

2021 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 120

BY REPRESENTATIVE MCKNIGHT

AGRICULTURE: Urges and requests local governing authorities and animal shelters to adopt policies and programs to provide alternatives to euthanization of healthy dogs and cats

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the local governing authorities and animal shelters of the state to adopt
3 policies and programs which provide alternatives to euthanizing healthy dogs and
4 cats prior to December 31, 2025.

5 WHEREAS, safe and humane communities for the citizens and pets of Louisiana is
6 a universal goal; and

7 WHEREAS, according to the Best Friends Animal Society, Louisiana ranks fifth in
8 the number of dogs and cats euthanized in the nation; and

9 WHEREAS, Louisiana has the second highest euthanasia rate of dogs and cats per
10 capita of 7.09 per one thousand population versus the national rate of 1.90 per one thousand;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, the total number of deaths of dogs and cats in 2019 was forty-four
13 thousand four hundred fifty-eight; and

14 WHEREAS, thirty-nine percent of the dogs and cats that enter Louisiana shelters do
15 not make it out alive; and

16 WHEREAS, many of the pets that are euthanized each year are healthy or treatable
17 pets that could be placed in homes or feral cats that could be trapped, neutered, and released;
18 and

1 WHEREAS, a national survey conducted for the Best Friends Animal Society
2 revealed that almost seventy percent of citizens do not want cats impounded and euthanized;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, many Louisiana shelters are implementing new and innovative
5 programs and policies to provide alternatives to euthanizing dogs and cats; and

6 WHEREAS, these policies and programs include volunteer foster care networks;
7 adoption programs; medical and behavioral programs; public education and awareness
8 programs; feral cat trap, neuter, vaccinate, and return programs; animal socialization
9 programs; and many others; and

10 WHEREAS, the Best Friends Animal Society has introduced a humane initiative to
11 end the euthanization of dogs and cats in shelters in the United States by 2025.

12 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
13 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the local governing authorities and
14 animal shelters of the state to adopt policies and programs which provide alternatives to
15 euthanizing healthy dogs and cats prior to December 31, 2025.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
17 Louisiana Animal Control Advisory Task Force and the Best Friends Animal Society.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HR 120 Original

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McKnight

Urges and requests the local governing authorities and animal shelters of the state to adopt policies and programs which provide alternatives to euthanizing healthy dogs and cats prior to Dec. 31, 2025.