



ENSURING NO ANIMALS ARE LEFT BEHIND IN CALIFORNIA'S NEXT DISASTER

A Philanthropic Opportunity to Implement AB 478 (The FOUND Act)

If you knew your investment could ensure that the companion animals in your city would be safe when the next California disaster strikes, would you make a gift?

Wildfires. Earthquakes. Floods. Evacuations.

Californians know these are not hypothetical risks. And when disaster hits, families are too often forced into an impossible choice: evacuate to safety — or stay behind for a beloved pet.

Recognizing this, California passed AB 478—The FOUND Act—requiring every city and county to put into place procedures for the rescue and protection of companion animals during mandatory evacuations.

The law reflects a simple truth: pets are family.

But passing a law does not guarantee protection.

Implementation does.



Why Private Philanthropy Is Essential

AB 478 mandates that counties create clear procedures to support pet owners during evacuations.

Specifically, local governments are required to implement rescue procedures, designate contacts, and coordinate with animal control and emergency services to ensure pets are not abandoned during an emergency.

During the recent 2025 fires in Los Angeles and Pasadena, jurisdictions lacked a unified procedure to properly coordinate pet rescues from evacuated homes, resulting in unofficial entry by residents and rescuers to save peoples' pets in time. Jurisdictions will benefit from a formalized, coordinated, and consistent system that prevents animal deaths during emergencies and facilitates a quicker reunion with pets and their families.

As climate change exacerbates natural disasters in California, this law targeting animal protection during emergencies is critical.

However, this law does *not* provide:

- Expert training for emergency personnel
- Statewide best practices
- Cross-county coordination
- Public education and preparedness alignment

Without philanthropic investment, implementation risks becoming inconsistent, reactive, or symbolic rather than lifesaving.

Philanthropy ensures the law works as intended — equitably, efficiently, and before tragedy strikes.



What Your Investment Makes Possible

Social Compassion, a 501(c)(3) non-profit committed to animal protection, is leading a two-year statewide rollout (2026–2027) to ensure AB 478 becomes a functional system, not just a statute.

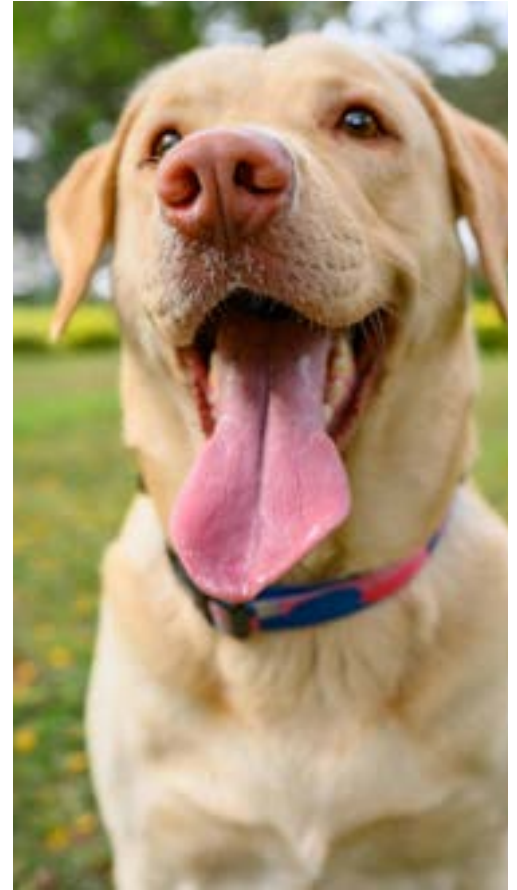
This includes:

- Working directly with all 58 California counties
- Convening emergency responders, animal control, and rescue partners
- Providing trainings, certifications, and implementation tools
- Participating in emergency preparedness conferences
- Establishing a consistent, replicable model for humane disaster response

When companion animals are protected:

- Families comply with evacuation orders faster
- First responders operate more safely
- Shelter overcrowding is reduced
- Reunification happens more quickly
- Communities recover faster

This is upstream investment with downstream savings: animal, human, and financial.



Investment Required

The total statewide implementation budget is **\$594,000 over two years.**

This supports:

- Retention of dedicated legal guidance for AB 478
- Emergency response experts
- County-level trainings and convenings
- Statewide coordination
- Travel and public education

This an infrastructure for compassion.

Your Leadership Matters

Major donors make this work possible by funding what government cannot:

- Planning
- Preparedness
- Speed
- Expertise
- Innovation
- Strategy
- Prevention

Your investment ensures that when the next evacuation order comes:

Families do not have to choose between safety and abandoning their vulnerable family members.

First responders have clear protocols.

Pets are rescued, protected, and reunited.





Your Investment in Animals

\$10,000

Supports planning and coordination for one county.

\$25,000

Funds county-level training and stakeholder convenings.

\$50,000

Underwrites regional implementation across multiple counties.

\$100,000+

Provides leadership support for statewide coordination, ensuring consistent and effective implementation across California.

Every gift accelerates preparedness and saves both human and animal lives.

A Shared Responsibility and a Shared Win

AB 478 reflects California's values.

Philanthropy ensures those values are realized.

Together, we can make sure no family, human or animal, is left behind when disaster strikes.

We hope you will consider making a donation and investing in protecting our animals. Thank you.

