It provides the animals with veterinary care and shelters them in hope that they are adopted either directly from the shelter or through the many animal rescue groups affiliated with AC&C. AC&C also holds animals that are being evaluated for rabies and for behavioral problems following attacks on people. Before an animal is adopted from the shelter or returned to his or her owner, AC&C medical personnel spay or neuter the animal as part of a long term strategy to prevent overpopulation and to comply with the sterilization requirements of the Animal Shelter and Sterilization Act. AC&C also conducts field pick-up of animals that present a public health risk.

The Department strongly supports Intro 655 as a significant advance in the City's efforts to provide animal care and control services. Intro 655, which offers amendments to the Animal Shelter and Sterilization Act, is the critical component of a comprehensive agreement to enhance services reached by the Bloomberg Administration, the City Council, AC&C, and community animal organizations including the ASPCA and the Mayor's Alliance for NYC's Animals. Under the agreement, the scope of animal care and control services that the Department provides would be enhanced substantially, and our efforts would focus on increased animal adoption and reduced animal overpopulation through methods other than euthanasia.

Signing Intro 655 into law will enable substantial improvements in operations and increases in financial commitments to the animal shelters. The Administration has pledged that by fiscal year 2014, the annual budget to fund AC&C will exceed \$12 million, a 77% increase above fiscal year 2011 funding. The additional funding will be phased in over three years, with the largest single increase coming in July 2012, and will enable AC&C to hire additional

veterinary, behavioral, animal care and customer service staff. AC&C would expand the days and hours its facilities would be open to the public and concentrate field resources in boroughs with receiving centers.

The expansion of services is made possible not only by the Administration's promise of additional funding but also by a comprehensive plan, initiated with Council support, to increase the percentage of dogs that are licensed. Licensing one's dog is the best way to ensure that a lost pet is returned home and owners are not fined for failure to license. Furthermore, the licensing fee provides critical revenue to support increased services for homeless animals, including services that will be mandated by Intro 655.

The Department estimates that just one in five dogs are licensed, despite State legal mandates that all owners license their dogs. This fall, the Department will launch a media campaign to educate New Yorkers that they must license their dogs. The Department will also launch a web-based pet finder service that enables people who find licensed dogs to provide us with contact information to relay to the registered owner.

At the same time, the Department will work with the Council and animal advocates to increase the dog licensing fee, which has not changed in many decades. The current fee of \$8.50 was intended to provide all the revenue needed to support animal control, care and welfare. Today, the fee falls drastically short of compensating the City for the current costs of issuing a license, which means the fee does not provide any revenue for actual animal services. To rectify this, the City will urge State legislators to raise the fee and enact other changes to facilitate the issuance of licenses. For example, State law currently authorizes third parties, such as pet shops, animal shelters and veterinarians that issue licenses on behalf of the City, to retain just one dollar of the licensure fee. We will seek an increase that makes it worth their while to license dogs, making it even easier for New Yorkers to comply with the law. We also will seek flexibility in how the City issues licenses. For example, other jurisdictions with greater licensure rates provide owners the option of multi-year or lifetime licenses.

Funding for expanded animal welfare services would also come from the considerable savings the City would realize if Intro 655 is enacted. The bill proposes to amend the Animal Shelter and Sterilization Act to require that animal care facilities be open daily in each borough and eliminates the mandate that a full service shelter be open 24 hours each day in all five boroughs. Even without full service shelters in every borough, adoptions increased by 135% between 2005 and 2010 – due largely to the work of animal rescue groups – and euthanasia rates have fallen 49% since 2005. The partnerships that have enabled this to occur will be maintained and strengthened under this bill, and we hope to see ongoing improvement over time. Intro 655 would spare the City the capital expenditures and operational costs required to build, renovate, and staff round-the-clock shelters, allowing the dollars to be leveraged instead to significantly and more immediately enhance the scope and quality of current services.

In particular, Intro 655, if enacted, would do the following:

- Continue to mandate operation of three full-service shelters that would be open every day to accept animals, offer animal adoption, and provide necessary veterinary care and animal sterilization.
- Of these three full service shelters, one would be required to be open to the public 24 hours a day. Based on current practice, the shelters would be located in Manhattan, Brooklyn, and Staten Island, with the Manhattan shelter open 24 hours.
- In the other two boroughs, the amended Animal Shelter and Sterilization Act would require animal-receiving facilities to be maintained seven days a week, twelve hours a day. This would result in a significant increase in services in the Bronx and Queens, which currently have receiving centers open eight hours a day for two days in the Bronx and one day in Queens.
- In addition, Intro 655 would require, for the first time, maintenance of field services to pick up animals from all boroughs, seven days a week, 12 hours a day, and at all hours when public health or safety is threatened. This would represent a significant expansion of field operations, which currently operate weekdays from 9am to 5pm, with a field operator on-call at all hours to assist the police department in emergencies. These receiving and field services would be phased in with added funding and be fully implemented by July 2014.

In setting out this comprehensive plan, the Department and community animal organizations agreed that simply serving homeless, abandoned, and lost animals is not enough. We must do more to prevent animal overpopulation over the long term. These efforts are already underway. Last year, the Department worked with the State legislature to create the Animal Population Control Fund and with the City Council to enable the City to directly support the provision of free or subsidized spay/neuter services. In addition, the City Council passed legislation to increase the license fee for dogs that are not spayed or neutered. The Department issued rules for this fund in the spring, and is now preparing a Request for Proposals to enable organizations and veterinarians to utilize these funds. This fall, the Department's media campaign will also promote animal sterilization as a key component of responsible pet ownership. Over time, we believe that expanded spay/neuter will reduce the population of homeless animals.

Over the last few years, the City has made significant progress reducing dog overpopulation. The number of dogs entering the shelters declined by nearly 15% from 2003 to 2010, dropping from 13,600 to 11,600. AC&C also finds homes for an increasing percentage of dogs: 63% of dogs received at the shelters were adopted or rescued in 2010 compared to only 25% in 2003. We need to make similar progress with the City's cat population. Intro 655 would enact strategies to control cat overpopulation over the long run. Cats comprise nearly two thirds of the total number of animals entering the shelters each year and therefore present a special challenge. There are many more cats in the shelter system than people interested in adopting them.

To reduce cat overpopulation over time, Intro 655 would require cat owners who allow their pets to roam outside to have them sterilized. Unsterilized cats allowed to roam freely often

end up breeding and contributing to overpopulation. In addition, Intro 655 authorizes the Department to promulgate rules to register “trap, neuter, return” programs. Trap, neuter, return is a strategy used by caregivers to ultimately reduce the feral cat population. Cats are trapped, sterilized, vaccinated and tagged, and returned to where they were found.

Many of the changes contained in Intro 655 are made possible by significant progress over the last several years in animal shelter operations. A decade ago, when the Council enacted the Animal Shelter and Sterilization Act, homeless animals were far less likely to be adopted, and far more likely to be euthanized than they are today. Over the last 10 years, however, animal rescue groups, acting in partnership with AC&C, now find new homes for tens of thousands of sheltered animals each year. This significant increase in adoptions resulting from the rescue groups’ efforts, and from AC&C’s in-house adoption program, has increased adoptions and reduced euthanasia. With the goal of increasing adoptions, funds associated with this bill will allow AC&C to add adoption counselors to facilitate matching pets to new owners. Today, the challenge facing the City is the need is to allocate and target resources to keep animals healthy and adoptable and to implement long term strategies that engage pet owners to reduce overpopulation.

At a time when shelters across the country are losing funding, and even closing, I am pleased that New York City will be able to substantially enhance the operating budget and scope of service by focusing on targeted funding and long-term strategies to reduce overpopulation. The comprehensive plan I’ve outlined here and described by Intro 655 reflects the input of many institutions, and I would like to thank Speaker Quinn and her staff , AC&C, the ASPCA and the Mayor’s Alliance for NYC Animals for working to come to a common understanding of the problems and crafting a concrete way to address these problems.

If Intro 655 becomes law, the Department will report to the Council on a variety of indicators that will track our progress. We look forward to sharing that information with you and continuing the Department’s successful collaboration with the City Council and animal advocates. Thank you for the opportunity to testify and for considering this legislation. I would be happy to take any questions.



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
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BOROUGH PRESIDENT

**TESTIMONY OF MANHATTAN BOROUGH PRESIDENT
SCOTT M. STRINGER**

BEFORE THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

RE: INTO 655

Friday, September 9, 2011

Thank you Chair Arroyo and members of the City Council Committee on Health for the opportunity to testify today.

New York City has the opportunity to become a national leader in the humane treatment of animals. Through sensible reform we could create a model system that provides shelter animals with proper conditions, harnesses the energy of the City's advocate community and meets a "no kill" standard, where only untreatable animals are put down. However, before we can achieve these goals, we must focus on the root of our problem: the city's division of Animal Care & Control (AC&C), an entity which lacks the funding and expertise to truly live up to its name.

In recent years, we've seen reports of otherwise healthy animals put down in their shelters and dogs and cats stacked in cages, sometimes sleeping in their own waste. These conditions are magnified by overcrowding and the absence of full-service shelters in the Bronx and Queens. While these shelters were mandated by City law nearly ten years ago, the City has instead resorted to obstructionist legal maneuvers rather than fulfill its obligation.

As part of a recent and welcome agreement to commit \$10 million in additional funds over three years and a needed boost to dog licensing fees, Intro 655 would absolve the City of its responsibility to construct these shelters. Instead, ACC would fund vans to pick-up animals in these boroughs and take them to one of the already over-crowded shelters in Brooklyn, Manhattan or Staten Island. Even with these new funds, ACC plans to spend about \$1.47 per resident to protect the health and welfare of city animals - an amount which is still well below the national average of \$3.50 per resident.

Obviously, any proposal that adds resources to our animal care system is a welcome step, however I urge you to consider that these resources could be put to better use by first addressing the structural deficiencies with AC&C.

AC&C is controlled by the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, an agency whose core focus is the welfare of people, not animals. Its seven-member board of directors consists of agency officials that lack the independence, expertise or fundraising capabilities that are required for ACC to fulfill its valuable mission.

What we need is a top-to-bottom restructuring of AC&C - a new model that reconstitutes the organization into a quasi-independent, not-for-profit with a large, diverse board that can bring both new resources and new expertise to the city's animal welfare system. The city has done this before: in the late 1970s, Central Park was in a state of disrepair and neglect. Today it is the nation's premier urban oasis, thanks largely to \$390 million in funds raised privately by the Central Park Conservancy, since it's founding in 1980. Although the Parks Department retains policy control over the park, 85 percent of its \$37.4 million annual budget is raised independently by the Conservancy and its dedicated, 60-member board.

We can and should establish a similar model for AC&C. New York's animal-loving community is large, diverse and deeply passionate about the humane treatment of animals. The City should harness this energy and fund-raising potential. We need to throw open the doors of the city's shelter system and create a new management structure for AC&C - one that can leverage both the city's financial and human capital. If AC&C had a board capable of raising significant funds, there's no question in my mind that we could finally get full-service shelters built in the Bronx and Queens.

Three weeks ago I unveiled this proposal and asked New Yorkers to show their support by signing an online petition. To date, we have already amassed over 7,000 signatures. We have also been contacted by individuals willing to step up and help fund a new, self-sustaining AC&C. It's clear that the New York animal care community is able and willing to help re-structure AC&C into the kind of organization our City's animals deserve.

