

# CITY OF FAIRFIELD

Founded 1856

Incorporated December 12, 1903

Home of  
Travis Air Force Base

July 12, 2007

## COUNCIL

Mayor

Harry T. Price  
707.428.7395

Vice-Mayor

Jack Batson  
707.429.6298

Councilmembers

707.429.6298

Marilyn Farley

Frank Kardos

John Mraz

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City Manager  
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707.428.7400

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City Clerk  
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City Treasurer  
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707.428.7496

## DEPARTMENTS

Community Services  
707.428.7465

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Finance  
707.428.7496

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Fire  
707.428.7375

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Human Resources  
707.428.7394

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Planning &  
Development  
707.428.7461

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Police  
707.428.7551

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Public Works  
707.428.7485

The Honorable David E. Power  
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court  
Solano Superior Court  
600 Union Ave  
Fairfield, CA 94533

Dear Judge Power:

This letter is in response to the 2006-2007 Grand Jury Report entitled "Solano County Animal Care Services" dated June 7, 2007. The Grand Jury has asked for a written response to the Findings and Recommendations contained in the report pursuant to Penal Code Section §933.05.

**Finding #1** – The Present policy of contracting for veterinarian services approximately 20 hours a week does not seem to meet the requirements of the "Hayden Bill" (Stats. 1998, ch. 752), which requires prompt veterinary care of animals housed at shelters

**Recommendation #1** – *Animal Care Services should hire a full time staff veterinarian.*

This finding applies to the County of the Solano and the City of Fairfield has no response.

**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.*

This finding applies to the County of the Solano and the City of Fairfield has no response.

**Finding #3** – The County has been slow to fill vacant positions in Animal Care Services.

**Recommendation #3** – *The County should fill vacancies as expeditiously as possible.*

This finding applies to the County of the Solano and the City of Fairfield has no response.

**Finding #4** – The Animal Shelter uses a checklist for evaluating the temperament of dogs and cats. However, the policy regarding how a determination is made as to whether an animal is adoptable or should be destroyed is not well defined. It appears to be subjective depending on the evaluator.

**Recommendation #4** – *Shelter policies and procedures should be reinforced and performed in a consistent manner. The determination of when an animal is not adoptable should be better defined. Shelter management should modify its procedures to include an evaluation by a second person in those cases when the initial evaluator determines an animal is not adoptable.*

This finding applies to the County of the Solano and the City of Fairfield has no response.

**Finding #5** – Animal Services staff attempts to place animals not deemed adoptable with rescue groups; however, there is no structured program.

**Recommendation #5** – *Animal Services management should develop a more formalized program for the placement of animals with rescue groups.*

This finding applies to the County of the Solano and the City of Fairfield has no response.

**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.*

This finding applies to the County of the Solano and the City of Fairfield has no response.

**Finding #7** – The Inmate Cleaning program has resulted in: 1) reported abuse of the 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 this program and hire additional Animal Services staff to provide these services.*

This finding applies to the County of the Solano and the City of Fairfield has no response.

**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.*

This finding applies to the County of the Solano and the City of Fairfield has no response.

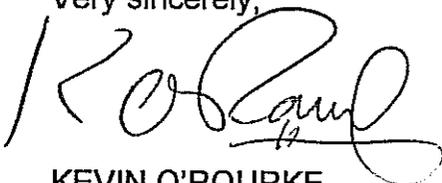
**Finding #9** – Animal Care Services is underfunded. Earlier budget increases have been minimal and in Fiscal Year 2006-2007 the budget was decreased 5 percent from the Fiscal Year 2005-2006 budget.

**Recommendation #9** – *The County should evaluate the Animal Care Services budget to provide for, at minimum: 1) a full time veterinarian; 2) replacement of the Inmate Cleaning Program with additional animal services staff that can perform multiple functions; 3) expansion and promotion of programs that benefit the well-being of the animals at the Shelter; and 4) education and promotion of population control of animals within the County.*

This finding applies to the County of the Solano and the City of Fairfield has no response.

We appreciate the work of the Grand Jury and look forward to continuing to work with this group of dedicated individuals.

Very sincerely,



KEVIN O'ROURKE  
City Manager  
City of Fairfield