



BETH KROM, Mayor

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July 30, 2008

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

Dear Judge Wieben Stock:

This letter is submitted in response to Finding F-1 and Recommendation R-1 from the June 3, 2008 Orange County Grand Jury report, "Is Orange County Going to the Dogs?" The City of Irvine appreciates the opportunity to provide the Grand Jury with information about Irvine Animal Care Center policies and practices.

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."

The City of Irvine disagrees with this finding, in regard to the Irvine Animal Care Center. The Irvine Animal Care Center is not "limited-access." It is an open shelter. Acceptance of Irvine animals is not based on adoptability or a triage process. Irvine Animal Care Center staff places adoptable animals, and euthanizes others based on parameters approved by City Council. Irvine staff does not "send" unadoptable Irvine animals to the County Animal Shelter.


Grand Jury 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."

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This recommendation will not be implemented, because it is not warranted. The City operates an open shelter and, by policy, accepts Irvine animals without regard to age, disposition or condition. The City does not operate a "limited-access" shelter as defined in the Grand Jury Report.

If you have any questions regarding the Irvine Animal Care Center, please contact Libby Cowan, Manager of Community Services, at (949) 724-6694 or [lcowan@ci.irvine.ca.us](mailto:lcowan@ci.irvine.ca.us).

Sincerely,



BETH KROM  
Mayor

cc: City Council  
Sean Joyce, City Manager  
Wally Kreutzen, Assistant City Manager  
Sharon Landers, Assistant City Manager  
Paula Burrier-Lund, Director of Community Services  
Libby Cowan, Manager of Community Services  
Ron Edwards, Community Services Supervisor