I strongly urge you to take this proposal into serious consideration as you deliberate on the merits of Intro 655. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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Testimony Related to Intro 655 Before the City Council Health Committee

Julie Bank
Executive Director
Animal Care & Control of NYC

Good morning Chairperson Arroyo, Council Member Lappin and members of the Health committee. Thank you for inviting me to speak today regarding my strong support for Intro Bill 655.

My name is Julie Bank and I am the executive director of Animal Care & Control of NYC, the non-profit organization which is under contract with the City of New York to perform animal control services. AC&C has been in existence since 1995, and our mission is to promote and protect the health, safety and welfare of pets and people in NYC.

Our contract with the City of New York consists of animal sheltering, field service and adoption programs. We rescue and care for nearly 40,000 animals a year and we are the only organization that takes in any animal in need, regardless of what they look like, what behavior they are exhibiting and how healthy they are. As a 501(c) 3, non-profit corporation, we go above and beyond our contract with the City to provide donor supported care and placement to our cities homeless animal population.

We rescue and care for cats like Gilbert, who fell from a high-rise apartment and was provided medical treatment thanks to our Special Treatment and Recovery (STAR) program; a dog named Leonard, who was left to die under a bridge and was nursed back to complete health and adopted; and a five week old kitten we named Verrazano because he was thrown from a moving car on the Verazzano Bridge and rescued by one of our field officers.

We also touch the lives of several hundred thousand people each year. For example, Mary who lives in Brooklyn and became very distraught when she lost her dog. We were able to reunite her with her beloved pet after tracing his microchip. Or the veteran who we were able to match with a dog to help him cope with his post traumatic stress disorder.

I am grateful for the dedication of the staff and volunteers who work tirelessly each day to do the best job that they can to help the animals of our great City. They know that despite the great work they do, recent budget cuts have made their jobs harder, which is why we are all so excited that additional funding is within reach.

AC&C staff believe that every animal and animal owner deserves attention and care. The animals deserve a clean place to sleep and exercise, quality food, human attention and medical care. The public expects appropriate customer service, and programs that keep animals safe. The efforts of our organization, with the collaboration of community partners, has been amazing and is demonstrated by the 49 % decrease in euthanasia between 2005 and 2010 and a 135% increase in adoptions during the same period.

If Intro 655 passes, AC&C will be able to build on the progress we have made and expand the care and services we provide. At a time when shelters in other places are struggling, and when City services are being stretched by budget cuts, this bill would

enable AC&C to see significant new resources. These resources will be dedicated to improving basic animal care, increasing medical attention for those animals in need, expanding receiving center and field service hours, and hiring additional clinical, shelter operation, and adoption personnel. Customer service staff will also be added to ensure a positive customer experience when visiting any of our care centers or calling AC&C seeking additional information, and generally increasing opportunities for both people and pets.

In short, this additional funding will significantly expand and enhance services and allow AC&C to provide even better care for the animals that we rescue.

I want to thank the Health Department, the ASPCA, the Mayor's Alliance and other groups for seizing the opportunity to enhance services for animals in our care, especially in such a difficult budget climate. I also want to thank the City Council for being so supportive of our work, and I invite all of you to visit our shelters and see first-hand the wonderful work that we are doing.

I strongly urge the Council to support the bill before you today. Thank you.



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**Michelle Villagomez, NYC Legislative Director
American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals**

Testimony before the New York City Council Health Committee

The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
September 9, 2011



THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

Statement by Michelle Villagomez, NYC Legislative Director
American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
Testimony before the New York City Council Health Committee

Good morning. I am Michelle Villagomez, New York City Legislative Director for the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA). I would like to thank the Health Committee and Madam Chairwoman Arroyo, for the opportunity to testify in support of Intro. 655 introduced by Councilmember Lappin which would restore programs and services to the City's animal shelters and result in increased funding for our animal care and control program.

The ASPCA and the mayor's Alliance for New York City's Animals have been in conversations with the City Council, the Mayor's office, and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH), to determine how to best address New York City's companion animal issues and improve conditions in our City's shelters. We work in close collaboration with the Mayor's Alliance for New York City's Animals and New York City Animal Care and Control (AC&C) and are committed to reaching the day when no New York City dog or cat of reasonable health and temperament is killed merely because he or she does not have a home.

Councilmember Jessica Lappin has introduced a bill that will restore vital programs and services and improve conditions at the City's animal care and control facilities. The legislation would: improve services in the Queens and the Bronx by increasing the hours of operation of receiving centers in those boroughs- having them operate 7 days a week 12 hours a day, up from 1 and 2 days, respectively; increase field services to rescue stray, injured and abandoned animals; ensure the maintenance of full-service animal shelters in Manhattan, Brooklyn, and Staten Island; require owners to spay or neuter any cats they own who are free roaming outdoors; require the

Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) to implement trap-neuter-return (TNR) rules; and require DOHMH to provide a report 24 months from the day the bill is signed that will provide key data on trends on the progress and quality of care at each full-service animal shelter and animal receiving center.

The bill also includes language defining the terms 'feral cats,' 'full-service shelter,' 'sterilization' and 'trap-neuter-return' (TNR), which are vital to understanding the full scope of issues affecting the pets and people of New York. DOHMH would be required to submit a report to the Mayor and City Council every 28th of February providing information on the management and operation of all full-service shelters. The additions to this section of the law will now require them to provide information related to the expanded services at the receiving centers and field services. More specifically they will need to report on: the monthly number of animals, disaggregated by borough, picked up by field services during regular business hours and delivered to (1) receiving centers and (2) full-service shelters; the monthly number of animals, disaggregated by borough, picked up by field services during off hours and delivered to (1) receiving centers and (2) full-service shelters; the monthly number of animals taken in and transferred to a full-service shelter from each receiving centers; and the current staffing levels at the shelters and receiving centers. They are also required to submit a report 24 months after the bill's effective date that summarizes and describes trends in the data they collect. We can use the key data contained in this report to assess progress, ensure quality of care at each of the full-service shelters, and determine future needs.

In conjunction with this legislation, the City will commit to increasing its investment in the shelters over the next three years by nearly \$10 million. By July 2014, the annual budget for the shelters will exceed \$12 million, or 77% above current funding, which is expected to add more than 100 staff to the shelters.

This legislative proposal would restore vital services, increase resources for our community and provide a difference not only for animals but for New Yorkers. These services are crucial to delivering the level of services that New Yorkers expect and deserve.

These are tough fiscal times and every city service has been challenged, so these restorations and expansions in services resulting from this legislation and increased funding present a significant change in the welfare of our community's animals.

We look forward to working with the Council to bring this proposed law to fruition and sharing our expertise with DOHMH during the rule making process.

We should seize this opportunity to help New York City's animals.

Thank you.



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**Julie Morris, Senior Vice President, Community Outreach
American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals**

Testimony before the New York City Council Committee of Health Council Hearing
on NYC Intro No. 655



Statement by Julie Morris, Senior Vice President, Community Outreach
American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
Testimony before the New York City Council Committee on Health

Good morning. I am Julie Morris, Senior Vice President of Community Outreach for the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA). I would like to thank the City Council Committee on Health for allowing me to address the Committee today on this important topic.

I have worked in animal sheltering for over thirty years, the majority of time in a variety of progressively responsible management positions including Executive Director. I headed the Humane Society of Huron Valley (Ann Arbor, MI) for many years. In my current position at the ASPCA, I oversee six departments that work to provide positive outcomes for animals at risk including the ASPCA Adoption Center, Community Initiatives, ProLearning, Veterinary Outreach and Shelter Research and Development.

The ASPCA would like to thank City Council Speaker Christine Quinn, Council Member Jessica Lappin and urge the City Council to enact Intro. 655. The current staffing and services of the NYC Animal Care and Control are unacceptable. Current staffing levels are inadequate to provide an appropriate level of quality of care and medical services. Intro. 655 would allow AC&C to restore key services and staffing to acceptable levels as well as provide a safety net for New York City's animals.

The creation and sustainability of a comprehensive and effective animal control program in NYC requires the partnership of many groups and agencies including the ASPCA, Mayor's Alliance and over one hundred and fifty

plus rescue groups working daily in collaboration with Animal Care and Control. The goal of the partnership is to increase adoptions and transfers; increase the number of spay/neuter surgeries, reduce euthanasia and reduce intake through TNR.

The ASPCA's role includes: transferring animals from AC&C to the ASPCA Adoption Center; Spay/Neuter services for all five boroughs; Humane Law Enforcement; and grant-making and services to the community. The ASPCA has provided staff expertise to AC&C on a daily basis to assist with shelter operations, behavioral assistance and training and shelter medicine expertise. Kate Pullen (ASPCA Senior Director, Community Outreach) and Trish McMillan (ASPCA Director of Applied Research and Behavior) have been working with AC&C on a daily basis for the last seven months. Kate is an expert in Shelter Operations and Standard Operating Procedures and Trish is an expert in Animal Behavior. The ASPCA recently hired Dr. Stephanie Janeczko (ASPCA Senior Director of Community Outreach Shelter Medicine Programs) to predominately concentrate on AC&C medical protocols, training and shelter medicine.

The Mayor's Alliance has created and maintains collaboration between AC&C and rescue groups, provides grants for capacity building, adoption and spay/neuter subsidies to incentivize these services, the Feral Cat Initiative and most recently Lost & Found services. The large number of rescue groups allows for increased transfer and placement of AC&C animals and contributes in great part to the increased live release rate. For all these groups to work effectively and successfully it requires that AC&C be funded at levels where it will be able to do its job of providing adequate sheltering and care, field services and provision of services in all five boroughs. Currently, despite the AC&C staff best efforts they are not able to provide this because of limitations incurred from short staffing and limited resources.

The ASPCA strongly believes that there should be animal shelters in all five boroughs but we need improvement NOW! This year, an additional \$1 million will be invested, and by July 2014 the City's annual budget for sheltering and services will exceed \$12 million, a 77% percent increase over current funding. Providing these additional funds will enable AC&C to save more lives and prevent animal suffering.

Intro. 655 would allow for AC&C to hire new staff including management positions, kennel technicians, adoption counselors, dog walkers, canine and feline assessors and veterinary staff. Additionally, Quality Control Coordinators, staff trainers and New Hope staff members are needed to help facilitate quality of care and placement of more animals.

The ASPCA will continue to work with NYC Animal Care & Control, the NYC Department of Health, the Mayor's Alliance and individual rescue groups in hopes of creating a humane community.

Thank you.



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**Dr. Jennifer Lander, Director of Medicine, Adoption Center
American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals**

Testimony before the New York City Council Health Committee

The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

September 9, 2011

Statement by Dr. Jennifer Lander, Director of Medicine, Adoption Center
American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
Testimony before the New York City Council Committee on Health

I'm Dr. Jennifer Lander. I am the Director of Medicine for the Adoption Center at the ASPCA and have worked in this position for over 7 years. I oversee the medical care of over 3,000 animals that come through our shelter each year and I develop medical protocols for our facility. I also help manage population flow in our shelter, guiding animals from various sources through the adoption process with special attention to infectious disease control and prevention.

The ASPCA has an ongoing relationship with Animal Care and Control of New York City (AC&C) since its inception. We work in close collaboration with the Mayor's Alliance for New York City's Animals, and AC&C to increase adoptions, transfers, spay/neuter, as well as reduce euthanasia and intake. We take in more animals from AC&C than any other single agency. In 2010, we pulled nearly 1,700 animals and this year so far we have pulled over 1,000 animals from AC&C.

