



NAPA COUNTY OFFICE OF SHERIFF-CORONER

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DOUGLAS E. KOFORD
Sheriff - Coroner

The Honorable Diane M. Price
Presiding Judge
Napa County Superior Court
825 Brown Street
Napa, CA 94559

FILED

AUG 15 2011

Clerk of the Napa Superior Court
By: C. Brennan
Deputy

August 10, 2011

Judge Price:

In conformance with Section 933.05 of the California Penal Code, I am responding to the 2010-2011 Napa County Grand Jury Final Report.

Response was requested from the Napa County Sheriff's Office to Findings 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and Recommendations 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 7 of the section covering "Napa County Animal Control Services", in the 2010-2011 Napa County Grand Jury Report.

Finding 1

The Napa Municipal Codes were properly followed in the euthanization of two dangerous pit bull dogs.

Response to Finding 1

The respondent agrees with the finding.

Finding 2

The Napa County Ordinances were properly followed in the euthanization of two dangerous pit bull dogs.

Response to Finding 2

The respondent agrees with the finding.

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Court Executive Office

Finding 3

The Napa County Sheriff Department's Animal Services and the Napa Police Department followed proper procedures regarding dangerous and vicious dog ordinances.

Response to Finding 3

The respondent agrees with the finding.

Finding 4

The pit bulls were euthanized following the humane standard practices of the Napa County Animal Shelter.

Response to Finding 4

The respondent neither agrees nor disagrees with the finding. The Napa County Animal Shelter is under the Department of Environmental Management and they would be better able to address practices at the Napa County Animal Shelter than the Sheriff's Office. It is our understanding that humane standard practices are followed.

Finding 5

The current process for calling in to report vicious dog attacks or other animal problems is confusing and frustrating for residents.

Response to Finding 5

The Sheriff disagrees with the finding. People have one phone number to call to report animal issues. The callers are then contacted by an Animal Services Officer, who explains the process to them, based on the specific situation. Most people who have not been through the process, especially in a dog bite investigation, will not know what to expect. However, the officers explain the steps to the person when they take the call and the officers are available by phone if there are additional questions.

People calling with complaints that are not within the scope of Animal Services, are referred to the proper agency. We will continue efforts to educate the community on the types of calls that are handled by Animal Services and those that are not.

Recommendation 1

Napa County Sheriff Department's Animal Services, working in conjunction with the Napa Police Department, provides the community with a single phone number for reporting animal problems by the publication deadline of the next phone book.

Response to Recommendation 1

The recommendation has already been implemented. Currently, Napa County Sheriff's Office Animal Services Bureau has one number for reporting animal issues, 253-4517. After hours or when the Legal Clerk working the desk is away from the phone, that number is automatically forwarded to either the answering service or dispatch. The caller is not required to know or locate more than the one phone number.

In September 2011, Napa City Police Dispatch Center will take over dispatching for Animal Services. The new Animal Services number will be the Napa City Police Dispatch Center business line, 253-4451.

The number listed in the telephone directory will be corrected however, because the phone company directory was recently released, it will take approximately one year for all references to the old Animal Services (253-4517) phone number to be removed.

The contact number for Animal Services is also listed on the Napa County Sheriff's web page.

Recommendation 2

Phone numbers for reporting emergency and non-emergency animal problems appear printed in bold at the beginning of both the City and County phone directory listings.

Response to Recommendation 2

The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable. This would be inconsistent with the formatting of the phone directories. Main headings, such as "NAPA COUNTY OF-" are bolded, with all the separate departments listed alphabetically under the main bolded heading, not in bold font.

Recommendation 3

Napa County Sheriff's Department Animal Services, working in conjunction with the Napa Police Department, educates the community about the best procedure for reporting vicious animal attacks and other animal problems.

Response to Recommendation 3

The recommendation has been implemented. We will continue to ensure that the Animal Services portion of the Napa County Sheriff's Office web page is kept up to date with information for the community. The deputies assigned to the Problem Oriented Policing Program will continue to speak about Animal Services at community meetings and events that are held throughout the year.

Recommendation 4

Napa County Sheriff's Department Animal Services, working in conjunction with the Napa Police Department, prepares a report evaluating the feasibility of placing Animal Control Dispatch services under the City of Napa Police Department.

Response to Recommendation 4

The recommendation has been implemented (effective September 1, 2011). We have a multi-year agreement with the City of Napa to provide dispatch services to the County. The agreement term is July 1, 2008 until June 30, 2013. The City of Napa has agreed to take over all dispatching for Animal Services Officers, and this service is covered by our current agreement.

Recommendation 5

Napa County Sheriff presents this evaluation report to the Board of Supervisors.

Response to Recommendation 5

The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable. We are already making the transition over to Napa City Police Dispatch Center.

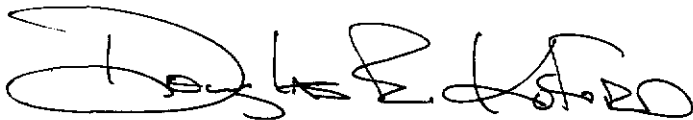
Recommendation 7

Napa County Sheriff's Department discontinues the Animal Services contract with *Direct Line*.

Response to Recommendation 7

The recommendation has been implemented. The Napa County Sheriff's Office has provided *Direct Line* with notice that effective September 1, 2011; we will no longer be requiring their services. Napa City Police Dispatch Center will take over dispatching for Animal Services.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Douglas E. Koford". The signature is stylized with large, sweeping loops and is positioned above the typed name.

Douglas E. Koford
Sheriff-Coroner