

**WRITTEN  
PUBLIC  
COMMENT  
CITY COUNCIL  
MEETING**

**APRIL 2, 2024**

**Subject:**

FW: CVAC

Mayor and All Councilmembers,

To Whom it may concern, it came to my attention that during the flooding this winter, CVAC reached out for help from the public. Big Dog

Ranch, a sanctuary in Florida, was notified about the existing problems and offered to take up to 150 dogs from CVAC and were willing to

pay all the expenses to get the dogs to their sanctuary. This was refused by the Powers that be at CVAC. As well, there is the email from

Best Friends Animal Sanctuary in Kanab, Utah below. My question is why is director Gettis and CVAC refusing these offers of help when it

would save animals lives immediately and help to transition CVAC into a no-kill shelter , all of which would have been paid 100% by Best

Friends , at no cost to CVAC and taxpayers. Sincerely , Jessica Klein

\*Last week we sent shelter director Erin Gettis an offer letter of support on three key programs that national shelter consultant, Kristen Hassen, had outlined from her January training at the shelter in order to get the shelter closer to a 90% save rate for both cats and dogs. Director Gettis accepted only one of the three offers of training and financial support we provided stating she was going to put together her own programs. We are disappointed and cautious about her response as they don't have experienced and trained staff to quickly implement the programs and ideas outlined by Kristen Hassen in order to handle the large influx of kittens that will be arriving soon from the start of kitten season. At this point, we are working with our lobbyists to make sure the Board of Supervisors understands that an offer of experienced sheltering professionals was sent and denied which would have cost the county zero dollars because our organization would have fully funded the training. We are also asking the Board of Supervisors to require that the director present each month to the board as an agenda item (so it's public record) of the number of animals from the previous month that were admitted to the shelter, adopted, put into foster, euthanized at the request of the owner, euthanized due to medical/behavioral conditions or killed due to lack of space. We should be hearing from our lobbyists soon to see if the Board of Supervisors is willing to put this accounting from the director on the agenda each month.

TV LIVE/ADOPTION LIVE ADVERTISING CATS AND DOGS  
PUBLICATIONS/SANDIE NEWTON (KESQ TV, RADIO)

CINDY UKEN/PUBLICATION REPORT

CONTACTING RESCUES LOCALLY AND NATIONALLY

IDENTIFYING SPECIALTY BREED RESCUES

CONTACT PILOT ORGANIZATIONS FOR MANIFESTOS INVOLVING ANIMAL  
TRANSPORT

LISTS OF CONTINUING FOSTERS

LIST OF VOLUNTEERS

SHELTERS' FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

GRANT WRITING

AGREEMENTS WITH LOCAL PET STORES TO SHOW ANIMALS TO CUSTOMERS

DONATION CANISTERS IN RETAIL/GROCERY STORES

ADOPTIONS AVAILABLE POSTED IN VETERINARIAN OFFICES

GRATUITOUS WEEKLY ADOPTION POSTINGS IN LOCAL NEWSPAPERS

#### EXECUTIVE ORDERS

ELIMINATE BACKYARD BREEDING/FINES

FARMS/RANCHES LOOSE NOT FIXED DOGS/OWNER OF PROPERTY  
RESPONSIBLE/FINES

NO KILL FOR ANIMALS, UNLESS A VETERINARIAN DETERMINES THAT THE ANIMAL  
CANNOT BE SUFFICIENTLY, MEDICALLY TREATED, TO PREVENT PAIN/SUFFERING

## WHAT WE CAN & WILL DO:

### IF NOTHING IS DONE:

- INTERNET
- BROADCASTING - TV
- DEMONSTRATIONS
- PICKETING
- PUBLICATIONS - CINDY UKON (UKON REPORT)  
SANDIE NEWTON (KESQ)
- RECALL
- PETITION

### SUGGESTIONS FOR THE 5 SUPERVISORS:

- NEED TO ESTABLISH DOCUMENT THAT SPELLS OUT RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE 5 SUPERVISORS
- A MAJORITY OR UNIVITY "CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT"
- PURSUE GRANTS

