

Sample Letter to the Editor

To protect pets, protect renters

COVID -19 has exacerbated the housing insecurity faced by all renters, but especially low-income renters in [INSERT STATE/COMMUNITY], where we have only [XX affordable housing opportunities for every 100 extremely low-income families]. As an animal welfare advocate, I understand that housing insecurity is one of the primary reasons for pet surrender across the country. The consequences of mass evictions during a global pandemic that has made renters more vulnerable than ever will have lasting impacts on people and their pets. If we do not protect renters now, many may be forced to give up their pets as their fears of homelessness are realized. Our local animal shelters are expected to see sweeping increases in pet surrenders as people are needlessly evicted from their homes in upcoming months. Animal and human welfare cannot be viewed independently and if we want to protect pets, we must also protect the people who are caring for them. Vulnerable renters need assistance now, not to be dragged through eviction hearings and left without a home. [insert action item: City Council should support any opportunities to provide rental assistance moving forward/ City Council should prevent evictions in their jurisdiction...] or [support federal legislation].