



Office of Mayor and City Councilmembers

Phone: (949) 361-8322 Fax: (949) 361-8283

Website: <http://ci.san-clemente.ca.us>

E-mail: CityCouncil@san-clemente.org

Joe Anderson, *Mayor*
Lori Donchak, *Mayor Pro Tem*
Jim Dahl, *Councilmember*
G. Wayne Eggleston, *Councilmember*
Steve Knoblock, *Councilmember*

George Scarborough, *City Manager*

August 28, 2008

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

As directed by the Grand Jury, and in accordance with Penal Code Sections 933 and 933.05, the City of San Clemente has provided its response to the following findings and recommendations.

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 San Clemente disagrees with the finding.

The San Clemente - Dana Point Animal shelter does not send animals from their jurisdiction to the Orange County Shelter. All stray animals found in the San Clemente - Dana Point shelter's jurisdiction enter the shelter population. The San Clemente - Dana Point Animal Shelter is a limited-access shelter only as it pertains to owner relinquished animals. The San Clemente - Dana Point Shelter management staff does not have the ability to euthanize unadoptable animals that enter the shelter's population. For this reason, a policy was developed that establishes specific criteria for the intake of owner relinquished animals and restricts the intake of unadoptable owned animals (dogs and cats) into the shelter population. If an owned animal is rejected for intake, the owner is provided a data sheet with phone numbers and addresses to other shelters, humane societies, veterinarians, and animal rescue operations which may assist in the placement, or euthanization of their animal. These owners are not directed to the OCAS shelter. It is the animal owners' decision as to the final disposition of their animal.

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.

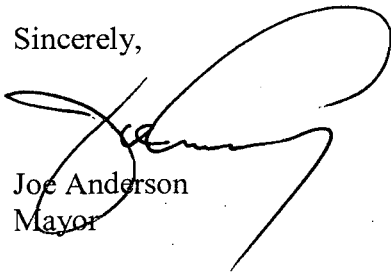
A. The recommendation to adopt an open-shelter policy will not be implemented because it is not reasonable.

The San Clemente - Dana Point Animal Shelter contractually does not have the ability to euthanize unadoptable animals that enter the shelter and therefore, cannot adopt an open-shelter policy.

- B. *The recommendation for limited-access shelter cities to reimburse the County Shelter for the expense of boarding and euthanizing animals **will not be implemented** because it is not reasonable.*

The San Clemente – Dana Point Animal Shelter does not send animals to the OCAS shelter, nor does it direct owners of animals that are rejected for relinquishment from this jurisdiction to the OCAS shelter. As indicted earlier, these owners are provided information as to other shelters, humane societies, veterinarians, and animal rescue operations in the area that may assist in the placement, or euthanization of their animal. It is the animal owners' decision as to the final disposition of their animal. The OCAS shelter has the ability to establish fees it deems appropriate for services it provides to animal owners. Those fees could include an owner relinquishment fee for those animal owners that choose to use the services provided by OCAS.

Sincerely,



Joe Anderson
Mayor

cc: George Scarborough, City Manager
Mayor and City Council Members