### EXECUTIVE ORDERS FOR:

- ~~◦ BACKYARD BREEDING~~
- ~~◦ LOOSE ANIMALS UNNUETORED~~
- ~~◦ DEEP POCKETS MADE RESPONSIBLE~~

## CVAC NEGLIGENT ON:

- CONTACTING RESCUE ORGANIZATIONS
  - RESCUES OUTSIDE OF AREA USING PILOTS
  - NEED CVAC TO HAVE RESCUE ORGANIZATIONS NATIONALLY
  - CARE OF ANIMALS IN THEIR SHELTERS
- 

## COACHELLA NEEDS TO:

- HAVE EXECUTIVE ORDERS ON:
  1. BACKYARD BREEDING
  2. LOOSE ANIMALS UNVETERED
  3. GO AFTER "DEEP POCKETS" FARM/RANCH OWNER
  4. LOW COST MOBIL VETS

Budget

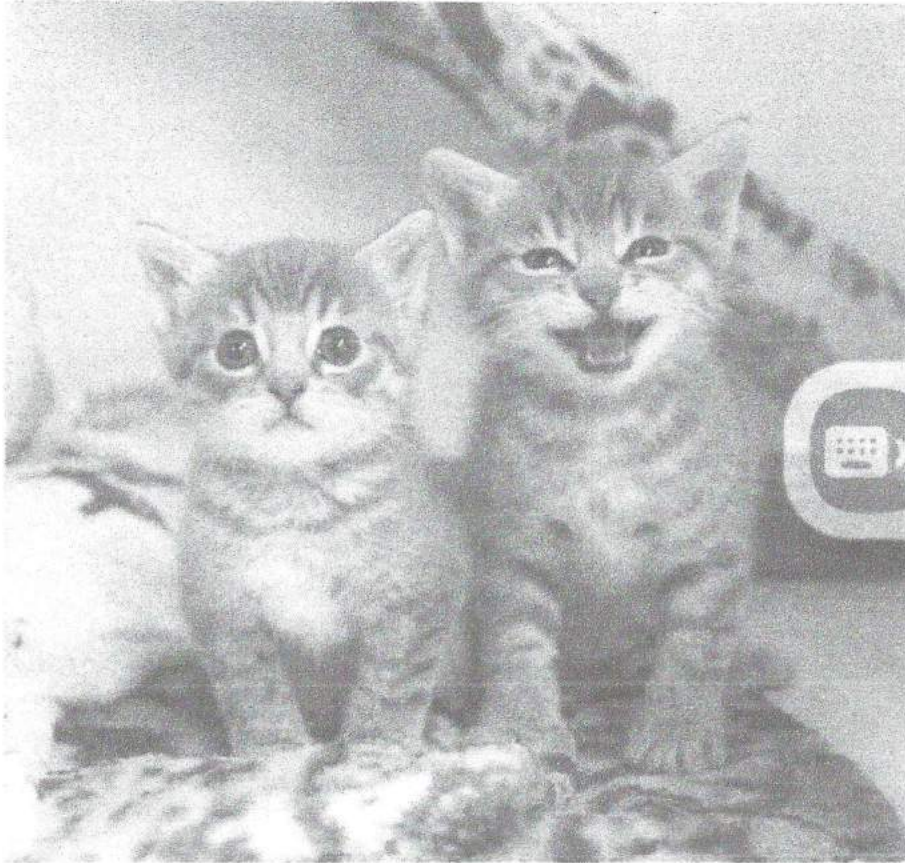
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Animal control shelters are regulated under the  
California Food and Agriculture Code and the  
California Civil and Penal Codes, and city, county  
and/or city/county animal control shelters and/or  
their agencies are **MANDATED** to provide "necessary  
and prompt veterinary medical care to animals  
housed in an animal control . . .



San Diego Humane Society

## Staying at Zero



“Zero” represents a great accomplishment — not just for San Diego Humane Society, but for all of San Diego County. Zero is the number of healthy or treatable animals who are in danger of being euthanized in local animal shelters. In 2015, we partnered with seven other shelters in the San Diego Animal Welfare Coalition to achieve this







BOARD OF VETERINARY PRACTITIONERS — performs everything from trauma medicine to specialized surgeries. We repair fractured bones, perform advanced dental work and lead the country in developing new treatments for deadly diseases like parvo and distemper.

