

PETITION FOR NO-KILL SHELTER REFORM

PAUL BIANE SUPERVISOR, JACK LAM CITY MANAGER, BILL ALEXANDER MAYOR & COUNCIL REX GUTIERREZ, DIANE WILLIAMS, DENNIS MICHAEL AND SAM SPAGNOLO

We, the undersigned citizens of Rancho Cucamonga and outlying areas, hereby write to petition you:

- (a) to convert the Rancho Cucamonga Animal Shelter from a high-kill shelter to a **NO KILL** shelter*;
- (b) to ensure that the City Rancho Cucamonga City Manager and City Counsel do not renew the shelter administration contract with San Bernardino County or hire Inland Valley Humane Society or any other entity that has a poor record of animal care and who is resistant to no-kill shelter reform currently sweeping the nation and enacted as law by the California Legislature;
- (c) to appoint a Citizen's Advisory Committee composed of citizens and local rescuers seeking the reforms stated herein, who shall approve the appointment of any new shelter administrator and oversee the activities of the shelter to ensure that it is in compliance with California Law ;
- (d) to guarantee that animals will receive prompt veterinary care as mandated by the California Legislature which includes, but is not limited to, a full-time staff veterinarian on the premises;
- (e) to ensure the implementation of cutting-edge strategies being used across the country with spectacular success, such as thriving foster networks than can guarantee sufficient space and important socialization, free micro-chipping funded by private donations to unite more animals with their families, listings of animals on PETFINDER.COM, the Nation's most effective animal adoption forum, a city-sanctioned feral trap-neuter-release program that prevents suffering and death of millions of unwanted kittens, personalized placement plans for every animal commencing on the day of entry, automatic notification to all area rescue groups of every animal on the day of arrival, increase of allowable neutered animals per home for approved rescuers and their designated volunteers and an aggressive ongoing adoption media-blitz, using state-of-the-art public relations and advertising techniques used by leaders of the no-kill shelter movement;
- (f) to eliminate boilerplate shelter operations, like ours, designed to exert the least effort possible, pocket the most profit, put up a smoke-screen show for the public but which do little to nothing to save lives or give quality care;
- (g) to transform our shelter from one of the most avoided, dreaded and deadly places in the County, into a hub of energy, enthusiasm and joy for animals, families, volunteers, rescuers and administrators which PRESERVES LIFE and serves as a model for other communities.

We agree with the State Legislature's enactment of SB 1785 Statutes of 1998 as a minimum no-kill standard and demand that the City of Rancho Cucamonga and the County of San Bernardino County comply with its provisions including:

- ◆ "It is the policy of the state that no **adoptable** animal should be euthanized if it can be adopted into a suitable home" [F&A Code, Section 17005(a)]; "Redemption of owned pets and adoption of lost or stray adoptable animals is preferable to incurring social and economic costs of euthanasia" [SB 1785 of Statutes 1998, Section 1(b)(1)];
- ◆ "It is the policy of the state that no **treatable** animal should be euthanized. A treatable animal shall include any animal that is not adoptable that could become adoptable with reasonable efforts" [F&A Code, Section 17005(b)];
- ◆ "Any stray dog that is impounded...shall ...prior to the killing of that animal...be released to a nonprofit...if requested by the organization..." [F&A, Section 31108(b)]; "Any stray cat that is impounded...shall...prior to the killing of that animal...be released to a nonprofit...if requested by the organization..."[F&A, Section 31752(b)];

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- ◆ “Public shelters should work with humane animal adoption organizations to the fullest extent possible to promote the adoption of animals and to reduce the rate of killing” [SB 1785 of Statutes 1998, Section 1(b)(5)];
- ◆ “The Legislature finds and declares that shelters should be required by law to take in lost animals and properly care for them with prompt veterinary care, adequate nutrition, shelter, exercise, and water.[SB 1785 of Statutes 1998, Section 1(f)]; “Any depository that fails to perform these duties may be liable for civil damages as provided by law” [California Civil Code, Section 1834];
- ◆ “Shelters should aggressively promote spay and neuter programs to reduce pet overpopulation” [SB 1785 of Statutes 1998, Section 1(b)(3)];
- ◆ “The intent of this act is to...increase the focus of shelters to owner redemption and adoption by...providing owner relinquished pets the same holding period as stray animals to allow for adoption...” [SB 1785 of Statutes 1998, Section 1(c)(1)]; “Any animal relinquished by the purported owner...shall be held for the same holding periods...applicable to stray dogs and cats” [F&A Code, Section 31754(a)]. “Kittens or puppies relinquished by the...owner...may be available immediately for adoption” [F&A Code, Section 31754(b)];
- ◆ “The intent of this act is to...make shelters accountable to pet owners and the public for records and the care of animals in their possession [SB 1785 of Statutes 1998, Section 1(c)(4)].

Community residents and rescuers have factually demonstrated to the City that it and its shelter administrator, the San Bernardino County, have repeatedly violated the law, including but not limited to, failing to provide prompt veterinary care, refusing to hold animals for rescues and instead killing animals who had homes waiting, hiding away animals from the public that should have been available for viewing and adoption, killing adoptable and treatable animals when there were several empty cages available for them, failure to aggressively offer spay and neuter services, refusal to exercise even minimal effort to adopt out animals such entry of individual animal listings on Petfinder.com -the Nation’s most effective animal adoption forum, incorrect labeling of animals as vicious or untreatable so they could be killed when they were not and a wholesale failure to focus on saving lives and prevent animal suffering in favor of the more cost-effective practice of peremptory killing and operations that require minimal effort.

We, therefore, urge you to reconsider the direction you have taken and ask that you yield to the will of your constituents and implement the above-stated mandates forthwith.

Sincerely,

CITIZENS FOR A NO-KILL SHELTER, the undersigned whose signatures appear on the pages attached hereto.

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