The current budget resulting in short-staffing prevents AC&C from implementing effective protocols for the prevention of infectious disease outbreaks. In addition, the current lack of capital funds prevents AC&C from installing an adequate HVAC system ensuring adequate air quality to the animals in its care, resulting in a greater risk of disease. When animals from AC&C arrive at our facility we see a nearly 100% outbreak rate of infection, typically upper respiratory infections, including influenza. These conditions can become very serious, to the point of being life-threatening, but are entirely preventable. The number of animals infected and the severity of disease symptoms can both be dramatically improved with adequate staffing, resources for staff training, and capital improvements. The financial investment that will arise from the passage of Intro. 655, will lead to better quality of life for the animals, less disease, and ultimately save

more lives. Another effect of this very important funding, AC&C would have adequate staffing to implement proper cleaning and disinfection protocols so as to prevent disease transmission.

There are many reasons why funding for AC&C staffing and resources would ultimately benefit New York City's homeless animal population and improve outcomes. Spending on up front, basic needs would decrease costs later when animals can move through the shelter quickly. Consequently, healthier populations will be transferred to other facilities, like the ASPCA, would require less time and resources at the receiving facilities, thus increasing the number of animals that can be taken in by that facility from AC&C shelters. Having healthier populations housed in AC&C and being adopted by the general public would reflect positively on NYC's attention to homeless animals and would create a healthier and safer NYC animal population.

We will continue to support AC&C by pulling animals from their shelters and we look forward to the improved conditions for the animals and the shelters as a result of this legislation and increased funding.



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Dr. Steven Hansen

**Chief Operating Officer
American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals**

Testimony before the New York City Council Health Committee

The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
September 9, 2011



THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

Statement by Dr. Steven Hansen
Chief Operating Officer
American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
Testimony before the New York City Council Health Committee

Good morning. I am Dr. Steven Hansen, Chief Operating Officer for the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA). I would like to express our support of Intro. 655 introduced by Councilmember Lappin.

The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) recognizes that Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) is the most humane and effective approach to managing the feral cat overpopulation problem in the United States. Intro. 655's requirement that the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene issue rules regarding TNR programs is a positive step in working towards controlling the City's feral cat population.

The endorsement of TNR by the City will reduce reproduction of stray and feral cats. A TNR infrastructure already exists through the ASPCA, Mayor's Alliance, Feral Cat Initiative, Humane Society of NY, Neighborhood Cats and the Toby Project. Our mission is to put an end to the tragic euthanasia of adoptable animals within New York City's five boroughs by addressing the animal crisis at its source- in the heart of the city's local communities. We recognize that many of the most serious overpopulation and animal health crises arise in neighborhoods with limited access to veterinary care, so we bring these services directly to the community. The ASPCA has intensified its efforts to eliminate euthanasia of homeless dogs and cats. In support of this mission-centric goal we provide free and low cost spay/neuter (S/N) surgeries in NYC. We operate six surgical trucks including one outfitted to travel cross country.

In 2010, we provided 29,000 surgeries including 16,000 for qualifying low income pet parents and 13,000 for rescue and other organizations. These surgeries included 20,500 cats and 8,500 dogs. This year, we will provide 40,000 free or low cost spay/neuter surgeries and vaccinations to qualifying pet parents and rescuers in underserved areas of NYC on a first come, first served basis. To date, we have provided Animal Care and Control (AC&C) shelters in Brooklyn with 291 surgeries and in Manhattan with 341 surgeries. This year, in addition to our mobile clinics, we launched our Ridgewood Spay/Neuter Clinic, our NYC Focused Project and our National Spay/Neuter Project.

We believe we must achieve 50-60,000 targeted incremental surgeries over several years to substantially reduce intake at AC&C shelters. Our goal is to serve those clients who will not seek or cannot afford spay/neuter services in a veterinary hospital. This approach ensures the surgeries we provide are in addition to surgeries already occurring. To add capacity, we opened a stationary clinic in Ridgewood, Queens. Our clinic staff completes approximately 350 surgeries per week focused on local animal rescue groups and others. We provide transport to increase ease of use and maintain volume.

This year, we launched our NYC Focused Project. This effort is designed to measure the impact of S/N on dogs and cats at risk of entering the sheltering system or becoming part of the feral population in NYC.

When developing this research project, our Shelter R&D team studied AC&C shelter intake data to identify areas of high free-roaming cats beyond what was expected based on human population alone. In addition, we selected areas where we identified contacts that currently feed and care for cat colonies. The study design includes two areas where we will focus spay/neuter resources after establishing baseline counts and two areas in which last year's level of TNR will continue. This design allows us to compare effects of intensive TNR. We have teamed up with wildlife ecologists at Lincoln Park Zoo in Chicago to accomplish our population estimates. In the end we hope to show the effect of intense TNR and expand our efforts based on our experiences as measured by a decrease in juvenile cats and an increase in ear-tipped cats in our intensive TNR locations.

We look forward to working with the City to encourage spay/neuter.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today.



THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS ®

**Aimee Christian, Vice President of Spay/Neuter Operations
for
Jesse Oldham, Director of Community Outreach
American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals**

Testimony before the New York City Council Health Committee

The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

September 9, 2011



American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
Testimony before the New York City Council Health Committee

Good morning, I am Aimee Christian, Vice President of Spay/Neuter Operations at the ASPCA. I have been overseeing all of the ASPCA's spay/neuter initiatives both nationally and in New York City since 2005. About 35% of the 40,000 spay/neuter surgeries our department currently performs every year in New York City are for rescue animals, thousands of which are feral cats brought to us for spay or neuter as part of a TNR, or trap-neuter-return, project. As such I work closely with AC&C, the Mayor's Alliance for New York City's animals, rescue groups, foster networks and more individual TNRers than I can count. We all share the common goal of wanting to end pet homelessness and the euthanasia of healthy, adoptable animals. I am here speaking for Jesse Oldham, Senior Administrative Director of Community Outreach for the ASPCA. (Jesse ran a TNR 501c3 from 2004-2009 in Brooklyn, NY and I knew her in this capacity long before she joined the ASPCA as an employee.)

The ASPCA endorses TNR- that is why I urge you to support Intro. 655.

Trap-Neuter-Return (referred to as TNR from here on) is a humane method of feline population control that entails humanely trapping cats, having them spayed or neutered, rabies vaccinated and returning them to their original location. While returning cats to their original location is not an intuitive step in a program that addresses population control, the process exists because the sterile cats act as placeholders, preventing a new set of reproducing cats from moving into the area. With this process the overall feline population numbers decline over time. When cats are removed and not returned, a "vacuum effect" occurs and new, reproducing cats move into the area that is no longer occupied by the resident cats. The reproducing cats not only then continue to contribute to the overpopulation issue but still display a number of community nuisance behaviors that spayed and neutered cats do not display.

During the TNR process, cats who are good candidates for adoption such as friendly cats or young kittens are pulled from the streets and are found homes while the cats who are feral are returned to their original location with an eartip marking, indicating that cat is sterile. Despite its connotation, feral cats are not typically aggressive and make every effort to avoid human contact.

Fixing free-roaming cats decreases their chance for illness as it reduces fighting and mating which entail the transmission of body fluids. Fixing these cats also provides a community service for the surrounding neighbors as there is less smell (male spraying is reduced greatly), less noise (mating and fighting noises are reduced greatly or entirely), less cats (no reproducing cats, no females in heat attract less male cats to the area) and many residents have commented on the efficacy of free-roaming cats keeping rodents away. The cats also receive a rabies vaccination, administered at the time of sterilization, to help protect the cats, and thus the community, against rabies.

Currently the ASPCA partners with NYC's Feral Cat Initiative. Feral Cat Initiative provides a 4-hour training workshop on TNR best practices including but not limited to: community involvement, how and why TNR works to control feline populations, responsible feeding practices, outlining subsidized spay/neuter options, rabies vaccinations and safely and properly using proper TNR equipment. If an individual is following proper protocol, they will never have direct contact with the cat. This is a Neighborhood Cats certification workshop; the certification enables participants' use of local TNR resources. FCI also provides TNR coaches for hands-on assistance as well as situation-specific advice and outreach materials. Both the ASPCA and FCI manage equipment-lending banks and the ASPCA is a provider of spay/neuter for both feral and adoption-candidate cats for the rescue community.

Trapping and euthanizing the cats has not worked to control population numbers in the past, nor has trapping and moving them elsewhere so we do not recommend either of these methods. They are not effective, carry a heavy price tag and do not have community support.

Personal Rescue Experience:

From my personal experience, as someone who began TNR years ago in South Brooklyn, I have seen blocks littered with over twenty cats be reduced to a maintained population of 7 over just a couple of years. Another couple of years later, I am left with just two adults at my feeding station. I have heard countless stories from TNR caretakers in New York City reflecting similar success stories. I have had neighbors thank me for the reduction in noise outside their bedroom windows and the cessation of male cat spray on their car tires. I have also had people thank me covertly, since taking care of these cats publicly became such a point of shame with people who had been barraged by complaints from their ill-informed neighbors, neighbors who thought they wanted to enable the procreation of cats outdoors because they didn't know what TNR was.

In the seven years I have done public outreach for TNR as a humane population control method I have seen public awareness go from just about everyone being confused as to what a "feral cat" is to knowing the difference between a feral cat and a friendly cat and having some awareness about TNR. In these one-on-one discussions about community cats, the number of people who know about TNR and know they can speak to their neighborhood cat feeders about TNR is growing. As everyone knows, NYC's feline overpopulation is an issue partly because most members of the public expect and understand outdoor cats as they are – intact and outside -- in a way that free-roaming dogs would never be accepted. I truly believe that in order for TNR to reach a critical tipping point for population control in NYC, we need to create the public expectation that all free-roaming cats, friendly and feral, need to be fixed. It is not intuitive for a member of the public to know that a cat who normally cannot be handled can be fixed. However, that is a teachable lesson. Ideally, if a member of the public sees a cat outdoors, they know to look for that telltale sign that a cat has been fixed – an eartip. If the cat is not fixed, they know that TNR assistance and subsidized spay/neuter are a viable option in NYC.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today.



THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS ®

Melissa Norden, Chief of Staff

American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

Testimony before the New York City Council Health Committee

The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

September 9, 2011



THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

Statement by Melissa Norden, Chief of Staff
American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
Testimony before the New York City Council Health Committee

I am Melissa Norden, Chief of Staff for the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA). On behalf of the ASPCA and our 2.5 million nationwide supporters, with over 100,000 right here in New York City, I urge you to support Intro. 655, which would restore programs and services to the City's animal shelters and result in increased funding for our animal care and control program.

With over 8 million residents and more than 3 million companion animals, New York City's 5 boroughs have long been the ideal backdrop for many of the ASPCA's programs. In 2010, we made an investment of \$20.5 million in private funding in New York City direct animal care programs. Additionally, over the last 6 years, the ASPCA has awarded grants of more than \$7.5 million to the Mayor's Alliance for New York City's Animals, which is a coalition of more than 150 animal rescue groups and shelters working with the City's Animal Care & Control (AC&C) to end the killing of healthy and treatable cats and dogs at the City's shelters.

