



Monterey County Board of Supervisors

Response to the

2017 – 2018 Monterey County Civil Grand Jury Animal Control in Monterey County

BoS date: July 10, 2018

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REPORT TITLE: ANIMAL CONTROL IN MONTEREY

RESPONSE BY: Monterey County Board of Supervisors

RESPONSE TO: Findings F-1, F-2, F-3, F-4, F-7, F-8, F-9, F10, F11, F12, F13 and F14

FINDINGS

F1. The lack of signage on Hitchcock Road poses a safety hazard for traffic approaching the turn to the animal shelters from South Main Street.

Response F-1:

The County agrees with this finding.

F2. The purpose statements included in the budgets of the two entities are appropriate and recognize the importance of public service. The County statement focuses on rabies control and health concerns. The City statement focuses on return and placement of lost and unclaimed animals. When considering the two shelters as totally separate entities both statements are relevant and appropriate. However, fundamental differences may impede the consolidation process.

Response F2

The County disagrees with this finding. The differences are not significant enough to impede the consolidation process.

F3. The Pilot Project will impose greater responsibility on the County Operations Manager and the Animal Services Administrator.

Response F3:

The County agrees with this finding.

F4. The difference in staffing of Animal Control Officers is considered reasonable because the County is patrolling a much larger geographic area than the City.

Response F4:

The County agrees with this finding.

F7. County Animal Control personnel have career ladders providing greater promotional opportunities than the City.

Response F7:

The County agrees with this finding.

F8. Both shelters have the physical capacity to shelter more animals.

Response F8:

The County agrees with this finding.

F9. Given that the preponderance of cats coming into the County shelter are strays, and the preponderance of outputs are through euthanasia, it is likely the county would benefit from a more aggressive spay/neuter program coupled with more education and outreach regarding owner responsibility.

Response F9:

The County agrees with this finding.

F10. Access to the Pet Harbor website is much simpler from the City website than from the County website.

Response F10:

The County agrees with this finding.

F11. Cat cages at the City shelter, which were replaced in 2013-14, provide greater cleaning efficiency and less stress on the cat than the older-style County cat cages.

Response F11:

The County agrees with this finding.

F12. If successful, the combination of services at the two shelters should result in less public confusion when looking for a lost animal or preparing to adopt one.

Response F12:

The County agrees with this finding.

F13. If successful, the combination of services should result in greater effectiveness, efficiency and consistency of procedures for both the City and County.

Response F13:

The County agrees with this finding.

F14. The MOA and resulting Pilot Program are positive steps toward consolidation of Animal Control Services.

Response F14:

The County agrees with this finding.

F15. Success of the Pilot Project will be dependent, at least in part, on having the day-to-day operations of the separate shelters handled efficiently with sufficient time available to support the efforts of the Animal Services Administrator throughout the period of the Pilot Project.

Response F15:

The County agrees with this finding.

REPORT TITLE: ANIMAL CONTROL IN MONTEREY COUNTY

RESPONSE BY: Monterey County Board of Supervisors

RESPONSE TO: Recommendations R1, R2, R3, R5, R6, R7, R8, R9, R10, R11, R12, R13 and R14

RECOMMENDATIONS

R1. The City and the County should determine responsibility¹⁴ for signage and install a sign on the northeast side of Hitchcock Road an appropriate distance from the intersection with the shelter access road.

Response R1:

The County agrees with this recommendation.

R2. The City and the County should bring together the entire staff from both shelters for the purpose of developing a single statement of purpose.

Response R2:

The County agrees with this recommendation.

R3. The County should fill the position of Operations Manager.

Response R3:

The County agrees with this recommendation.

R5. As part of the Pilot Project, staffing levels at both facilities be reviewed.

Response R5:

The County agrees with this recommendation.

R6. Future consolidation should include methodology for current employees of either entity to compete in promotional examinations for vacancies at either shelter.

Response R6:

The County agrees with this recommendation.

R7. Regardless of the outcome of the MOA and the Pilot Project, City and County staffing levels and procedures should be reviewed

Response R7:

The County agrees with this recommendation.

R8. Regardless of the outcome of the MOA and Pilot Project, the City and the County should contact incorporated cities which are not currently under contract, to determine if their animal shelter needs could be met by either entity. If so, contracts should be pursued.

Response R8:

The County agrees with this recommendation.

R9. The County should consider the advantages and disadvantages of a feral cat spay/neuter program, and begin returning neutered feral cats to the field when appropriate.

Response R9:

The County agrees with this recommendation.

R10. The County should review and streamline access to the Animal Services website.

Response R10:

The County agrees with this recommendation.

R11. When County cat cages require replacement, the County should purchase reconfigurable cages.

Response R11:

The County agrees with this recommendation.

R12. A copy of this report should be provided to the Animal Services Administrator.

Response R12:

The County agrees with this recommendation.

R13. The Jury requests that copies of both the 5 and 8-month written reports be provided to the Monterey County Civil Grand Jury impaneled as of the date of the release of the reports.

Response R13:

The County agrees with this recommendation.

R14. The Jury requests the County and City invite other incorporated cities to join with them in developing a Joint Powers Agreement or Joint Powers Authority so that a separate legal entity could be established to provide animal control services to all jurisdictions within the County.

Response R14:

The County agrees with this recommendation.

