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Lane County Animal Services Advisory Committee



January 21, 2009

Lane County Board of Commissioners
125 E. 8th Ave
Eugene, OR 97401

Dear Board Members,

As the co-chairs of your LCAS Advisory Committee, we are writing to communicate to you an important recommendation from the Committee and urge your consideration in the upcoming budget process for the current fiscal year.

As you know, the LCAS Advisory Committee was appointed more than a year ago in response to a series of recommendations regarding saving adoptable and treatable animals. The Advisory Committee has been working with the staff to review practices at the shelter, including the euthanasia policy, which will result in saving the lives of animals in the care of LCAS.

While the numbers of animals being euthanized at LCAS has dropped dramatically, the result is that larger numbers of animals are being housed at the shelter, and many of those animals have significant medical and behavioral needs that must be addressed in order to successfully place them in adoptive homes. The current budget for LCAS does not include any staff positions to provide this much needed care. In order to continue to make progress in saving adoptable and treatable animals, the shelter must have dedicated medical staff.

This important issue was discussed at our last LCAS Advisory Committee, and the committee unanimously voted to recommend that the current LCAS budget be amended to include an additional 1.5 FTE medical staff, and that the current budget for medical supplies be increased by \$15,000. We know that you have a package before you to add a full time Certified Veterinary Technician (CVT) and some additional medical supplies, however, in the view of the Advisory Committee this is not sufficient to meet the needs at the shelter. The committee recommends instead that a full time Veterinarian be added, along with a .5 FTE CVT.

This combination of staff is preferable for a number of reasons:

- this provides additional coverage to meet the needs of animals that are housed at the shelter seven days per week; and
- a Veterinarian has a much more broad scope of practice and can independently diagnose and treat animals, where as a CVT alone will require clinical supervision from a DVM; and

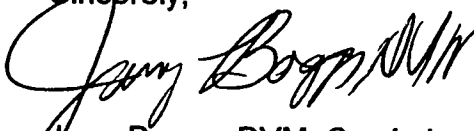
- a Veterinarian on-site would be better able to assist in determinations about appropriateness for euthanasia.

The Committee's motion specified that if the above recommendation for a 1.0 FTE Vet and a .5 FTE CVT was not possible, a second alternative would be to fund a 1.0 FTE CVT and a .5 FTE Veterinarian.

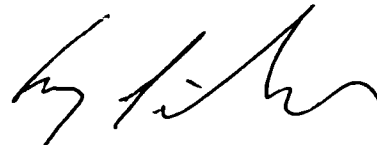
As a committee we have worked hard to meet the charge set for us by the Board of Commissioners. While there have been improvements at LCAS, we absolutely believe that the creation of medical staff is critical to providing quality care for the animals, and ultimately meeting the goals identified by the Task Force and adopted by the Board of Commissioners. Medical staff is a critical component for quality care by any animal shelter, and is necessary for LCAS.

We appreciate your consideration of this important matter, and would be happy to answer any questions you might have of us.

Sincerely,



Jerry Boggs, DVM, Co-chair
LCAS Advisory Committee



Cary Lieberman, Co-chair
LCAS Advisory Committee

c Lane County Budget Committee