The ASPCA works in communities all over the City, using donated funds, to offer such services as low-cost and no-cost spay/neuter and vaccination clinics; a premiere hospital that allows us to serve shelter pets, as well as the public's companion animals; and a Humane Law Enforcement team that investigates animal cruelty. We keep the needs of AC&C in mind when structuring our programs.

Annual budget cuts to New York City's animal care and control program have had a predictably negative effect on New York City's residents and our at-risk animals, which has resulted in the elimination or

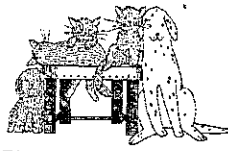
restriction of basic services like the lost and found program and field operations, which picks up stray and injured animals all over the city. Hours have been reduced at the receiving centers to one day in Queens and two days in the Bronx. The call center at AC&C has been eliminated, so calls are being diverted to 311, which has little expertise in dealing with animal-related calls. Budget cuts have also led to the elimination of jobs at the City's 3 shelters, making it harder for the remaining staff to provide the best service possible to animals and potential adopters.

Lack of funding has been a major obstacle to our efforts to save the City's homeless animals. This has never been acceptable to us or to anyone who loves and respects animals. This is why we are grateful to Councilmember Jessica Lappin for introducing a bill that will restore vital programs and services and improve conditions at the City's animal care and control facilities and for the City's stated commitment to increasing its investment in animal care and control over the next three years by nearly \$10 million.

Recognizing the overwhelming economic and budgetary issues facing New York City, we believe that the delivery of a comprehensive plan (such as this) will in the short and long term result in improvements to the services provided to the people and animals of New York City. We continue to believe that each borough deserves a full-service shelter, and these new resources would be an important first step in the long term rebuilding of New York City's shelter system. In the future we would also like to revisit the issue of board composition and independence so that AC&C's board has a compliment of members with operational expertise as well as the ability to fundraise.

Our commitment to helping New York City's animals is the reason why we support Intro. 655. My colleagues will provide more information on the legislation and the work we do in New York City.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today.



Humane Society of New York

ANIMAL CLINIC / VLADIMIR HOROWITZ AND WANDA TOSCANINI HOROWITZ ADOPTION CENTER
306 East 59th Street, NYC 10022 / tel: (212) 752-4842 fax: (212) 752-2803

September 9, 2011

Thank you very much for this opportunity to speak today. The Humane Society of New York is pleased that, in these tough economic times, additional funding is being made available to help more homeless animals and to support the efforts of trap/neuter/return. The Society has been actively involved with “TNR” for over thirty years, and we continue to spay, neuter and treat feral cats in our clinic seven days a week. Simply stated: there are far more animals than there are homes to adopt them, and free-roaming cats reproduce and suffer endlessly. No one wants to see animals born only to see them die, and we know first-hand that TNR has significantly reduced the number of animals that would’ve been taken to one of the city shelters and euthanized. Spaying and neutering is the first line of defense in helping to control the overpopulation of animals, and TNR is a highly important component in bringing the number of homeless cats down to a manageable number anywhere, but especially here in New York City and again, thus reducing the number of animals that have to be brought into the city’s shelter system and killed. Again, we appreciate the increase of funds to help spay/neuter and we are grateful for the opportunity to speak to you today regarding this very important issue.

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Email: info.hsny@verizon.net / Website: www.HumaneSocietyNY.org

Teresa Russo-Staten Island, NY

I'm asking that Council Members vote **NO** on **Intro 655**. For the following reasons:

Intro 655 would provide for animal control officers in mobile vans to pick up free roaming cats. These officers wouldn't be able to determine on the spot whether the cat is feral, or a lost or abandoned pet, and whether it had been spayed or neutered. A large influx of cats collected and brought into shelters by animal control officers would flood an already overloaded shelter system. These cats would likely end up being euthanized. Instead of feral cats being rounded up by animal control officers, the city should work with rescue groups who use trap-neuter-return methods to humanely manage feral cat colonies.

Mandatory spay/neuter laws have not been shown to be effective in bringing down shelter populations or the amount of euthanasias. Most animals brought into the shelters are animals that were surrendered by their owners, or abandoned. Others come from illegal dog fighting operations. A large percentage of the animals I've seen listed in the Animal Care and Control shelters are pit bulls. Others are feral cats. The mandatory spay/neuter law would mainly affect pet owners who want to keep their pets.

The boroughs of Queens and the Bronx have been woefully underserved by the animal shelter system. This bill would now mandate that those boroughs remain underserved, by taking away the responsibility of the City to build shelters in those boroughs.

Any money set aside for Animal Care and Control should be used to promote adoptions of shelter animals, to help people to spay and neuter their pets with low cost or no cost options. People should be encouraged to adopt shelter animals, not discouraged with threats of fines.

Also, I would ask that Council Members consider a bill to ban the sale of puppy mill puppies in the city of New York. The city of Los Angeles passed such a ban this past June, and other cities around the county are considering similar legislation. It's outrageous that more and more puppies are being bred and sold for profit while in the mean time the shelters are full of animals that will be put to death simply because there are not enough homes.

Intro 655, Sept 9th 2011

Carol Moon

Good morning. I'm ~~Susan Simon~~ and I oppose Intro 655 in its present form.

How many of you have ever visited the city shelters? An uninviting "warehouse" in Manhattan, a horrible "internment camp" in Brooklyn, both on the fringes of the boroughs, where hardly anyone ventures to come if they want to adopt an animal. Do you know that when the Manhattan shelter was "renovated," they assigned only 18 cages in adoptions and only a little over 100 cages in the holding area for dogs in a system that takes in 40,000 animals each year? The result is that dogs and cats, who fare even worse, who could otherwise be up for adoption, remain in holding wards for lack of space. Then they get sick, in the disease-ridden shelters, can't go to adoptions and are killed.

Please do NOT support a bill that takes the City off the hook for being required to build shelters in the Bronx and Queens. It will mean that hideous numbers of our companion animals will continue to be killed for lack of space, in order to empty cages in the 3 already terribly overcrowded shelters. They are already killing @300 cats and dogs each week for space. The shelters and will be obliged to pack even more animals into the already overcrowded shelters, which will mean even higher kill numbers. A system handling over 40,000 animals each year and just \$10 million spread out over 3 years, for THREE shelters, plus 2 receiving centers. NY will still be below the national average in per capita spending by cities for animals in shelters. Shame on Mayor Bloomberg, Speaker Quinn, the ASPCA and the sponsors of this bill for not doing their homework. New York animals and our citizens will still be shamefully short-changed. Intro 655 barely allows for the restoration of basic, humane services that were severely cut or never offered unconscionable cuts in services that resulted in more animals suffering and being killed.

But perhaps the worst part of this is that there will be no fundamental change in the way the shelter system is run, nothing to change the failed paradigm of "in the front door and out the back door in plastic bags to the landfill" for over 10,000 healthy/treatable, adoptable animals each year...too many animals, not enough cages. They clear them out every night, for the next day's arrivals who will also be killed to make space.

The present ACC Board and DoH has failed miserably to do right by animals and the trust the public has placed in them; they must be removed as the agency in charge. Borough President Stringer has proposed a change of Board and structure that must be given serious consideration.

Moreover, nothing in the bill addresses how the monies will be allocated and used by an outdated, mismanaged shelter system and structure that still kills more than 10,000 animals each year. Taxpayers demand accountability!

And finally, Section 17-804 mandates sterilization (spay/neuter) of any cat that is found outdoors... There are no provisions for free or low cost spay neuter included in the bill, which could cause hardship and abandonment of even more animals. Mandatory spay neuter is punitive and the animals become the victims once again; it has been shown to be totally ineffective in cutting down numbers of animals killed or abandoned. And there is a requirement to produce proof if requested. Many cats are (I have 2 of my own that were found as strays); some strays are adopted by caring people and no such documentation exists.

There is a widespread consensus against the enactment of mandatory spay/neuter laws among national animal-welfare organizations including the ASPCA, the No Kill Advocacy Center, Alley Cat Allies, the American Veterinary Medical Association, the American College of Theriogenologists and the Society for Theriogenology, and the Anti-Cruelty Society. Best Friends and American Humane also are against mandatory spay/neuter laws. Critics of mandatory spay/neuter point to the fact that in Los Angeles, shelter killing and intake have dramatically increased after the passage of a mandatory spay/neuter law due to increased owner surrenders and pet seizures by animal control authorities.

Public Hearing
City Council
Health Committee
16th floor, 250 Broadway

WHAT'S WRONG WITH INTRO 655? A LOT!

Intro 655 should not be passed:

- because it mandates the sterilization of all outdoor cats. Over the years, many animal lovers have believed spay/neuter to be the solution. Instead, mandatory sterilization has emerged as part of the problem: The killing has actually increased in communities such as San Mateo CA and Kings County WA that have implemented mandatory sterilization.
- because it eliminates the law that mandates the presence of a shelter in each of the boroughs. Why should the animals of the Bronx and Queens be denied a vital service simply because they reside in those boroughs?
- because it lacks sufficient funding. NYC has allocated 10 million dollars for its shelters over the next three years, which, per capita, is less than other cities with shelters.

These problems are not being solved under the current shelter management system (DOH and the ACC Board). Evidently, its programs are not working if last year thousands of animals were killed in what are euphemistically known as "shelters."

The dogs and cats of NYC deserve better!

Merry Orling
514 Gramatan Ave
Mt Vernon, NY 10552-3049
(914) 282-9783
September 9, 2011

For The Record

[Proposed Bill Intro 655 will repeal section 17-801 of the repeal section 17-801 of the The Animal Shelters and Sterilization Act, Local Law 26, 17-801 – 1-808 to Title 17 of the New York City Administrative Code, and repeal and reenact 17 – 809].

To: NYC Councils Health Committee and Sponsors of Intro 655

Intro 655 will strip the landmark Shelter and Sterilization Act from one of its most important mandates that the DOH build full service shelters in the most populous and needy boroughs in the city. Having full service shelters in the Bronx and Queens is essential in relieving the overcrowding of animals in Manhattan, Brooklyn and Staten Island. Only with adoption centers can animals be placed in homes.

When field services resume and with the reinstatement of receiving shelters, even more animals will be cycled through to the shelter system to the other Boroughs and quickly be euthanized for lack of space.

After 11 years and 2 audits the DOH has not built shelters for the Bronx and Queens and has gone to great lengths and a court appeal to avoid doing so. Intro 655 will merely allow the DOH to skirt its legal obligation to Animal Care and Control while it burdens the shelter system with more animals than it has the capacity to keep, and withholds the adequate funding with which the shelter needs to humanely care for them.

DOH has cut the AC&C's budget annually for years but now it's offering to give \$10 million of it back. This money is urgently needed, but it is insufficient. Borough president Scott Stringer says that even with 10 million over the next three years, the city still would be spending only \$1.47 per resident. This will buy only one can of cat food. Rather, the Humane Society of the United States dictates that per capita spending should range from between 4 – 7 dollars. Now that's more like it!

Also progress reports should never be used as a bargaining chip; they should already be required. If the DOH will not be forthcoming, then giving them two more years to provide one will not give them any more incentive. Furthermore, a true account of the shelter conditions cannot be relied upon when the DOH denies that AC&C is in trouble, and dismisses the findings and recommendations in both of then controller, Billy Thompson's audits (2002,2006).

