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Gary R. Stanton
Sheriff/ Coroner

June 8, 2007

Honorable David Edwin Power
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
Solano Superior Court
600 Union Avenue
Fairfield, CA 94533

Sheriff's Response to the 2006/2007 Solano County Grand Jury Report Dated June 7, 2007 Entitled:
Solano County Animal Care Services.

Finding #2: The County plans on transferring animal control officers from Animal Care Services to the Sheriff's department.

Recommendation #2: The County should not transfer animal control officers to the Sheriff's Department without first soliciting public input and input from the Solano County Animal Care Commission.

Response: The Sheriff's Office concurs with the finding and recommendation of the Grand Jury. Information provided the Grand Jury relative to this matter may have been inaccurate. There is no actual plan in place to transfer animal control officers to the Sheriff's Office, and the final FY 07/08 budget request submitted by the Sheriff makes no provision for the transition of animal control officers.

Finding #6:

The Shelter, located next to the Claybank Detention Facility, is inadequate in size and design. Staff from Animal Services and the Sheriff's Department are in discussions regarding the location of a new shelter and have been looking at sites in close proximity to the jail.

Recommendation #6a: Building a new shelter should become a high priority for the County and its cities. As stated in the Memorandum of Understanding the parties, should begin meeting and come up with a viable location, design and funding for a new shelter.

Recommendation #6b: The location of a new shelter should be in the best interest of the animals and the residents of Solano County. It is not necessary to assume close proximity to the Claybank Detention Center.

Response: The Sheriff's Office concurs with the finding and recommendation of the Grand Jury. Although support services provided by the Sheriff should be a consideration, the best interest of the animals and the community should be priority in the decision making process.

Finding #7 The Inmate Cleaning Program has resulted in: 1) reported abuse of animals; 2) negative inmate interactions, which limits expansion of the Volunteer Program and other outreach programs; and 3) deterring residents interested in adopting animals from considering animals housed at the Shelter.

Recommendation #7 The County should consider discontinuing the program and hire additional Animal Services staff to provide these services.

Response: The Sheriff's Office concurs with the finding and recommendation of the Grand Jury. The Sheriff will notice Animal Care Services that the Inmate Cleaning Program will be terminated according to the terms of our agreement.

Finding #8 The Kitten Foster Care Program utilizing female inmates of the County Detention Facility, has proven to be successful for both the animals and the inmates.

Recommendation #8 Animal Care services and the Sheriff's Department should be commended on this successful and creative program and are encouraged to promote and continue this program.

Response: The Sheriff's Office concurs with the finding and recommendation of the Grand Jury.

Sincerely,



Gary R. Stanton
Sheriff-Coroner