



Sunnyvale

# Animal Shelter Services & Impounding Healthy Stray Cats

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# Background & Timeline

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- Humane Society Silicon Valley (HSSV) served as Sunnyvale's animal services provider for 18 years (since April 19, 2007).
- On December 16, 2024, a fire severely damaged HSSV's Milpitas facility, impacting operations.
- On January 28, 2025, HSSV notified the city of its intent to terminate services effective February 1, 2025.
- HSSV estimated a two-year repair timeline.

# Emergency Procurement & Vendor Outreach

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- Following HSSV's termination, DPS solicited information from qualified service providers on an emergency basis (e.g., SVACA, Pets in Need, San Jose Animal Care Center, Tri-City Animal Shelter, Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA).
- Santa Clara County Animal Shelter's proposal was the most cost-effective, had the capacity to meet most of DPS's animal service needs, offered an extended contract term, and provided services closely aligned with those previously offered by the Humane Society.
- Santa Clara County Animal Shelter was selected for emergency services starting February 1, 2025.

# Why Suspend SMC 6.05.010?

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- SMC 6.05.010 (updated in 2019) requires impoundment of all stray animals, including healthy stray cats, by Animal Control Officers.
- **Key Issue:** The County can provide the same services that Humane Society provided, except for impounding healthy stray cats as required by SMC 6.05.010.
- Suspension allows time for staff to monitor the County's performance and pursue a long-term vendor through formal procurement.

# Recommendation

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- **Alternative 1:** Adopt a Resolution to Suspend Enforcement of Sunnyvale Municipal Code Section 6.05.010 Related to Imposing an Affirmative Duty to Impound Healthy Stray Cats.
  - Ensures uninterrupted animal services.
  - Aligns with current emergency vendor capabilities.
- **Alternative 2:** Direct staff to pursue an alternative course of action.
- **Recommendation:** Alternative 1, Adopt a Resolution to Suspend Enforcement of Sunnyvale Municipal Code Section 6.05.010 Related to Imposing an Affirmative Duty to Impound Healthy Stray Cats.