

6-28-16

No. 21

From: Kelley, Laura [lkelley@spcamc.org]
Sent: Monday, June 27, 2016 3:47 PM
To: 112-Clerk of the Board Everyone; cclerk@ci.salinas.ca.us; 100-District 4 (831) 883-7570
Subject: Re: Management Partners Assessment of MoCo & Salinas Animal Services
Attachments: SPCA for Monterey County - Re Management Partners Assessment 2016-06-27.pdf

Please see the attached comment letter regarding Management Partners assessment of Monterey County and Salinas Animal Services operations.

Thank you,

Laura Kelley

Laura Kelley
 Executive Assistant to Gary W. Tiscornia
 SPCA for Monterey County
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 Monterey CA 93942-3058
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<i>Received by Clerk to the Board</i>	
<i>Additional Material for</i>	
Board Agenda Date of:	Item No:
6-28-16	21
Dist 1 _____	CAO _____
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Dist 3 _____	_____
Dist 4 _____	_____
Dist 5 _____	_____



THE SPCA
for MONTEREY
COUNTY

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P.O. Box 3058
Monterey, CA 93942
SPCAmo.org

June 27, 2016

Supervisor Jane Parker
Monterey County District 4
2616 1st Avenue
Marina CA 93933

Re: Management Partners Assessment of Monterey County and City of Salinas
Animal Services Operations

Dear Supervisor Parker,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above referenced report. The SPCA for Monterey County was not contacted by Management Partners for the Animal Services Consolidation Assessment for Monterey County and the City of Salinas animal services. This resulted in relevant data and accessible resources not being captured in or considered for their report. For example, the SPCA for Monterey County accepts and cares for approximately one-half of the companion animals sheltered in Monterey County. In FY 2014-15 that included 2,435 companion animals from Monterey County and the City of Salinas jurisdictions. These do not appear in the report and there is no assurance that the SPCA will continue to underwrite these services for the two jurisdictions in the future.

The report erroneously states that, "There is no inexpensive neutering or vaccination clinic available to [Salinas] City residents" other than "a clinic [that] recently began operation in the City of Marina." In fact, the SPCA veterinary clinic provides low-cost and no-cost sterilization services for all pet owners five days a week and has been doing so since the 1960s. We currently sterilize over 4,000 companion animals each year.

Many people like to remember The SPCA in their will, life insurance, or retirement plan.
Your generous actions today will ensure the rescue, safety and well-being of homeless, neglected and abused animals far into the future.

provide over 6,000 low-cost vaccinations, and over 500 microchip implants annually for our community.

As a courtesy, we accept stray animals from Monterey County and City of Salinas jurisdictions because those facilities are often closed or their staff is unavailable, often keeping them for days without charge before many are taken to the proper shelter so their owners can claim them. In addition, we accept all owner relinquished animals from these jurisdictions.

Our Humane Officers attempt to coordinate their investigative activities with Monterey County Animal Services when necessary, too often with poor results. Investigations have been compromised through the actions of County animal control officers.

In our professional opinion, Monterey County Animal Services is underfunded and understaffed. As stated in the report, the organizational culture is negative, making effective leadership extremely difficult. It no longer accepts residents and taxpayers' pets that need shelter and instead refers them to the SPCA. It uses grant funding to sterilize unowned cats brought to it, even when the cats are friendly, and re-abandons them on the streets to an uncertain fate. This reduces costs and the euthanasia rate but is inconsistent with the stated mission of animal services *to protect, enhance, and promote the health, safety, and quality of life for the companion animals and people of Monterey County.*

The City of Salinas Animals services is also underfunded and understaffed but does have professional leadership. Like Monterey County Animal Services, it too turns away most companion animals owned by Salinas residents and taxpayers. It has also adopted the policy of sterilizing unowned cats and re-abandoning them to an uncertain fate on the streets of Salinas.

Both Monterey County and City of Salinas animal services consider a companion animal owned if it has been fed and cared for by a person for 30 days. This represents a portion of the pets referred to the SPCA as "owned." This practice deprives the true owner the opportunity to find their lost pet. There is no basis in law for converting the status of a stray animal to an owned animal based on a person caring for it for 30 days. This

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practice results in an undercounting of animals that are the responsibility of these jurisdictions.

The Management Partners assessment recommends entering into a Joint Powers Agreement to realize economies of scale but is silent regarding the significant increases in funding necessary to reach an acceptable level of service for tax paying residents. In addition, there is no discussion of the 2,435 pets that are the responsibility of these agencies but were turned away last fiscal year.

These are just a few of the omissions and misstatements in the report which should be considered when assessing the consolidation of services, a step we support.

We were asked if we would be interested in taking over County Animal Services a number of years ago and declined to consider it at that time. My successor as CEO of the SPCA has 17 years experience in running a successful animal services program that includes field services and sheltering for San Mateo County. He will be on board July 11 and can be a valuable resource for Monterey County and the City of Salinas as you move forward toward consolidation of services. I hope you will take advantage of his expertise.

Sincerely,



Gary W. Tiscornia
Executive Director and CEO
SPCA for Monterey County

cc: Members of the Monterey County Board of Supervisors
Members of the City of Salinas City Council