### **Behavior Center**

This state-of-the-art facility provides a safe space and individualized training plans for some of the most challenging dogs and cats to enter San Diego County shelters. Only a handful of centers like it exist in the country, and it enables us to save hundreds of animals each year by providing the time, positive reinforcement training and customized living spaces to overcome their challenges and become candidates for adoption.

### **Kitten Nursery & Foster Programs**

Our Kitten Nursery & Foster Programs care for thousands of orphaned kittens every year. Because neonatal kittens require specialized care, they often face high rates of euthanasia in other communities due to a lack of resources to care for them. Created in 2009, the Kitten Nursery at our San Diego Campus — now the



San Diego Humane Society  
San Diego

partnered with seven other shelters in the San Diego Animal Welfare Coalition to achieve this goal, making San Diego the largest city in the country to reach this milestone of Getting to Zero. We got to zero, and now we are committed to Staying at Zero! ...

As an open-admission shelter and one of the largest animal welfare organizations in the country, San Diego Humane Society takes in more than 40,000 animals each year. We we turn away any animal in need — including those with serious medical and behavioral challenges who have nowhere else to turn. Saving their lives requires innovative solutions to the obstacles these animals face, which is why we've developed our signature programs, including:

### **The Pilar & Chuck Bahde Center for Shelter Medicine**

Located at our San Diego Campus, this animal hospital provides lifesaving medical care rarely performed in traditional shelters. Our veterinary team — led by one of the few veterinarians certified in shelter medicine by the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners — performs everything from trauma medicine to specialized

GOOD NEWS OR BAD NEWS FIRST?

GOOD NEWS CANDY WEIL-- EXPERIENCE WITH HER

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COOPERATION/ **NO KILL NOW** PUBLIC WILL NO LONGER TOLERATE  
THE KILLING. GROUNDSWELL OF OPPOSITION BY PUBLIC TO KILLING  
PUBLIC DOES NOT YET KNOW THAT RIVERSIDE IS #1 IN THE ENTIRE  
COUNTRY FOR KILLING ANIMALS

BEST FRIENDS

IN EXISTENCE FOR 30+ YEARS VERY EXPERIENCED AT WHAT THEY DO  
VERY POLITICALLY CONNECTED THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY  
UNLIMITED MEDIA ACCESS, AS WELL AS INHOUSE COUNSEL

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**WHAT TO DO TO SUPPORT IMMEDIATE NO KILL NOW**

ESTABLISH ARMY OF FOSTER VOLUNTEERS

ESTABLISH REPEATED ADVERTISING OF EACH AND EVERY DOG/CAT FOR  
ADOPTION

ESTABLISH COMPREHENSIVE LISTS OF RESCUES/NO KILL SHELTERS FOR  
REGULAR AND CONSISTANT COMMUNICATION (LISTS CAN BE OBTAINED  
FROM PILOTS WHO FERRY ANIMALS AT NO CHARGE THROUGHOUT THE  
COUNTRY, AS TO WHERE THEY GO, AND NAMES AND CONTACT INFO OF  
RESCUES) PILOTS N PAWS, WINGS OF RESCUE, FLIGHTS TO FREEDOM  
FIGHT FOR INCREASES IN BUDGET FUNDING FOR SHELTERS

**OFFER** FREE SPAY/NEUTERING, FREE VACCINES, FREE TRAINING FOR  
ANIMALS ADOPTED BUT THEN RETURNED FOR VARIOUS REASONS,  
HAVE REGULAR WEEKEND ADOPT A PET FOR FREE AT LEAST 2X A  
MONTH

CONTACT FOSTER ARMY.COM

## **PROBLEMS AT SHELTERS**

ATMOSPHERE UNWELCOMING, LACK OF INTEREST OR ASSISTANCE

\*\*\*\*\***LAW MANDATING THAT SHELTERS IMMEDIATELY PROVIDE  
MEDICAL TREATMENT MEDICAL EQUIPMENT NOT WORKING/NOT  
USED BY STAFF (GREAT DANE EXPERIENCE!!!!!!)**

