

Response to 2011 - 12 Grand Jury Report Form
(Insert Fiscal Year)

Report Title: Ventura County Animal Services Department

Report Date: 6/12/12 Responding Agency/Dept. Board of Supervisors

Response by: Scott Powers Title: CEO-Analyst

FINDINGS

- I (we) agree with the findings numbered: n/a
- I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the findings numbered: n/a
(Attach a statement specifying any portions of the findings that are disputed; include an explanation of the reasons therefore.)

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommendations numbered R-20 and R-21 have been implemented.
(Attach a summary describing the implemented actions.)
- Recommendations numbered n/a have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.
(Attach a timeframe for the implementation.)
- Recommendations numbered n/a require further analysis.
(Attach an explanation and the scope and parameters of an analysis or study, and a timeframe for the matter to be prepared for discussion by the officer or director of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed, including the governing body of the public agency when applicable. This timeframe shall not exceed six months from the date of publication of the grand jury report.)
- Recommendations numbered n/a will not be implemented because they are not warranted or are not reasonable.
(Attach an explanation.)

Date: September 18, 2012 Signed: [Signature]

John C. Zaragoza, Chair
Ventura County Board of Supervisors

Number of pages attached: 2



Response to 2011-2012 Ventura County Grand Jury Report
Ventura County Animal Services Department
From the Board of Supervisors

RECOMMENDATIONS

R-20 That the Board of Supervisors take cognizance of the public's extensive interest in the humane treatment of animals and raise the level of support for the Department in order to meet the public's expectations of that treatment.

Implemented. On June 12, 2012, the Board of Supervisors, upon the recommendation of the County Executive Office (CEO), approved the reorganization of VCAS as a division under Public Health. This recommendation was based on analysis, on-site evaluation and support of the Animal Services Department by CEO staff over the course of the preceding year. This analysis and support was in addition to approximately \$500,000 in capital investments for the Animal Services Division recommended by the CEO and approved by the Board to enable completion of the one-stop intake facility and other capital projects.

As noted in the staff report for this reorganization, additional resources is a key component and reason for the reorganization under the Public Health department.

At the time of the Board meeting in June, Supervisor Bennett included in his motion a directive by the Board of Supervisors for VCAS to work towards becoming a "no-kill" shelter. Identifying policies to move towards this objective is a key component of a full operational review of Animal Services currently underway by CEO's office and the Public Health department.

As part of this Grand Jury response, the Board acknowledges the common definition of "No Kill" as meaning all "adoptable" and "treatable" animals are saved and only "unadoptable" or "non-rehabilitatable" animals are euthanized. The Board further acknowledges achievement of this goal will require community, city and stakeholder participation and support. Additionally, the Board concurs with the following definitions for the above terms, which are consistent with the California Law, SB 1785 Statutes of 1998, also known as "The Hayden Law":

Adoptable 1834.4. (a)

"Adoptable animals include only those animals eight weeks of age or older that, at or subsequent to the time the animal is impounded or otherwise taken into possession, have manifested no sign of a behavioral or temperamental defect that could pose a health or safety risk or otherwise make the animal unsuitable for placement as a pet, and have manifested no sign of disease, injury, or

congenital or hereditary condition that adversely affects the health of the animal or that is likely to adversely affect the animal's health in the future."

"Treatable" 1834.4. (b)

"No treatable animal should be euthanized. A treatable animal shall include any animal that is not adoptable but that could become adoptable with reasonable efforts."

R-21 That the Board of Supervisors provide sufficient additional funds to permit the hiring of a second veterinarian and an Internet maintenance specialist, and to pay for necessary Bordatella vaccine.

Implemented. Funds applied to the existing spay/neuter contract will be redirected toward the hiring of a second veterinarian and a veterinarian technician. Public Health webmasters have significantly improved the VCAS website. The website is now presented in a more user-friendly manner with more functionality including a lost and found search option and a new Service and Resources directory page (<http://www.vchca.org/animal-services>). The Bordatella vaccination costs have been included in the FY12/13 budget.

from the formulary, dose and frequency. This consent will be signed by the patient (if willing) and the prescribing doctor. The approved Informed Consent form under the Welfare and Institutions Code will also be completed, signed by the prescribing doctor and sent to the PAPG Office. No later than one hour of receipt, the PAPG Office will send a signed copy of the "Authority to Treat" (formerly referred to as "Please Treat."

After hours from 5 PM to 8 AM; weekends and holidays, IPU staff will electronically send the same completed and signed consents to the after hours fax at 805-658-4531 followed with a call to the on-call Manager who will provide verbal, informed consent of the proposed treatment. The "Authority to Treat" will be forwarded to the IPU on the next business day or if possible, the same day of the request. Patient Information Data Sheets on medications outlining side effects/risks/benefits are available. Coordination and collaboration with VCBH will remain the responsibility of the IPU. The PG Office will be responsible to forward a list of active LPS clients to the designated staff at both IPU and VCBH each week.

Whenever possible, at the time of admission, the PG will inform IPU on the current list of medications being prescribed / administered to the conservatee.

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DISPUTE RESOLUTION

It is the intent of the parties that this MOU will serve to reduce misunderstandings and disagreements between them. It may be amended or cancelled at any time by the mutual agreement of the parties as evidenced by their signatures on the amendment or cancellation.

Any dispute as to the terms or responsibilities of the parties arising out of this MOU shall first be addressed between members of the staff and appropriate levels of management of the parties. If the dispute cannot be resolved at that level, attempts shall thereafter be made at the next appropriate level of management.

This MOU may be canceled at any time by any party upon 30 days written notice to the other party.

This agreement is effective upon signature and will remain in effect until such time as it is formally cancelled.

This document shall be reviewed at least annually by all parties. If during the term of the MOU it is deemed necessary by any party, the MOU may be reviewed and thereafter revised by mutual agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this MOU on the dates affixed to this document.