

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

416



FROM: Executive Office

SUBMITTAL DATE:
September 2, 2008

**SUBJECT: Response to 2007-2008 Grand Jury Report: Animal Friends of the Valley
Animal Shelter**

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:

- 1) Approve with or without modifications, the attached response to the Grand Jury's recommendations regarding the Animal Friends of the Valley Animal Shelter.
- 2) Direct the Clerk of the Board to immediately forward the Board's finalized response to the Grand Jury, to the Presiding Judge, and the County Clerk-Recorder (for mandatory filing with the State).

BACKGROUND: On July 1, 2008, the Board directed the Transportation and Land Management Agency (TLMA) and Riverside County Fire Department to forward to the Executive Office a coordinated response to the applicable findings and recommendations from the Grand Jury.

Section 933 (c) of the Penal Code requires that the Board of Supervisors comment on the Grand Jury's recommendations pertaining to the matters under the control of the Board, and that a response be provided to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court within 90 days.

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Departmental Concurrence

Gary Christmas

GARY CHRISTMAS
Deputy County Executive Officer

FINANCIAL DATA	Current F.Y. Total Cost:	\$ N/A	In Current Year Budget:
	Current F.Y. Net County Cost:	\$	Budget Adjustment:
	Annual Net County Cost:	\$	For Fiscal Year:

SOURCE OF FUNDS:	Positions To Be Deleted Per A-30	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Requires 4/5 Vote	<input type="checkbox"/>

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION: APPROVE

BY: *Bill Luna*
County Executive Office Signature

Consent
 Policy
 Consent
 Policy
 Dep't Recomm.:
 Per Exec. Ofc.:

**Response to 2007-2008 Grand Jury Report:
Animal Friends of the Valley Animal Shelter
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September 2, 2008**

Regarding findings numbers one, three and four: TLMA researched the location of the animal shelter and determined it lies entirely within Lake Elsinore City boundaries. TLMA and specifically Building and Safety does not have jurisdiction regarding the findings. TLMA recommends the full report be forwarded to the City of Lake Elsinore for inspection and follow-up.

Regarding findings numbers two and five: The City of Lake Elsinore contracts with the County of Riverside for basic fire services. In addition, the city contracts for one full-time Fire Safety Specialist (FSS). This FSS has been directed to work closely with the City Building Official to ensure the animal shelter is in compliance with all applicable city and state codes. County Fire has directed the FSS to provide follow-up reports to the Fire Chief to verify compliance with the suggestions or the Riverside County Grand Jury with respect to any fire code violations.

**Riverside County Fire Department
and
Transportation and Land Management Agency
Response to Grand Jury Findings and Recommendations
Animal Friends of the Valley Shelter**

FINDINGS

Number 1:

In March 2008, two dogs died from Parvovirus (Parvo) at the shelter. A common disease fatal to dogs is "Parvo, "a genus of viruses that replicates autonomously in suitable cells". Parvo manifests itself in canines in the form of vomiting and diarrhea that dehydrates the animal.. Death almost always follows. Humans, walking throughout the shelter, can have this virus adhere to their footwear and unknowingly spread the virus. The Parvo virus can exist on floors, cages and clothing for months and can be carried outside the shelter unless disinfected. The AFVAS does not warn visitors of this potential hazard to animals. The state appointed Executive Director, a Humane Officer, stated that a "disinfectant box" should be used. However, it is not being used.

Response:

Respondent(s) disagree wholly with the finding.

Animal Friends of the Valley Animal Shelter (AFVAS), a non-profit 501©(3) corporation, located at 29001 Bastron Avenue, is located entirely within Lake Elsinore City limits. Consequently, the Transportation and Land Management Agency, Building and Safety and Riverside County Fire do not have jurisdiction to act on the Grand Jury's recommendations for this Finding.

Recommendation:

The Recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable.

This recommendation does not directly apply to the Respondent(s), as the Transportation and Land Management Agency, Building and Safety and Riverside County Fire do not have jurisdiction to act on the Grand Jury's recommendations for this Finding.

Number 2:

The metal roof above the kennels supports a misting system that provides water mist to keep the larger dogs cool during warm weather. This misting system is attached to the electrical flex conduit that provides electricity to the fluorescent tube fixtures. The fixtures are not designed for outdoor use, and many fluorescent tubes were missing.

The misting system has corroded the light fixtures and can possibly cause an electrical short and fire.

Response:

Respondent(s) disagrees partially with the finding.

The City of Lake Elsinore contracts with the County of Riverside for basic fire services. In addition, the City contracts for one full time Fire Safety Specialist (FSS). This FSS is assigned only to the City and works at City Hall.

Recommendation:

The recommendation has been implemented.

The FSS has been directed to work closely with the City Building Official to ensure the animal shelter is in compliance with all applicable city and state codes. County Fire has directed the FSS to provide follow-up reports to the Fire Chief to verify compliance with the recommendations of the Riverside County Grand Jury with respect to any fire code violations.

Number 3:

During a tour of AFVAS, it was observed that large dogs were restricted from normal movement such as being able to lie down, turn around and sit normally. The cause of the restriction is a large sleeping box inside the kennel. One dog was sitting on top of his sleeping box because of the lack of room to move.

Response:

Respondent(s) disagree wholly with the finding.

AFVAS is located entirely within Lake Elsinore City limits. Consequently, the Transportation and Land Management Agency, Building and Safety and Riverside County Fire do not have jurisdiction to act on the Grand Jury's recommendations for this Finding.

Recommendation:

The Recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable.

This recommendation does not directly apply to the Respondent(s), as the Transportation and Land Management Agency, Building and Safety and Riverside County Fire do not have jurisdiction to act on the Grand Jury's recommendations for this Finding.

Number 4:

It has been reported that when it rains the AFVAS becomes flooded. Because of poor drainage, it is necessary to sand bag areas and use pumps to drain the water accumulations. The AFVAS grounds become muddy and are dangerous to work in and difficult to safely park a vehicle.

- Riverside County Department of Building and Safety, Environmental Compliance Division, recently has been issued a state storm water permit. This permit requires storm water pollution compliance inspections to be conducted at all commercial facilities, including kennels. These inspections began in 2007 and will continue in 2008. No inspection of the AFVAS has been performed as of the date of this report.

Response:

Respondent(s) disagree wholly with the finding.

The Building and Safety division of the Transportation and Land Management Agency was not issued a state storm water permit, nor does Building and Safety conduct inspections for storm water pollution compliance at any facility. Further, as AFVAS is located entirely within Lake Elsinore City limits, the Building and Safety division of TLMA has no jurisdiction. The City of Lake Elsinore is responsible for inspections relating to storm water runoff.

Recommendation:

The Recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable.

This recommendation does not directly apply to the Respondent(s), as the Transportation and Land Management Agency, Building and Safety and Riverside County Fire do not have jurisdiction to act on the Grand Jury's recommendations for this Finding.

Number 5:

AFVAS does not have smoke detectors and/or fire alarm systems installed and operating in their trailers.

Response:

Respondent(s) agrees partially with the finding.

The City of Lake Elsinore contracts with the County of Riverside for basic fire services. In addition, the City contracts for one full time Fire Safety Specialist (FSS). This FSS is assigned only to the City and works at City Hall.

Recommendation:

The recommendation has been implemented.

The FSS has been directed to work closely with the City Building Official to ensure the animal shelter is in compliance with all applicable city and state codes. County Fire has directed the FSS to provide follow-up reports to the Fire Chief to verify compliance with the recommendations of the Riverside County Grand Jury with respect to any fire code violations.

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