LACK OF COOPERATION BY SHELTER STAFF

HORRENDOUS SHELTER EXPERIENCES

\*\*\*\*\* **PIPED IN MUSIC**

## **ABOUT BEST FRIENDS IF NO COOPERATION**

MOBILIZE PUBLIC AGAINST SUPERVISORS (NO RE-ELECTION OR RECALL)  
COURT PROCEEDINGS  
INBED INTO SHELTERS

## **BIG DOG RANCH RESCUE INCIDENT**

GETTIS NOWHERE TO BE FOUND, OFFICE CLOSED/DID NOT ANSWER PHONES

## **PEREZ EXECUTIVE ORDERS**

**ELIMINATE BACKYARD BREEDERS (VERY STIFF PENALTIES)**

**STIFF FINES RANCHES/FARMS OWNERS ANIMALS RUNNING LOOSE WITHOUT  
SPAY/NEUTER**

# Letter from a Shelter Manager

~Author Unknown

*\*\* Please note that this is meant to educate would-be pet parents - your pet is meant to be a life-time commitment. Be sure to view the video and also read the additional article at the bottom of the page.*

I think our society needs a huge "Wake-up" call.

As a shelter manager, I am going to share a little insight with you all...a view from the inside if you will.

First off, all of you people who have ever surrendered a pet to a shelter or humanesociety should be made to work in the "back" of an animal shelter for just one day. Maybe if you saw the life drain from a few sad, lost, confused eyes, you would stop flagging the ads on Craigslist and help these animals find homes. That puppy you just bought will most likely end up in my shelter when it's not a cute little puppy



anymore. Just so you know there's a 90% chance that dog will never walk out of the shelter it's dumped at? Purebred or not! About 25% of all of the dogs that are "owner surrenders" or "strays", that come into a shelter are purebred dogs.

The most common excuses: "We are moving and we can't take our dog (or cat)." Really? Where are you moving too that doesn't allow pets? Or they say, "The dog got bigger than we thought it would". How big did you think a German Shepherd would get? "We don't have time for her". Really? I work a 10-12 hour day and still have time for my 6 dogs! "She's tearing up our yard". How about making her a part of your family? They always tell me, "We just



don't want to have to stress about finding a place for her. We know she'll get adopted, she's a good dog".

Odds are your pet won't get adopted & how stressful do you think being in a shelter is? Well, let me tell you, your pet has 72 hours to find a new

the front leg and inject a lethal dose of the "pink stuff".

Hopefully your pet doesn't panic from being restrained and jerk. I've seen the needles tear out of a leg and been covered with the resulting blood and been deafened by the yelps and screams.

They all don't just "go to sleep", sometimes they spasm for a while, gasp for air and defecate on themselves.

You see shelters are trying to make money to pay employee pay checks and don't forget the board of directors needs to be paid too, so we don't spend our funds to tranquilize the animal before injecting them with the lethal drug, we just put the burning lethal drug in the vein and let them suffer until dead. If it were not a "making money issue" and we had to have a licensed vet do this procedure, the animal would be sedated or tranquilized and then euthanized, but to do this procedure correctly would cost more money so we do not follow what is right for the animal, we just follow what is the fastest way we can make a dollar.

Shelters do not have to have a vet perform their euthanasia's so even if it takes our employee 50 pokes with a needle and 3 hours to get the vein that is what we do. Making money is the issue here not losing money.



When it all ends, your pet's corpse will be stacked like firewood in a large freezer in the back with all of the other animals that were killed, waiting to be picked up like garbage.

What happens next? Cremated? Taken to the dump? Rendered into pet food? Or used for the schools to dissect and experiment on? You'll never know and it probably won't even cross your mind. It

was just an animal and you can always buy another one, right?

I hope that those of you who still have a beating heart and have read this are bawling your eyes out and can't get the pictures out of your head, I deal with this everyday.

I hate my job, I hate that it exists & I hate that it will always be there unless you people make some changes and start educating the public.

Do research, do your homework, and know exactly what you are getting into before getting a pet.

