

1 [Declaring Support for California State Senate Bill 1024 (Wilk) - Animal Welfare and Violence
2 Intervention Act of 2018]

3 **Resolution declaring support for California State Senate Bill 1024 (SB1024), the Animal**
4 **Welfare and Violence Prevention Act of 2018, authored by Senator Scott Wilk,**
5 **mandating defendants convicted of specified animal cruelty offenses to undergo**
6 **mental health evaluation, humane education courses, and, if deemed necessary by the**
7 **mental health professional, to undergo mandatory counseling.**

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9 WHEREAS, Animal cruelty and abuse are serious crimes which can be injurious or
10 fatal for animals of all kinds and violence against animals has been found to be a predictor for
11 many people who later commit acts of violence against humans, including domestic violence,
12 child abuse, elder abuse or more heinous acts; and

13 WHEREAS, In 2016, the FBI starting tracking incidents of animal abuse as part of its
14 National Incident-Based Reporting System in light of documentation that animal cruelty can be
15 a harbinger for future violent crime against humans; and

16 WHEREAS, Individuals who mistreat, abuse, or kill domestic animals or wildlife often
17 extend that behavior to humans in the form of domestic violence, child abuse, and in certain
18 cases, murder; and

19 WHEREAS, 90 percent of the perpetrators of school shootings have had a history of
20 cruelty to animals, according to a study published in 2014 by Eric Madfis of the University of
21 Washington Tacoma and Arnold Arluke of Northeastern University; and

22 WHEREAS, Nikolas Cruz, the perpetrator of the February 14 shooting in Parkland,
23 Florida that took the lives of 17 students and faculty after having previously tortured and killed
24 squirrels, chickens and toads and tormented rabbits, dogs and pigs is only the most recent
25 highly visible example of this connection; and

1 WHEREAS, California State Penal Code Section 597 includes the current statutes
2 dealing with these crimes and specifying punishments including fines, jail time, probation,
3 forced animal surrender and, in the case of certain specified cases of animal cruelty, in the
4 instances when a defendant is granted probation, counseling designed to evaluate and treat
5 behavior or conduct disorders; and

6 WHEREAS, The link between animal abuse and future violence can be weakened by
7 early intervention with mental health services and education; and

8 WHEREAS, Law enforcement and human behavioral professionals alike have stated
9 that the perpetrators of crimes against animals not only deserve stiff punishment but also
10 need to have the underlying causes of their criminality examined and addressed; and

11 WHEREAS, Legislation is needed to address the concerns of the law enforcement,
12 mental health and animal welfare communities that current penalties are neither restorative
13 nor rehabilitative and that they do not sufficiently address the root causes of these crimes, nor
14 do they adequately reduce recidivism among offenders or the potential for escalation of
15 violent behavior by those offenders; and

16 WHEREAS, California State Senate Bill 1024 (SB1024), authored by Senator Scott
17 Wilk, focuses on retaining and enhancing appropriate punishments while adding provisions to
18 the California State Penal Code requiring convicted offenders under animal abuse statutes to
19 complete approved animal abuse education course; and

20 WHEREAS, SB1024 also requires that defendants convicted of specified animal abuse
21 or cruelty offenses with potential underlying psychological causes undergo a mental health
22 evaluation and, if deemed beneficial per the evaluation, ongoing up to one year of therapy
23 from a mental health professional; and

24 WHEREAS, The bill allows for an increase in fines levied for convictions to support the
25 state's costs relating to its provisions; now, therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
2 supports SB1024 as a strategy to reduce rates of recidivism among animal cruelty offenders
3 and prevent future acts of violence against animals and humans; and be it

4 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San
5 Francisco urges our local delegation who represent San Francisco in the State Legislature to
6 support SB1024 - the Animal Welfare and Violence Intervention Act of 2018 - and further
7 urges the California State Legislature and Governor Jerry Brown to sign SB1024 into law; and
8 be it

9 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Board be directed to send a copy of this
10 resolution to the office of Senator Scott Wilk; Senator Nancy Skinner and Assembly Member
11 Reginald Byron Jones-Sawyer, Sr., Chairs of the Senate and Assembly Public Safety
12 Committee Assembly; and Governor Jerry Brown.

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