

**August 4, 2004**

**To:** Patty Hill-Thomas  
Interim Chief Executive Officer  
Stanislaus County

**From:** Michael A. Rodriguez  
Director of Animal Services  
Stanislaus County

**Subject: Grand Jury Response**

1. The Board of Supervisors has approved and budgeted funds for the remodeling project of the quarantine area of the Animal Services Facility. The County has accepted a bid, from a local vender, and we anticipate the project to begin very shortly. The kennel system has been ordered. Logistics for the housing of dogs during the remodeling time have been addressed.
2. The Board of Supervisors has approved and budgeted funds to begin studying a future new site for Department of Animal Services. It has been included in the master plan for the Capital Improvement Projects. The planned start time for the project is 2006.
3. The Department of Animal Services is dedicated to the care and protection of the animals and people of Stanislaus County. We have several avenues that are used to review and revise our policies and procedures. First, we have strategic planning with the community, at large, every year. Through this process we gain insight into the needs of the individuals and ways that we can better meet their needs. Second, we are involved with the Municipal Area Councils on a monthly basis. This allows us to look at the needs of neighborhoods. As a department, we are also involved in Process Management. This is a methodology used to critique policies and procedures to see if they are currently meeting the needs of the department. Lastly, we have regularly scheduled meetings with staff, both as a group and individuals, which allow us to discuss the 'what is working and what is not working' with regards to policies and procedures from their point of view.
4. Animal support groups are essential partners if we are going to stop the euthanasia of adoptable animals in Stanislaus County. They allow us to extend our resources beyond what we could do on our own. We have been in regular meetings with several rescue organizations since November of 2003. It is our intention that these

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5. Productive meetings will continue on a regular basis and that they will also join us in the strategic planning process.
6. This recommendation is directed at the City of Turlock. It is our hope that we will be able to develop a partnership with the City of Turlock in our Animal Village.
7. This recommendation is directed at the City of Oakdale. It is our hope that we will be able to develop a partnership with the City of Oakdale in our Animal Village. We have recently joined with Oakdale in developing a joint licensing/vaccination clinic. During this clinic we were also able to make available to the residents of Oakdale, the Spay/Neuter voucher that has been so successful in other areas of the county to help residents get their animals altered, vaccinated and microchipped.
8. The Department of Animal Services for Stanislaus County is very open to a working dialogue regarding a partnership on how we could better service the residents of the county. This is a time when government agencies should strive to join resources to better serve a common good.

Michael A. Rodriguez, Director  
Department of Animal Services  
County of Stanislaus