As members of this committee, I urge you to reject Intro 655 and keep The Shelter and Sterilization Act as is. I ask you to lift the AC&C from out from under the boulder that is the DOH and that is ensuring the shelter's failure. Borough President, Scott Stringer has a vision for the shelter that is a promising alternative; it is a public-private entity like the Central Park Conservancy, I hope that you will give it due consideration and recommend it to the Mayor.

Respectfully submitted,

Julia D. Stanton

**Statement of Stray from the Heart
NYC Council Hearing in relation to Int. No. 655
September 9, 2011**

Good morning Committee Chair and members of the committee. Thank you for giving Stray from the Heart the opportunity to speak at this hearing on behalf of the City's homeless animals.

Stray from the Heart is a not for profit, volunteer-based organization dedicated to the rescue, rehabilitation and adoption of homeless dogs.

Today, we ask this Committee and the City Council to:

- 1) Amend Intro. No. 655 to include and preserve Section 17-803 of the Administrative Code requiring full-service shelters in all boroughs.**
- 2) Create a separate and independent entity to implement and oversee the City's animal care and control policies.**

Since our inception a decade ago, Stray from the Heart has placed over 1,500 dogs in good homes – the majority of these dogs have come from the New York City shelter system, better known as the “ACC” As such, we have a vested interest in the well being of the thousands of wonderful dogs and cats who enter the ACC shelters, and care deeply about those who never have the chance to leave.

Our Current Animal Care and Control System

Under current law, the ACC operates under contract with the Department of Health and is obligated to accept any stray, lost or unwanted animal. But due to inadequate funding and crowded conditions, the ACC's mission has been diminished to euthanizing those animals who are not placed in a home or transferred to another shelter or rescue organization.

In 2010, the ACC took in 34,768 cats and dogs. Of that number, 15,493 were transferred to other shelters and rescue groups, and 9,373 were euthanized. Many of them were deemed “healthy and adoptable” but died simply for lack of shelter space.

While the euthanasia rate has declined in recent years, the reduction has come in large part at the expense of the city's small rescue groups, whose budgets have been depleted by the cost of boarding and providing veterinary care to sick cats and dogs taken from the ACC. As a result, many of these small charities have been forced to take in a fewer number of animals. Fewer animals leaving the ACC shelters will eventually lead to a rise in euthanasia rates. The harsh reality is that reliance on the animal rescue community to do the work of the ACC is a system that is no longer working.

Intro 655

The proposed bill would create a new system that is equally unworkable. Increasing receiving hours without increasing shelter space is short-sighted and fiscally illogical. Where will the dogs and cats dropped off at the receiving centers go? The existing shelters are already severely overcrowded. If you were to visit the shelter on a recent Sunday, you would find dogs stacked in crates in the hallway. It is a fallacy to suggest that increasing receiving hours without a plan for handling the increased flow of animals is a meaningful improvement.

Without an accompanying increase in shelter space, dogs and cats brought to receiving centers will have to be transferred to the existing full-service shelters where overcrowded, disease infested conditions have reached critical proportions. These are the very same conditions that led to the enactment of the Animal Shelters and Sterilization Act of 2000; the very same Act the proposed law intends to repeal. Such repeal will result in the needless death of thousands of cats and dogs, many of whom could be cherished family pets if given the chance to live.

The Need for full-service shelters in the Bronx and Queens

While there are some positive provisions in the proposed bill (e.g., the restoration of field services, the feral cats trap-neuter-return program and the requirement to spay/neuter owned free-roaming cats), repealing Section 17-803 of the 2000 animal shelter law does not address the fundamental problem facing the City's animal shelter system.

Contrary to the view of the Department of Health, the need for full-service shelters in all five boroughs is an essential component to any policy designed to reduce overcrowding and therefore euthanasia. In a recent New York Post article, dated July 28th, Deputy Health Commissioner Dan Kass complained that "Two more shelters would cost \$26 million to construct and about \$10 million to \$12 million a year to maintain." He also argued that the need for shelters in all boroughs is no longer a model that makes sense. However, this view is not supported by any scientific data, nor shared by the experts in the animal welfare community, all of whom agree that in order to reduce euthanasia you must first reduce the crowded conditions in the existing shelters.

In fact, only three years ago, the ASPCA called for the City to comply with the 2000 animal shelter law requiring full-service shelters in the Bronx and Queens. The ASPCA President, Ed Sayers, stated:

"It's unheard of for cities the size of these two boroughs to be without full-service animal shelters. Even cities with one half of the population of each of these boroughs have service shelters. If it were its own city, Queens, with a population of more than 2.2 million, would be the fourth largest in the nation. The Bronx, with a population of more than 1.3 million, would rank

seventh....Building these much needed facilities would help decrease New York City's overall euthanasia rate by reducing crowded conditions....and provide opportunities for residents to adopt animals in their own communities." See ASPCA Press Release, dated March 8, 2008.

Although Mr. Sayers negotiated Intro 655, he has not abandoned his view that the City should build additional full-service shelters. In a letter recently published by HuffingtonPost.com, Mr. Sayers emphasize the need for the additional shelters and explain why the ASPCA had been working "behind the scenes" to get additional funding for the ACC:

"Let me be clear – of course I want the city to build shelters in the boroughs that currently do not have them. But the reality is that the city does not have to do this based on a recent appellate court's ruling (in re Stray from the Heart v. Dep't of Health and Mental Hygiene of the City of New York)...."

A similar declaration was made recently by Jane Hoffman, President of the Mayor's Alliance for NYC's Animals. In an article published by The New York Companion three weeks ago, August 18th, Ms. Hoffman acknowledged the problem at the ACC saying "We need full-service shelters in all five boroughs." Ms. Hoffman, who supports the proposed bill, points to appellate court's ruling, the current budget and political reality, and the need to "get something done to deal with the crisis right now"

Despite this reality, there is unanimous agreement among animal welfare professionals that full-service shelters in the Bronx and Queens are critical to the success of the City's animal care and control policies. As the human population in these boroughs continue to grow, so will the number of homeless cats and dogs. .

The restoration of funds to the ACC is a welcomed measure to address the ACC's crisis on a short-term basis. But without full-service shelters in all five boroughs, the current crisis will continue to grow. The fact that today's budget and political considerations do not favor full-service shelters in the Bronx and Queens should not be a reason to repeal the only piece of legislation that acknowledges the problem at hand and establishes a plan of action to address it.

The City Council cannot and should not abandon their commitment to the welfare of our homeless animals simply because the Department of Health has refused to implement the existing shelter law. Repeal of Administrative Code Section 17-803 will condone the Department of Health's deliberate refusal to comply with the statute enacted by the City Council 10 years ago. Stray from the Heart has attempted, through the judicial system, to compel the Department to implement the current shelter law. The appellate court rejected our suit for lack of standing but did not rule on the merits of our claim. Rejecting our law suit for lack of standing does not mean that the Department does not have to comply with its statutory duties.

In early June, we filed a motion for leave to appeal the issue of standing to the highest court. However, passage of Intro 655, as proposed, will essentially tell the Court of Appeals that the Department's duty under current law is no longer enforceable. We therefore ask you to allow the judicial system to rule on this very important issue affecting the future of our animal shelter system.

The need for structural change

New York City's animal shelter system has a long history of inadequate funding and poor leadership. It is a dysfunctional system that lacks the necessary autonomy to be successful, and operates under a constant crisis management model. Rather than putting a band-aid over a critically wounded system, the City Council needs to examine the root of the disease and address it with a long-term, result based plan.

Such a plan has been proposed by Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer. His plan calls for a top-to-bottom restructuring of the ACC, with emphasis on creating a separate and independent ACC system with a "large and diverse board that can bring both new resources and new expertise to the city's animal welfare system." The board should be comprised of individuals with demonstrated interest and experience in animal welfare and fund raising.

If the ASPCA can raise 130 million dollars a year to run its operations, why can't the City of New York, the largest and wealthiest city in the nation do the same for its shelter system? Many of New York City's taxpayers are animal-loving people and care deeply about how our government treats them. They are also savvy and understand the cost to reform a broken shelter system, and would not want you to approve a plan destined to fail. We therefore ask you to support Mr. Stringer's proposal to reform the ACC -- a plan that is logical and fiscally responsible.

Conclusion:

Intro 655 is a politically expedient, short-term fix for a much larger and deeper problem requiring a long-term solution. We therefore urge the City Council to amend this bill to include the requirement of full-service shelters in all five boroughs, and to create a separate, autonomous entity to implement and oversee the city's animal care and control policies.

The additional shelters will significantly reduce the number of dogs and cats euthanized each year due to shelter space and illness due to overcrowded conditions.

An independent ACC will promote the recruitment of individuals with knowledge and experience in animal welfare, animal sheltering and fund-raising. It will also promote volunteerism and sponsorship opportunities for the private sector. More importantly, it will transform our shelter system into a successful no-kill model in the very near future.

Thank you again for the opportunity to share our views with you today.

Presented to the City Council of N.Y.C. Committee on Health
Friday, September 9, 2011 at 250 Broadway, New York, NY

Re: Intro #655

By: Dr. John F. Sangiorgio, representing the Veterinary Medical Association of NYC

My name is John Sangiorgio I practice at CompleteCare Veterinary Center on Staten Island. I am representing the Veterinary Medical Association of NYC, which represents more than 250 practicing veterinarians. We feel that the passage of Intro 655 will benefit NYC in this way:

1. Reduce the number of people bitten by animals
2. Increase the number of pets adopted by New Yorkers
3. Increase the accountability of the shelter system
4. Increase the health status of pets in shelters making them more adoptable
5. Provide a place of reference for lost pets in the city facilitating their return home

For these reasons we support the passage of Intro 655.

**Jane Hoffman, President
Mayor's Alliance for NYC's Animals
New York City Council Hearing
Friday, September 9, 2011
Intro 655**

Good morning. I'm Jane Hoffman, President of the Mayor's Alliance for NYC's Animals. We're a not-for-profit organization working with the City of New York and in collaboration with more than 150 shelters and rescue groups to transform New York City into a no-kill community by 2015.

Intro 655 will provide funding needed now to reinstate vital shelter and field services that provide a safety net for New York City's animals and direct health and safety benefits to New York City's residents.

While we believe that full service shelters in all five boroughs are needed to provide the level of animal care and control a city of this size demands, we recognize that current political and economic realities say that we aren't going to get them anytime soon.

Therefore, the proposed budget reinstatement will allow Animal Care & Control of NYC (AC&C) to return to acceptable levels of services by building up staffing for the three AC&C shelters and field services over the next three years. This is crucial to maintaining adequate care of the animals in the shelters and rescuing lost, stray and injured animals from our city streets.

We at the Mayor's Alliance understand the difference that even a few additional hands can make. One day a week since June, six to nine of us have been walking dogs and cleaning cages at the AC&C Manhattan shelter. We see how just a few hours of additional personnel in the shelter can make a difference in the animals' care.

Additional staff is critical not only to maintaining adequate care for the animals in the shelters, but also to providing acceptable levels of field services. We have seen how budget cuts previously imposed upon AC&C produced negative consequences for the animals and the staff who labored to care for them. Intro 655's provision for increasing AC&C's funding to more than \$12 million by July 2014 will allow AC&C to achieve acceptable levels of staffing and services.

In the absence of full service shelters in Queens and the Bronx, we believe the provision for expanded hours of operation to 12 hours a day, seven days a week at the AC&C receiving centers in these boroughs will offer a safety net for the animals and services to pet owners in those boroughs.

