

CITY OF NEW YORK

## MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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J. LEE COMPTON Chair

ROBERT J. BENFATTO, JR., ESQ. District Manager

## PROPOSED RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF ASPCA MODEL ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL LEGISLATION April 5, 2007

**WHEREAS,** There exists a serious stray animal and dangerous dog problem in New York City and hundreds of unwanted dogs and thousands of cats continue to wander our streets reproducing at alarming rates; and

**WHEREAS,** Many of the stray animals suffer from exposure to the elements, disease, lack of food, water, shelter, and veterinary care, mistreatment, vehicular accidents, and the risk of rabies; and

**WHEREAS,** Many of the dogs that live on streets have attacked children and the elderly, causing serious physical injury and the possibility of disease transmission; and

WHEREAS, Stray animals pose a serious public health threat and danger to people, children, and other animals; and

WHEREAS, Pet overpopulation continues to plague the city, and thousand of dogs and cats are brought to our city shelters each year, costing New York City residents upwards of \$7.5 million to house and euthanize approximately 48% of the animals; and

**WHEREAS,** New York City spends only \$0.93 per capita on animal control, one of the lowest expenditures in the nation; and

**WHEREAS,** The pet industry generates approximately \$106 million in tax revenues annually for New York City, yet only approximately 7% of the revenue is allocated towards animal control services each year; and

**WHEREAS,** The city only licenses 10% of the estimated one (1) million dogs residing in the city, and is losing close to \$8 million in revenue to funds its animal control program; and

**WHEREAS,** Although inroads have been made New York City still lacks a comprehensive, adequately funded animal care and control program;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that Manhattan Community Board Four supports legislation proposed by the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals that would create animal control officers and fund sufficient levels of services to retrieve animals, maintain shelters in each borough for lost, stray, and homeless animals, license all of the estimated one million dogs residing in the city, promote further spaying and neutering of dogs and cats, and help enforce animal neglect laws.

J. Lee Compton Chair Manhattan Community Board #4