



Department of Animal Sheltering Overview and New Programs



Public Safety Committee Meeting

Reasa Currier, Director
October 4, 2022





In The Last Six Months...

- Foot traffic into the shelter has *increased by 90%*
- Adoptions have *increased by nearly 60%*
- Volunteer hours have *increased by over 50%*
- A re-designed humane education program offers *new and engaging programs for learners of all ages*



Community-Based Programs

- Free pet food pantry
- Low-cost vaccination clinics
- Pet Services Events: free wellness exams, vaccinations, microchips, spay/neuter, pet food & supplies, behavior support, grooming
- *Over 800 families served so far in 2022*





Article

Social capital and pet ownership – A tale of four cities[☆]

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1. Introduction

The erosion of sense of community and social capital in modern societies is a common lament. With accumulating evidence about how social and psychosocial supports are related to overall health and wellbeing, pet ownership is emerging as a valuable and positive feature in community and neighborhood life. Social capital has gained considerable traction over the last two decades in public policy discourse, and has been imputed to have benefits for a range of settings and

studies of its kind. In the 2005 study, completed via a community survey of 339 residents in Perth, we found that pet owners scored significantly higher compared with non-pet owners on an overall social capital scale whilst controlling for demographics. Moreover, the results indicated that social capital was higher among all pet owners, and was limited to those who owned dogs (often argued to be the pet type most likely to precipitate community engagement) (Wood et al., 2005).

The notion that pets can facilitate social capital goes beyond the more commonly investigated role of pets as a social icebreaker between

Economics of Pet-Inclusive Housing

Pet-friendly vacancies are good for the bottom line

Owner/operators who are considering adding a pet-inclusive policy or evaluating their current one should know how their policy positively impacts their bottom line. Ultimately, owner/operators can come out ahead financially by enacting pet-inclusive policies.

Residents pay pet deposits and fees that are in excess of pet damages.

- Average security deposit: \$625
- Average pet deposit: \$232 (in addition to security deposit)
- Average one-time pet fee: \$244
- Average monthly pet rent: \$49
- Average pet damages: \$210 (9% of pets)

According to the data, the average pet deposit is more than the average damage amounts caused by pets. Only 9% of pets are reported to cause any damage whatsoever, and the average damages are only \$210. Furthermore, only 2% of pets caused damage requiring a security deposit deduction, with the majority of pet owners paying out of pocket to fix any damages.

The research showed that pet-owning residents are paying an average of \$857 in combined security and pet deposits, an average of \$244 one-time pet fees, and an average of \$600 annually in monthly pet fees.

Pet-friendly units are faster and easier to fill.

83% of owner/operators say pet-friendly vacancies are filled faster. 79% say that they are easier to fill. Both of these contribute to the owner/operator's bottom line.

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**Pet-Inclusive
Housing Initiative**

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PetsandHousing.org

California governor signs legislation to increase development of pet-inclusive low-income housing to help keep pets and families together



SACRAMENTO, CA—On Friday, Sept. 2, in the midst of an ongoing housing crisis in California, Gov. Gavin Newsom signed Senate Bill 971 to prevent further displacement of vulnerable families and their pets. State Sen. Josh Newman (D-Fullerton) introduced the legislation, which will protect California’s low-income pet owners and help create more affordable housing communities. SB 971 will improve the supply of affordable rental housing that allows pets. In addition, the new law expands access to such subsidized units by incentivizing the development of pet-inclusive, low-income housing. Certain housing providers will not be permitted to restrict pets based on their breed or weight. They will also not be allowed to charge non-refundable pet-related fees, such as “pet rent,” on top of regular security deposits and monthly rent. This applies to housing financed through the California Tax Credit Allocation Committee and the California Department of Housing and Community Development.





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