We are pleased that the bill includes a provision for annual reporting regarding the management and operation of AC&C shelters by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) to the Mayor and the City Council. Likewise, we appreciate the

bill's language that does not limit the DOHMH's authority to offer additional services or facilities to facilitate the decline in the numbers of unwanted or uncared for animals in New York City.

We also support Intro 655's provisions that acknowledge our city's feral cat populations, and recognize trap-neuter-return (TNR) as the preferred method of humanely and effectively reducing their numbers. We look forward to providing input into the development of the rules concerning the registration of those individuals and groups conducting TNR and the establishment of criteria for such registration.

Moreover, Intro 655's provision that requires owners to spay or neuter any cats they own who roam free outdoors establishes an important preventive measure to reduce the number of births among outdoor and feral cats and encourages responsible pet ownership.

One final note: AC&C is a non-for-profit organization. Going forward, we look to DOH to expand the board of directors to include individuals who not only bring operational expertise to the board, but also the ability to attract critical funding to the organization. This will be needed in the long run to allow AC&C to become self-sustaining and to meet the demands of the future.

Evon Handras
Mayor's Alliance for NYC's Animals
New York City Council Hearing
Friday, September 9, 2011
Intro 655

Hello. My name is Evon Handras. I've been the Director of Administrative Services for the Mayor's Alliance for NYC's Animals since 2007. In this position I administer the Maddie's Spay/Neuter Project for Community /Stray Cats in NYC and the Maddie's Spay/Neuter Project in NYC for owned cats and dogs. I also work with the New York City Feral Cat Initiative, one of the Mayor's Alliance programs. I became a TNR-certified caretaker in 2005, and have been involved in many TNR projects over the years.

I understand that the Department of Health will create rules pertaining to the registration of individuals and groups conducting trap-neuter-return. We at the Mayor's Alliance look forward to providing input into that process.

We are pleased with the provision requiring owners of cats that are allowed to roam outdoors to have their cats spayed or neutered. While we believe that all cat owners should spay or neuter their cats and keep them indoors, we understand that this provision is specific to owners who allow their intact cats outdoors and contribute to the city's cat overpopulation problem. There is absolutely no excuse for any cat owner in New York City not to have their cats spayed or neutered. We have ample spay/neuter resources that are free or low-cost, and accessible to every New York City pet owner. The ASPCA now devotes all five of its Mobile Spay/Neuter Clinics to the public, and deploys these clinics throughout the city seven days a week. The Humane Society of New York, The Toby Project, and other programs also are available too provide low-cost and free and accessible spay and neuter.

Female cats that are not spayed and are allowed outdoors and become pregnant often end up on the street or at AC&C. Or if that doesn't happen, we have 5 or 6 more kittens who end up at the shelter or are given away to people who may not neuter them either, thus continuing the cycle. In my field experience, doing rescue and TNR, I have found that many of the cats are young male cats who are not neutered. Intact male cats, when they mature, begin to spray. While this is perfectly normal behavior for the cats,

it is not acceptable to most pet owners, and the cats end up on the street or at AC&C.

This provision of the bill promotes responsible pet ownership. It eliminates the risk that owned, free-roaming cats will contribute to the city's cat overpopulation crisis, and, in addition, provides health and behavioral benefits for the cats.

I urge the City Council to make it even clearer that the provision that requires owners to spay/neuter cats they allow to roam outdoors is not intended to cover feral cats. It seems clear from the definition of feral cats and TNR and the Commissioner's rules to come about registering people who do TNR that the City Council realizes that the heart of TNR is neutering. The provision applies to people who willfully allow their un-neutered cats to go outside.

In my experience, most New Yorkers don't know what TNR is. They don't know what to do if they find a stray or feral cat, or a litter of kittens. Many of them want to help, but they lack the information and resources to take the next step. New York City has the unique opportunity to educate people about TNR, and spay/neuter, and we hope it will seize the opportunity to educate the public – through 311, through NYC-TV, and through public service announcements.

For these reasons, I urge the City Council to pass Intro 655.

**Testimony of Nancy Taylor,
President & CEO
Bideawee, Inc.
Committee on Health
September 9, 2011**

Good morning, Chairperson Arroyo and Members of the Committee on Health. Thank you very much for allowing me the opportunity to appear before you this morning.

I am the President & CEO of Bideawee, Inc located at 410 East 38th St. in Manhattan. For 108 years, Bideawee has remained steadfastly committed to saving lives and promoting safe, loving long-term relationships between people and pets.

Our organization is a member of the Mayor's Alliance for New York City's Animals and enjoys a successful association with Animal Care & Control of NYC as a New Hope Partner. Since 2007, 1,260 cats and dogs have been transferred from AC&C to Bideawee to find their forever homes. We've seen first-hand the challenging and heroic work AC&C employees have undertaken on behalf of homeless pets with limited resources and an eroding budget.

I'm here today to express my strong support for Intro 655 that will restore urgently needed programs and services for our city's animal shelters.

Having the ability to add staff, expand days and hours of service and increase rescues for stray, injured and abandoned animals can provide much-needed impetus to our city in achieving its strategic objectives of increasing adoptions and decreasing homelessness.

And in this challenging economic environment, a three-year financial commitment to increase the AC&C budget by 77% over existing levels will undoubtedly save lives, decrease suffering and threats to public health and safety.

I wish to commend Council Member Lappin, Speaker Quinn, the Mayor's office and the Health Dept. for their consideration of these issues that impact the four-legged and two-legged citizens of our city.

Thanks very much for your interest and attention.

Carly Marie Knudson, Executive Director
New Yorkers for Clean, Livable and Safe Streets

Testimony before the New York City Council Health Committee

I am Carly Knudson, Executive Director of New Yorkers for Clean, Livable and Safe Streets (NYCLASS). We are a non-profit animal advocacy organization committed to bettering the lives of New York City's animals. I would like to thank the Health Committee and Madam Chairwoman Arroyo, for this opportunity to testify in support of Intro 655 on behalf of our 40,000 members. This bill, introduced by Councilwoman Lappin will restore vital services and programs to Animal Care and Control and is a solid step forward for our City's homeless animals.

As a volunteer at the Brooklyn shelter, a foster mom to a rescue dog, an adoptive mom to a Pit Bull and a manager of a feral cat colony ...I understand the dire situation facing our city's homeless animals. It is a situation that will take a long time to fix and I believe that Intro 655 is the first of many steps.

Repeated budget cuts to New York City's Animal Care and Control program have resulted in a negative effect on the city's at-risk animals. As you have heard, receiving hours, the call centers and staff on-site are important aspects that have been impacted, making it more difficult for Animal Care and Control to run smoothly. Restoring these central services is essential if Animal Care and Control is going to move from its current state, into a shelter system that can realistically aim to be No-Kill in the future.

The commitment to increasing funding over the next three years by nearly \$10 million will lead to an increase in the number of staff on-site at our City's shelters which will relieve operational burdens allowing staff and volunteers to spend their time more effectively caring for and

providing enrichment to the thousands of cats and dogs that enter the shelter. Lack of funding has been a great obstacle to the efforts of the groups working to save the City's homeless animals. NYCLASS is grateful to Councilwoman Lappin for her leadership on this legislation. Re-establishing these key services is necessary for saving more lives of dogs and cats and improving public safety for New York City's residents. We are appreciative of Speaker Quinn and the Mayor's office for recognizing this issue, and commend them for tackling these critical concerns.

Given our current economic climate, it is an unfortunate reality that two full-service shelters in the Bronx and Queens cannot yet be built. But the plan set forth in Intro 655 is strong and will result in short and long term improvements to the system. That said, we firmly believe the future construction of two full-service shelters in the Bronx and Queens to be essential if Animal Care and Control is going to be rebuilt.

We support the efforts to rearrange the Board of Directors to include those individuals who have the expertise, compassion and drive to push Animal Care and Control towards becoming an independent agency. This independence will allow for a new ability to fundraise and capacity to make deep and significant operational changes aimed at saving more animals lives.

Again, I would like to reiterate on behalf of NYCLASS's 40,000 members our support of this legislation. Intro 655 has the teeth to make significant, improvements to Animal Care and Control. Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today.

Tiffany A. Lacey – Intro. 655 Testimony

My name is Tiffany Lacey and I am the Executive Director of Animal Haven, a shelter that finds homes for abandoned cats and dogs in the Tri-State area. We work to alleviate the overwhelming problem of homeless animals in New York by accepting owner surrenders and pulling from other groups – including Animal Care & Control. I am here today to speak on behalf of our constituents, staff and myself in support of Intro. 655. This bill, introduced by Councilwoman Lappin, will bring back much needed services that will save animals' lives.

Animal Haven is thrilled that, after intense lobbying by the ASPCA, the Mayor's Alliance for NYC's Animals, and Animal Care & Control, the city has finally agreed to allocate more funds to help homeless animals. I, personally, can't believe that I actually read the amount correctly – by July 2014 a 77 percent increase in the current budget. This is very impressive and illustrates the efforts of the above mentioned organizations and Mayor Bloomberg, New York City Council Speaker Christine Quinn and Council Member Jessica Lappin. Thank you to all of you for working on behalf of New York City's most helpless creatures.

Animal Haven has watched year after year as Animal Care & Control struggles with limited funds. They have been given the most difficult job in animal welfare in one of the largest cities in the world. For years, we have stood back frustrated and feeling as though our hands were tied – unable to help beyond pulling as many dogs and cats as possible.

But I'm also speaking to you today as a pet parent. I can tell you firsthand that Animal Care & Control's programs go well beyond the day-to-day, harsh reality of animal control. They touch human lives as well as animals. My dog Bernie was pulled from Animal Care & Control by Animal Haven two years ago. She was found lost and wondering aimlessly in the Bronx. As I'm sure many of you are pet parents too, I know you understand what it feels like to love your animal. They are our best friends. I can't imagine my life without my sweet dog. Without the services available by Animal Care & Control, she may never have been found. With this bill and the services and funding it offers, there will be many more success stories like Bernie happening every day.

The mere fact that Animal Care & Control will be open many more hours to receive homeless animals and will resume animal pick up is a huge win in of itself. Queens and the Bronx will have a location that they can count on seven days a week. Additional staff will mean more, better run services and healthier, more adoptable animals – all of which equals saving animals' lives.

So Animal Haven fully supports Intro. 655. The additional services offered through this bill are key to moving in the right direction to end animal suffering. And often one step forward is all it takes.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today.

My name is Kendra Mara and I have been a director at Animal Haven for nearly four years. Each day we witness firsthand the desperate situation of homeless animals in NYC and the struggles faced by a financially strapped shelter system.

Homeless animals in New York deserve more. In order to provide them with a better level of care and increase the number of cats and dogs being placed in permanent homes, Animal Care and Control needs the financial and legislative support of the city and its residents.

Intro 655 will make a dramatic difference in the lives of thousands of animals each month by increasing intake hours at the Bronx and Queens receiving facilities, providing 84 hours/week of pick up service for stray, injured and abandoned cats and dogs, requiring all free-roaming cats to be spayed and neutered, developing protocols to support vital T-N-R programs and working to increase dog licensing rates.

This is a big step for New Yorkers and for the animals that rely on us. With the increase of funding Intro 655 will grant, the current shelters in Manhattan, Brooklyn and Staten Island will have the resources to improve the level of care animals receive and ensure that critical services such as pick ups for stray, injured and abandoned animals are available seven days a week. Additional veterinarians and veterinary technicians will make it easier to treat animals in need of medical attention and help to keep those that are healthy on the adoption floor.

