

The Honorable Blanca Rubio
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1781 (Rubio): Safe Transportation of Dogs and Cats: SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Rubio:

I am writing to thank you for authoring AB 1781, which requires mobile or traveling housing facilities, such as animal control vehicles, to transport dogs and cats in such a manner that conditions do not endanger the health or well-being of the animal due to extreme temperatures or lack of food or water.

With 2021 being the hottest year on record and temperatures in California ranging from below freezing to well over 100 degrees, animals being transported inside animal control or other mobile housing facility vehicles can be at risk of severe injury or death. Yet, currently, there are no minimum standards in California for climatic conditions while transporting dogs and cats in these vehicles. This bill closes the gap.

Animals can sustain brain damage or even death from heatstroke in just 15 minutes. Beating the heat is particularly difficult for dogs because they can only cool themselves by panting and sweating through their paw pads. This bill aims to prevent such suffering for all animals in transport.

AB 1781 was drafted after consultation with several animal control directors, local county veterinarian, animal control associations, and input from a forum of over 45 representatives of shelter directors, managers, volunteers, and the rescue community that met in Southern California in December 2017, to discuss legislation that could better shape how animal control agencies care for animals.

Thank you again for authoring AB 1781, and I respectfully urge your colleagues in the legislature to support this simple, but important legislation.

Sincerely,