

City of Seal Beach



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SEAL BEACH, CALIFORNIA 92740
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July 14, 2008

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

Re.: 2007-2008 Orange County Grand Jury Report, "Is Orange County Going to the Dogs?"

Dear Judge Stock:

This letter is the MAYOR's formal response by the City of Seal Beach pursuant California Penal Code §933 and §933.05 concerning the 2007-2008 Orange County Grand Jury Report, "Is Orange County Going to the Dogs?" Specifically addressed as requested are responses to Findings #F-1, and Recommendation #R-1 of the report.

The Seal Beach Police Department administers the City of Seal Beach animal control program. **The City of Seal Beach (City) does not contract with Orange County Animal Care for any services.** The City contracts with two agencies for animal control services:

1. The City of Long Beach Animal Control Bureau: license canvassing, animal pick-ups, animal welfare enforcement, etc.
2. The Friends of Seal Beach Animal Care Center: an "open-shelter," "no-kill," animal housing/adoption facility located in the City of Seal Beach and operated by a private foundation.

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 to Finding #F-1 -- DISAGREES WHOLLY. The City of Seal Beach contracts with the City of Long Beach Animal Control Bureau and for animal collection services and other animal related services such as license canvassing, and animal welfare enforcement. All animals retrieved within the City of Seal Beach by the Long Beach Animal Control Bureau are taken to the Friends of Seal Beach Animal Care Center within the Seal Beach city limits.

Two exceptions exist which deviate from the policy above: 1) if an animal must be taken as criminal evidence, or 2) if an animal is seized for vicious behavior. Such animals

fitting either of these two criteria are removed and housed at the City of Long Beach Animal Shelter. Fees designed to cover the expense of housing and potential euthanasia are incorporated into the contract between the two cities.

The Friends of Seal Beach Animal Care Center pursuant its operating charter with the City of Seal Beach, is an "open-shelter," "no-kill" animal housing/adoption facility.

The City of Seal Beach shifts no costs to Orange County Animal Care.

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 to Recommendation #R-1: DISAGREES WHOLLY. The City of Seal Beach does not contract with the Orange County Animal Care. It contracts instead with its neighboring City of Long Beach Animal Control Bureau and for animal collection services and other animal related services such as license canvassing, and animal welfare enforcement. All animals retrieved within the City of Seal Beach by the Long Beach Animal Control Bureau are taken to the Friends of Seal Beach Animal Care Center within the Seal Beach city limits.

Two exceptions exist which deviate from the policy above: 1) if an animal must be taken as criminal evidence, or 2) if an animal is seized for vicious behavior. Such animals fitting either of these two criteria are removed and housed at the City of Long Beach Animal Shelter. Fees designed to cover the expense of housing and potential euthanasia are incorporated into the contract between the two cities.

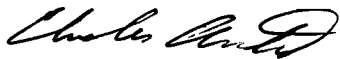
The Friends of Seal Beach Animal Care Center pursuant its operating charter with the City of Seal Beach, is an "open-shelter," "no-kill" animal housing/adoption facility. It cannot refuse acceptance of any animal found or recovered in the City of Seal Beach.

The City of Seal Beach knowingly shifts no costs to Orange County Animal Care.

Due to its unique, contractual, arrangement with its neighboring City of Long Beach Animal Shelter Bureau, the City of Seal Beach takes a neutral position on the Grand Jury's recommendation.

Please contact me at (562) 431-2527 if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



Mr. Charles Antos
Mayor, City of Seal Beach

cc: Foreperson, Orange County Grand Jury
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701