



# AB 2012

## ASSEMBLYMEMBER ALEX LEE



**SCIL**  
Social Compassion  
in Legislation

### THIS BILL

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AB 2012 would require the Department of Public Health to resume collecting specified data from public animal shelters as part of their annual rabies control activities reporting. The bill also gives authority to CDPH to contract the requirements of the bill to a California veterinary school.

### BACKGROUND

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Current law requires each city, city and county, or county to maintain or provide for the maintenance of an animal shelter system and a rabies control program. Additionally, current law requires the Department of Public Health to collect rabies control program data from each local entity but does not specify which categories of data shall be collected (Section 121690 of the California Health and Safety Code).

### PROBLEM

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From 1995 through 2016, the Department collected all of the categories of data required under this bill from all animal shelters. Starting in 2017, the Department reduced the categories of data to exclude those pertaining to animals received and discharged.

The categories of data that this bill requires are:

1. Total number of dogs and cats licensed.
2. Number of public vaccinations administered.
3. Number of domestic dogs and cats received by local animal control authorities, including, but not limited to, number surrendered by owner, by the public, or transferred from other shelters.
4. Total number of dogs and cats discharged by local animal control, number of domestic dogs and cats received by local animal control authorities, including, but not limited to, number reclaimed by owner, adopted, relinquished to a rescue organization, euthanized, died, or transferred to another shelter.
5. Animal bite data deemed necessary by the department.
6. Animal rabies quarantine data deemed necessary by the department.
7. Any other data deemed necessary by the department.

Cities and counties invest over \$400,000,000 annually to operate our state’s animal shelters, with much of this money coming from the state’s general fund. Additionally, nonprofit animal rescues pour millions of dollars into supporting shelters when there is lack of space for animals.

Yet, the data these entities rely on to direct these resources is no longer available. Without proper reporting requirements, it is impossible to get accurate, reliable data on the numbers of animals entering and exiting shelters, and their outcomes.

This data is important to ensuring that resources are better optimized to help pets find their forever homes.

Not only is this data useful to understand how animal shelters are operating, but this data could be critical if a future zoonotic disease outbreak occurs. Covid-19 was a zoonotic disease – the implications of which we are all aware of. [There currently is a virus outbreak that is similar to “kennel cough” but is not responding to typical treatment.](#) Understanding how many animals are entering and exiting our shelters, and under what circumstances (stray, adopted, euthanized, died, etc) might be vital in any response to this type of disease outbreak.

### SOLUTION

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Californians care deeply about the welfare of shelter animals. In fact, the official state pet is the “Shelter Pet.” As noted above, the state, local jurisdictions, and nonprofits invest hundreds of millions of dollars on our shelter system to save animals’ lives.

AB 2012 will ensure that the state and other entities are able to direct funding efficiently to shelters with the greatest need, while giving policy makers a more complete picture of the pet overpopulation problem in order to make informed policy decisions.

### SUPPORT

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Social Compassion in Legislation (Sponsor)

### CONTACT

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