These shelters and humane societies exist because people just do not care

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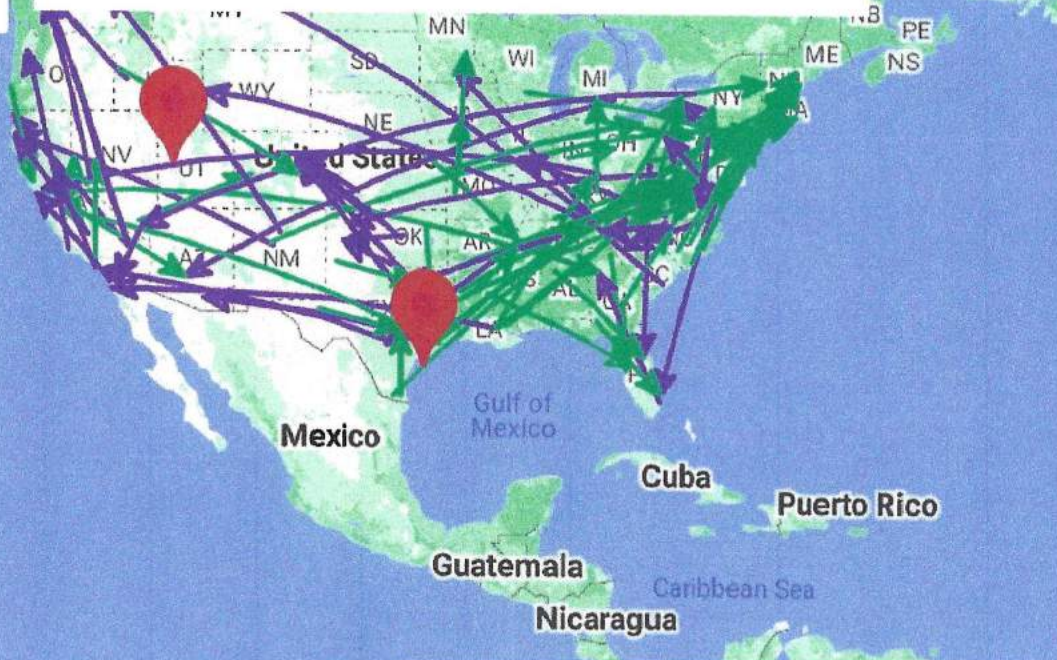
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Map

Satellite

Filter by recent activity: In the last 14 days Search



Legend:

- Westbound
- Eastbound



**Animal control shelters are regulated under the California Food and Agriculture Code and the California Civil and Penal Codes, and city, county and/or city/county animal control shelters and/or their agencies are **MANDATED** to provide "necessary and prompt veterinary medical care to animals housed in an animal control facility.**





# For the first time in 47 years, the kennels were completely empty at this animal shelter

Harrison Jones and Zachary Schermele, USA TODAY NETWORK

Updated December 26, 2023 · 1 min read

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Christmas came early this year at an animal shelter in Pennsylvania. For the first time in about half-a-century, all of its kennels were empty.

"To say that we are beyond excited is an understatement," said a post by the Adams County SPCA announcing the news. "It is a true miracle."

So far this year, the shelter has adopted out 598 animals and reunited 125 strays, according to a release. After emptying out its 18 kennels for the first time in 47 years, the shelter hopes to pull animals from other shelters to lighten the workload they might be facing.

The feat comes after a stressful start to December for the facility. It took in three neglected dogs that were dumped at Sachs Bridge in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, plus four dogs that were surrendered by their owner. Many of the seven dogs needed various medical procedures, only adding to the In an interview earlier in the month, Adams County SPCA employees talked about the challenges of receiving so many animals at once.

"It did put a burden on the shelter," said Lori Wetzel, a veterinary technician.

All seven have since been adopted.

"Everyone is getting adopted to a great home," said Wetzel. "The emotional toll is worth it."

About 6.3 million companion animals enter shelters in the United States every year, according to the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, or ASPCA. That number has declined by about a million over the past decade.

Only about 810,000 animals – the vast majority of which are dogs – who enter as strays are returned their owners.

*This article originally appeared on Hanover Evening Sun: After adoptions, empty kennels at Adams County SPCA in Pennsylvania*



elter's woes.

Syd, who has since been adopted, as seen at the Adams County SPCA, Thursday, Dec. 14, 2023, in Straban Township.



Simon, who has since been adopted, one of three dogs that was dumped at Sachs Covered Bridge in Gettysburg, jumps onto the leg of veterinary technician Lori Wetzel, at the Adams County SPCA, Thursday, Dec. 14, 2023, in Straban Township.