Obviously we would all love to see full-service shelters in every borough; unfortunately that does not appear to be a reality in today's strained economy. But I firmly believe that the components of Intro 655 are a significant step in the right direction and will allow the city to begin making substantial changes starting this year.

Animal Haven is very thankful for the tremendous efforts made by the ASPCA, the Mayor's Alliance for NYC's Animals, Animal Care & Control, Mayor Bloomberg, New York City Council Speaker Christine Quinn and Council Member Jessica Lappin. We are proud to stand behind them in support of Intro 655.

Speech For NYC Council Meeting on Proposed Animal Shelter Bill

First of all, the NYC shelter system is a disaster. If you don't believe me, just ask Jane Hoffman, who runs the Mayors Alliance for Animals. She is on record saying that it's in crisis, which is her politically-correct way of saying it's a disaster

Even with the new monies you are allocating in the budget, NYC will spend less than HALF the national average for the welfare of its animals, and THAT is why the money you are adding is like putting a band aid on a bullet wound. And let's get real here, this money is coming over the next three years...what's to prevent the next mayor from claiming that the city just doesn't have the funds available to increase the budget and decide to get this bill changed? You know, just like how Bloomberg did when he ignored YOUR vote to make it a law that the city build new shelters. Shelters, by the way, for two boroughs, Queens and the Bronx, that if they were cities, they'd both be in the top 10 populated cities in the country. Shelters that both Hoffman and Sayres have gone on record to say, are still urgently needed. Here's a question for you guys - Why did not one single council member ever challenge the Mayor and the DOH for not building the animal shelters that THIS council required be built.

I can guess your answer why the shelters are impossible – money, right? We're in a recession and there's barely enough money for people, much less animals...and that's EXACTLY you guys should amend this bill to remove the ACC from the Department of Health's power. Look, the funniest, yet saddest part of the funding issue is that the ACC Board has two hot-shot Wall Streeters and a guy who RUNS marketing at Penguin. Ask them how much money they've raised in fundraising. You don't have to – I checked out their Form 990...it's close to nothing. The fact is, they don't care about animals....Animals will never be considered a priority with Bloomberg, or if god forbid, Quinn becomes mayor.

THAT is why you should amend this bill to get the ACC out of the Dept of Health's grip. As you should know by know, Scott Stringer has offered up a great plan that is based on the Central Park Conservatory model. That way, we'd actually get people in upper management who do care about the animals, so they will fundraise, they will hire competent Executive Directors, dont get me started on Julie Bank, and they will make the NYC shelter system one that we're proud of and not embarrassed about.

Thank you.

Harris Bloom

Testimony for September 9, 2011
Jennifer Bristol

My name is Jennifer Bristol and I have worked at Animal Haven Shelter for over eight years. Animal Haven is a member of Animal Care and Control's New Hope Program as well as founding member of the Mayor's Alliance for NYC Animals.

I am here to support Intro 655. As someone who has worked with the staff at Animal Care and Control for over eight years, I am so happy to know that the city is considering allocating more funding. This budget increase is vital in order to help the homeless animals of New York City, in addition to the safety of our citizens.

Just by walking through the shelter, which I do on a weekly basis, you can see how understaffed it is. As a dog behavior expert recently told me after spending time at the AC&C, our city shelter has the best pit bulls on the adoption floor. I said I know that, but one else does. The dogs and cats that end up at the shelter need more care and effort until they find they forever home.

AC&C staff members love animals, and love what they do. They want nothing more than to save more animals. But since they are working on such a limited budget, that isn't feasible. Animal Care and Control needs help. Intro 655 will give the AC&C an opportunity to make things better for the animals of NYC. This legislation will also codify trap, neuter, and return programs for feral cats, which is so important to solving our city's pet overpopulation problem.

Animal shelters, rescue groups, and organizations such as the ASPCA and The Mayor's Alliance for NYC Animals have worked together so closely over the years to help the city's homeless dogs and cats. Together, we have decreased the euthanasia of animals every year. I am proud of the work we have all done -- But this work is never done. Dogs and cats are still being surrendered and brought to the shelter every day. Having more accessibility to the Queens and Bronx receiving centers, will help the staff, public and animals. Restoring these services is necessary in bettering the situation. If intro 655. passes, I can imagine how many more animals the AC&C, along with New Hope partners, can save!

Of course we all want a shelter in all five boroughs but right now that isn't being offered. I believe Intro. 655 is a step in the right direction to save our city's homeless animals. Thank you Mayor Bloomberg, New York City Council Speaker Christine Quinn and Council Member Jessica Lappin for working to help the future of NYC's animals.

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I am speaking on behalf of PETA and our 35,000 members and supporters in New York City who would like to offer their support of Intro 655. This legislation will allow Animal Care and Control to address the animal overpopulation crisis that plagues New York City, as well as begin to provide much-needed improvements to our city's shelters.

The \$10 million funding increase laid out in Intro 655 over the next three years will allow shelters to employ qualified staff and ensure that shelter's can stay open 7 days a week, giving a lifeline to the animals who might otherwise be dumped on the streets to die badly. Perhaps most importantly, these funds will give residents access to an affordable spay-neuter program—which is the only long-term way to reduce the number of homeless cats and dogs..

Although these are significant improvements, we urge the city council to consider a slight alteration to the proposed Trap, Neuter, Release program. Because of the many hazards homeless cats face in n New York City's concrete jungle, including disease, violent teens, unstable street people, and freezing cold icy weather, PETA would like to see trapped and neutered cats relocated to an well run indoor/outdoor sanctuary outside the city, rather than sent back to the harsh streets where they are often hated, hurt, and with few exceptions guaranteed a miserable life. We believe that where there's a will, there's a way, and that such a country haven would is possible to achieve.

Thank you for your consideration and for giving hope to the thousands of animals who badly need help.

City Council Public Hearing: Intro 655, Sept 9th 2011

My name is Zelda Penzel and I'm co-founder of SOS: SAVE OUR SHELTER ANIMALS. I'm here today to speak in opposition to Intro 655. This is a bad bill and a terrible deal for animals.

1. Eliminates law requiring shelters to be built in the Bronx and Queens, where only store front receiving centers exist (these 2 boroughs rank among top 6 most populated cities in the US). We still need those shelters and City should not be taken off the hook.

2. \$10 million over 3 years, barely restores humane/essential services that were cut and NY will still be below the national average in per capita spending by cities for animals in shelters.

3. How will that money be spent? Nothing in this bill designates how money will be allocated. There must be accountability!

4. Nothing in the bill addresses an outdated, mismanaged shelter system and structure that still kills more than 10,000 animals each year. The present ACC Board and DoH must be removed as agency in charge. Borough President Stringer has proposed an innovative change in Board and structure that must be considered.

5. Section 17-804 mandates sterilization (spay/neuter) of any cat that is found outdoors...and requirement to produce such proof if requested. Many cats are "previously owned", some were strays adopted by caring people and no such documentation exists; no provisions for free or low cost spay/neuter are included in the bill, which could cause hardship and abandonment of even more animals. Mandatory spay neuter is punitive and the animals are the victims again; it has been shown to be totally ineffective in cutting down numbers of animals killed or abandoned. There is a widespread consensus against the enactment of mandatory spay/neuter laws among national animal-welfare organizations including the ASPCA, the No Kill Advocacy Center, Alley Cat Allies, the American Veterinary Medical Association, the American College of Theriogenologists and the Society for Theriogenology, and the Anti-Cruelty Society. Best Friends and American Humane also are against mandatory spay/neuter laws. Critics of mandatory spay/neuter point to the fact that in Los Angeles, shelter killing and intake have dramatically increased after the passage of a mandatory spay/neuter law due to increased owner surrenders and pet seizures by animal control authorities.

Please do not pass this bill without giving serious consideration to these and other concerns that have been expressed. Thank you.

My name is Archie Gottesman and I am the Chairman of the Board of Animal Haven Shelter and have been so for the past five years. I am here today, on behalf of my board of directors, to voice our strong support for Intro 655.

In order to be crystal clear as to why we are supporting Intro 655, it is important first to understand Animal Haven, and second to understand what effect the ACC has on the entire face of Animal Welfare in New York.

First, Animal Haven. Animal Haven Shelter is a dog and cat adoption center that is located on Centre Street in SOHO. We have fashioned ourselves to look and act like a chic pet boutique. Our vibe is hip. Our marketing and public relations have an energetic feel. Our customer service is top notch. And all of this makes Animal Haven hugely successful. We have tripled our adoption rate over the last three years.

So, what does this have to do with the ACC? It is because the success of Animal Haven in many ways relies on the success of the ACC. At Animal Haven, because of our success as an adoption center, we are under pressure to constantly be filling our runs with adoptable pets that will otherwise be euthanized. Animal Haven does not have the space or the staff to have an intake facility to keep up with our demand. So, to fill our shelter, we go to the ACC, as often as twice a week, to pull dogs and cats and get them to Animal Haven.

When the ACC's intake facilities are not operating as successfully as possible, the result is that they do not have enough adoptable animals for us to bring to Animal Haven. This of course, makes groups like us go out of state to fill our shelter. We go to New Jersey and other areas to get dogs. Yet, we are a NY based group who wants to help decrease euthanization of NY animals. The only way to do this is to immediately get the ACC working, in the most effective and efficient way possible. Right now. Please, do not get distracted by people who do not seem to understand the core and urgent issues of NYC animal overpopulation. The ACC needs to operate properly right now and Intro 655 is the way to do it. Thank you.

For the Record

Leni Nalini Singh

9-9-11

~ ~ ~

LENI NALINI SINGH

98-32 57th Ave. 18G

Corona, NY 11368

Thank you everyone who has worked so hard in making this 10 million dollars available. Although I love certain aspects of Intro 655, I am forced to unfortunately vote:

No. Reasons:

a) There is No excuse for the DOH not to build a shelter in Queens with the excuse of objections. Current holding center in Queens, my

neighborhood is pitiful. A tiny bldg. w/ 8 cages for cats & 4 for dogs.

Located at the corner of Qns. Blvd & Horrace Harding (heavy traffic),

b) Yes to more ACC Field Officers but put

them to do what they've always done i.e. investigating abuse, hoarding & abusive rescue cases. As a former volunteer at ACC I have met many amazing staff so do where it is most needed.

c) TNR → I am truly with this for this is what I am also involved with so a resounding Yes to this.

Please SHELTERS
SHELTERS in my QUEEN
Neighborhood.

Thank all so much for all that is being done - WE NEED TO DO MORE.

Lemi Nalini Singh
Rescuer, Foster Parent,
TNR sp.

Sorry for this informal hard copy Courtney
While they've included some good things ^{Chandel}
There is a huge blind spot here though. ^{NYC 10065}

- The main concern of the citizen advocates

~~is~~ is: I am a member of PETA - plenty of us do not support GSS like the PETA representative here

- Euthanasia rates are too high!
(perfectly acceptable animals, such as tiny kittens are routinely euthanized for reasons such as "too young")

- The problem is due to lack of space.

2 major items in GSS are in direct conflict to easing the problems of high euthanasia & less space.

1) Every mention of increase in hours of receiving centers means more abandoned animals coming into the facilities. This equals less space, less space equals more killing.

