



CITY OF COSTA MESA

CALIFORNIA 92628-1200

P.O. BOX 1200

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

September 2, 2008

Honorable Nancy Wieben-Stock
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, California 92701

Dear Judge Weiben-Stock:

This letter has been prepared in response to the recent Orange County Grand Jury Report entitled "*Is Orange County Going to the Dogs?*" The Grand Jury requested a response by the Mayor of the City of Costa Mesa to Finding F-1 and Recommendation R-1. Please the City's response below:

Finding F-1:

Some cities using limited-access shelters are sending animals deemed unadoptable to the County Animal Shelter, thereby shifting the cost and responsibility for care and euthanasia to the County if the animals are not adopted.

Response:

The City of Costa Mesa contracts animal shelter services with the Irvine Animal Care Center (IACC). All animals impounded by Costa Mesa Animal Control are delivered to the facility and turned over to IACC staff. Costa Mesa citizens are referred to IACC by Costa Mesa Animal Control staff and internet services as the shelter provider for the City. It was the understanding of the City of Costa Mesa that animals found in Costa Mesa by Costa Mesa residents would be accepted by the IACC and not denied. We have been aware of limited occupancy at IACC, but we were unaware of animals being turned away and sent to OCAC. This was never the intent of the City and actions are being taken to correct the issue.

Recommendation R-1:

The cities utilizing limited-access shelters adopt an open-shelter policy for all dogs and cats within their city limits or reimburse the County Shelter for the expense of boarding and euthanizing animals from their cities.

Response:

Currently, the City of Costa Mesa is reviewing animal shelter service options. A required component of any new contractual agreement will be that the shelter service provides open-shelter services to the citizens of Costa Mesa for animals found and/or from the city limits of Costa Mesa. The intention of the City have always been to have an animal shelter services contractual agreement that provides full services to the citizens of Costa Mesa, preventing any burden from being placed upon County resources.

The City of Costa Mesa is appreciative of the efforts put forth by the Orange County Grand Jury in ensuring that our animals are receiving the best care available. If you should require additional information, please contact Christopher Shawkey, Chief of Police at (714) 754-5117.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric R. Bever", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Eric R. Bever
Mayor

/cg

c: City Council
City Manager
Assistant City Manager
Chief of Police