



COUNTY OF LAKE
Department of Animal Care & Control

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William Davidson
Animal Care & Control Director

COUNTY OF LAKE
DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL CARE & CONTROL
MEMORANDUM

Date: 7-10-2017
To: Lake County Board of Supervisors
From: William Davidson
Director, Lake County Animal Care & Control
RE: 2016-2017 Grand Jury Report

Dear Lake County Board of Supervisors,

First off I would like to thank the Grand Jury for the invitation to speak before them on the subject of the County Animal Care & Control Facility.

In response to the Grand Jury's findings I completely agree that public spay neuter services are in high demand. Unfortunately, the county cannot be the only facility to provide these services. We are not setup to be the ONLY low cost facility in the county. The demand we have been experiencing lately is way beyond our capacity and seriously affects our ability to deal with all the stray animals that come into the shelter, which are our priority. Our services are designed to supplement existing programs, and are only offered to those people who are 'income qualified'. Unfortunately, Lake County currently has no other low cost programs in effect?

I would also like to share that although our contract vet is only here 3 days a week, he is most certainly functioning in a full time capacity. He is typically here between 7am and 9pm on surgery days, and an additional 4-5 hours on the weekends. He is also available by phone for consultation 24/7.

With regard to the Grand Jury's recommendations, I suggested they support a full time veterinarian for our facility. However my suggestion was meant to be interpreted as the development of a full time county position for Veterinarian, one that would be a permanent county employee and in place 5 days a week. The thought being that medical services beyond spay and neuter are needed all the time, not just on certain days. Given the county's current financial situation, I understand that this may not be possible.

Collaboration with Clearlake for vet services is a thought. However, this idea was discussed with the SPCA in Kelseyville before they shut down many years ago, and the details of working out two separate contracts for two different requirements and needs, proved to be too

difficult. Additionally, finding veterinarians to work in Lake County is a difficult task. Even local veterinary offices have stated this. Asking them to work in two different locations just compounds the problem even more.

As to training veterinary technicians, our vet has frequently been in touch with Yuba College, which has a credentialed RVT program (Registered Veterinary Technician). Unfortunately, interest in the Animal Care Program from within Lake County isn't enough to keep our facility staffed with trainees. Originally, we also looked to UC Davis for vet students to assist at our facility. However, the director of the Koret Shelter Medical Program, Kate Hurley DVM, indicated that Lake County was too far away to combine both field experience with classroom time.

With regard to our public outreach, we believe it's good, certainly better than it used to be. A couple years ago we opened a Facebook account, which almost immediately brought us a much bigger audience and attention for all our animals. Local news and media runs stories and animal adoption issues from time to time, and we do frequent elementary schools several times a year. This year alone we visited three different schools/events where our targeted audience was elementary school age children: Eastlake Elementary School for career day, Riviera Elementary School for 'Read Across America', and the Tribal Olympics at the Lakeport Fairgrounds.

Is there room for improvement? Absolutely! Again, I appreciate the Grand Jury's time and interest in our department and will do what we can to further implement their suggestions and ideas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William Davidson", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

William Davidson

CC: Lake County Grand Jury