2) Shelters are crowded enough without having to go into the communities to bring more animals in via cats/dogs at large, etc. This equals less space, which equals more killing. The idea that there are not enough homes for the # of homeless animals is that: just a myth

- The increase in receiving shelter hours is not an asset for the animals!
At all!!!

- The ASPCA hospital/shelter in Queens is completely unaccessibly by public transport.

- FYI - most adoptions are done by rescuers/fosters like me. We are overwhelmed as it is.

250 Broadway
16th Fl.
10 a.m.

September 8, 2011

Dear Speaker Quinn,

I am writing to respectfully request that you and other members of the City Council vote "No" on Intro 0655 bill at the New York City Council meeting and hearing on Friday September 9th 2011. This bill will repeal a section from the original law which required that full service animal shelters be built in all five boroughs, incl. the Bronx and Queens. As you know, right now the Bronx and Queens, both heavily populated areas have no full service animal shelters. This is just wrong. And so every night about 8-10 nice dogs are euthanized in each of the other shelters; Manhattan, Staten Island and Brooklyn. Why? For a very simple underlying reason ... "LACK OF SPACE". More dogs come in and so these shelters after a very limited time euthanize the former dogs to open up space for new dogs. How can we effectively stop this tragedy and heartbreak? How? Very simply. Build two more desperately needed animal shelters in the Bronx and Queens to appropriately take in the dogs from those areas. Is this asking too much? No, it's not. But Intro 0655 bill instead abdicates the City's legal responsibility to build full service animal shelters in the Bronx and Queens. This is not right. Lack of space is the crux of the tragic problem of euthanizing nice dogs....let's face it. So the smart solution would be to appropriately build two more animal shelters for the residents of Bronx and Queens and their dogs and cats. Yet, now the City through Intro 0655 bill will not do this. Why?

Further, Intro 0655 is illogical. The bill increases the pick up of stray, injured, abandoned dogs and cats to 12 hours a day, 7 days a week with a specific focus on Queens and the Bronx. The bill then increases the Intake Center hours and days for dogs and cats in Queens and the Bronx to 12 hours a day 7 days a week. Okay....so what should follow next? Two full service animal shelters in Queens and the Bronx should then be built to take in these animals, right?. Yet, this will not be done. Instead, the animals will be shipped to one of the already overcrowded shelters in Manhattan, Brooklyn and Staten Island. C'mon this makes no sense and will be disastrous for the dogs and cats.

Also, the City of New York should launch a PR advertising campaign to make New Yorkers in all five boroughs aware of the fact that they can adopt really nice dogs and cats from the Animal Care and Control Centers in each of these boroughs. Frankly, not very many New Yorkers are even aware of where the AC&C centers are and that they can again adopt nice dogs and cats from these AC&C centers. So let's get the word out!

I did one of the best things in my life this past July 2011. I helped rescue a brother-sister dog duo at the Manhattan AC&C. But when I was in the lobby there I saw other dogs with their owners (who were choked up with tears) because they were informed that there was no space at that time and the dogs would be euthanized on the spot. But I do appreciate the candor of the man at the desk for letting the owners know upfront the situation of no more space and what it would mean for their dogs because the owners were fully informed and really had to think twice about what they were doing. Then two other individuals in the lobby looked at me and asked me during the course of the hour if I could adopt these two other dogs. That's how desperate it got. I wish I could have and was totally heartbroken but I should have never been

put in this position. Had the two shelters in Bronx and Queens been built I feel this type of chaos would never have occurred, that which inflicted more pain on the owners and the dogs. As it turned out, a space opened for one dog but the other dog still had no space. Again the dog's owner was choked up with tears and the dog was whimpering. I do not know what ultimately happened to the dog but it brought me great anguish seeing his anguish and feeling helpless to do something for him outside of referring him at this late hour to some rescue groups. But the City of New York can do something and that is to open up two more shelters in Bronx and Queens to house the dogs and cats there. Building two animal shelters in Queens and the Bronx is the right thing to do, it needs to be done and it furthers the Mayor's Alliance mission of finally seeing an end to the senseless euthanasia of nice dogs and cats in the five borough area of New York City. However, Intro 0655 will prevent the building of the two necessary animal shelters in the Bronx and Queens. Therefore, I urge you for the sake of the persons in the Bronx and Queens and their dogs and cats to please vote "No" on Intro 0655 bill tomorrow. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Alexandra M. Walsh

amariawalsh@aol.com

631-490-5014

September 8, 2011

City Council Members:

My name is Donna Abbaticchio. I have been a volunteer at AC&C for about 3 years working with the cats and kittens. I know the relatively new administration is working very hard with the resources they have to offer the best possible care and service to abandoned animals in NYC. But too little resources and too many animals is not a successful long-term strategy. I urge you to move forward on increasing AC&C's funding to the maximum \$10 million.

I see staff giving up their meal hour to bottle feed kittens and working overtime to make sure all the animals are clean and fed. It is a hard place to volunteer because there are so many beautiful animals needing a home and I wish I could take a few home with me every time I am there. Unfortunately, you cannot just automate the facility, as many other types of businesses do and function with minimal staff. Animals are living beings who need care and human contact and socialization so they will be attractive to adopters.

The AC&C's public image can only be raised with the additional staff and programming support that this money will facilitate. More people need to know about adoption and other services. The publicity given to the kitten thrown from a car led to 140 adoption requests – AC&C needs more of that attention.

Thank you for your consideration,

Donna Abbaticchio
1317 First Avenue
New York, NY 10021

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 9/9

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: LISE CRUZ

Address: 122 Vanderbilt Ave 4A

I represent: Feral Cat Caretaker

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: AL Benninghoff III

Address: 418 E 89th St, New York, NY 10128

I represent: Myself

Address: SAME

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 655 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 9-9-2011

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Alexandra Walsh

Address: 11 School Lane Huntington NY 11743

I represent: _____

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 655 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

Name: Jane Hoffman (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 55 W 14th St

I represent: Mayor's Office

Address: 244 5th Ave

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

Name: Lucille DeFina (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 2749 Merrick Ave

I represent: myself and "HOPE for Hempstead Shelter"

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

Name: J. Bullock (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 79-10 34th Ave

I represent: CCAR Company TAM

Address: Anemial Protected

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. Intro 655 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 9.9.11

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Nancy Nolasco

Address: 150 E. 93rd 10d

I represent: Animal Care + Control

Address: 100th St, NYC

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 655 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 9/9/11

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Barbara Pasolunghi

Address: 171 Lexington Ave #111

I represent: myself + all friends of animals

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 9/9/2011

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: MARGARET MOORE

Address: 591 BROADWAY 4B

I represent: DOGS at RISK

Address: 591 BROADWAY 4B

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 655 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 9/9/2011

Name: Juha Stanton (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 52 Garden place

I represent: myself

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 658 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 9/9/11

Name: Dr. Hansen (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: _____

I represent: ASP/A

Address: 520 PM Ave.

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

Name: Zulic Rodriguez (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 34-34 44th St.

I represent: Astoria Queens

Address: Same

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Shaan Khan

Address: _____

I represent: Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer

Address: One Centre Street 10th Fl South NY, NY 10007

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 655 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Evan Hinds

Address: _____

I represent: Mayor's Alliance / Feral Cat Initiative

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 655 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 9/9/11

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Anne-Marie Karash

Address: 340 Orington Ave. Brooklyn, NY 11209

I represent: Humane Society of New York

Address: 306 E. 59th St., NY, NY 10022

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 655 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Carol Moon

Address: 36 Sickles St, #1B, New York, NY 10040

I represent: The Animal Project

Address: same

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 655 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 9/9/11

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Courtesy Chandel

Address: 11 E 168 St NYC 10065

I represent: City animals

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 655 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 9/9/11

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: NANCY TAYLOR

Address: BIDEAWE 410 EAST 38ST NY 10016

I represent: _____

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 655 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 9/9/11

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Michelle Villagomez

Address: 520 8^m Ave. 7^m Fl.

I represent: ASPCA

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 655 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Daniel Kass

Address: _____

I represent: DOHMH

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 655 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 9.9.11

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: T. FEANY A. LACEY

Address: 113 W. 82nd St. NYC 10024

I represent: A

Address: _____

◆ Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms ◆

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 9/9/11

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Harris Bloom
Address: 280 Riverside Dr. 4G NY NY 10025

I represent: citizen

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Jennifer Beestel
Address: 20 Dongan P.

I represent: Animal Haven

Address: 251 Centre St.

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 655 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: JENNIFER LANDER
Address: C/O ASPCA 424 E. 92nd St NY NY 10128

I represent: ASPCA

Address: 424 E. 92nd St. NY NY 10128

◆ Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms ◆

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 655 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 9/9/11

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: MELISSA NORDEN

Address: 40 ASPCA 520 8th Ave NYC 10019

I represent: ASPCA

Address: 424 E. 92nd St. NYC 10128

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 655 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 9/9/11

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Archie Gottesman

Address: 60 Fernwood Rd Summit NJ

I represent: ANIMAL HAVEN SHELTER

Address: 251 Centre St. NY, NY

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 655 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 9/9/11

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: JULIE MORIS

Address: 589 7th St. Bk. NY 11215

I represent: ASPCA

Address: 520 8th Ave. 7th Fl.

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 655 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 9/9/11

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Amee Christian

Address: 29 W. 138th St #6G New York NY 10037

I represent: ASPCA

Address: 424 E. 92nd St New York NY 10128

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 655 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 9/9/11

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Donna Abbaticchio

Address: 1317 1st Ave NYC 1002

I represent: ACC

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 655 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 9/9/11

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Julie Bank

Address: 11 Park Place

I represent: NYC ACC

Address: _____

▶ Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms ◀

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 656 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Mario Merino

Address: 125 Worth St NYC NY 10013

I represent: NYC DCHM

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 655 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 9/9/11

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Kendra Maza apt. PH-5

Address: 750 Columbus Ave, New York, NY 10025

I represent: Animal Haven

Address: 251 Centre St., New York, NY 10013

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 655 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: Sept 9, 2011

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: CARLY KNUDSON

Address: 1120 6th AVE STE 4172, 10036

I represent: New Yorkers for Clean Lived + Safe Streets

Address: 1120 6th AVE STE 4172

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 655 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 9/9/11

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: ARINA HINZEN

Address: 158 West 76th St, 1B

I represent: STRAY FROM THE HEART

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 655 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: JOHN SANGIORIO

Address: 1293-COVE RD SE 10301

I represent: VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 655 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Merry Orling

Address: 514 Gramatan Ave Mt Vernon

I represent: citizen

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

Name: Gerri Gewirtz (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 711 West End Avenue

I represent: Myself

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 9/8/11

Name: Roxann Delgado (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 1106 Mill St

I represent: BRONX M10461

Address: 1104 Mill St

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 9/9/11

Name: Esther Kostow (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 588 WEA

I represent: Shelter Reform Action Comm. H-ee

Address: _____

◆ Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms ◆

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. 655

in favor in opposition

Date: 9/9/11

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: ZELDA PENNIEC

Address: _____

I represent: _____

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 9/9/2011

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Emily McCoy

Address: 80 Chambers St. NYC 10007

I represent: People for the Ethical Treatment of

Address: 501 Front St. Norfolk VA ^{Animals} 23510

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 655 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 9/9/11

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Teresa Russo

Address: _____

I represent: _____

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 655 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 9/9/11

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Brad Morgan

Address: 1660 1st Ave NY NY 10028

I represent: Stray From the Heart

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms