



SUTTER COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
J. PAUL PARKER
SHERIFF - CORONER

October 25, 2011

ENDORSED FILED

OCT 28 2011

Chris Chandler – Presiding Judge
Superior Court of California
County of Sutter

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF SUTTER
CLERK OF THE COURT
By JACKIE LASWELL Deputy

RE: 2010-2011 Grand Jury Final Report (Animal Control)
FINAL RESPONSE

The following is the final response of the Sheriff-Coroner-Public Administrator to the findings and recommendations of the 2010-2011 Sutter County Grand Jury Final Report as it is related to animal control.

The initial response of July 8, 2011 concurred with the grand jury that the animal control facility should be investigated in light of their findings. The response noted that in order to bring any type of criminal charge, our investigation must go beyond mere suspicion and determine a conclusion supported to a moral certainty and beyond a reasonable doubt. Until the investigation is complete, we could neither concur nor disagree with the findings. The investigation was solely conducted with an eye towards criminal violations and was agnostic as to the facility design, organization or management of the animal control facility.

Animal Control

Finding:

The Grand Jury finds that the Sutter County Animal Shelter may be in violation of California Penal code 597, California Veterinary Practice law 4826, California Veterinary Practice law 4840, California Veterinary Practice Law 4831, and California Civil Code 1834.

Recommendation:

The Grand Jury recommends Sheriff J. Paul Parker immediately begin an investigation to include the violations of California Penal Code 597, California Veterinary Practice Law 4826, California Veterinary Practice Law 4840, California Veterinary Practice Law 4831, and California Civil Code 1834. In the course of the Sheriff's investigation of these findings, individuals who are found to be culpable should be charged.

RECEIVED

OCT 28 2011

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF SUTTER
TRAFFIC DIVISION

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Response:

On June 24th, 2011, the Sheriff's Office began a lengthy investigation at the request of the Grand Jury for potential violations of the aforementioned statutes. The Sheriff's Office conducted formal and in depth interviews of over 25 individuals including ACO employees, ex-employees, County managers, current and ex-inmate trustees, veterinarian personnel including Dr. Kate Hurley of the U.C. Davis Koret Shelter Medicine Program and other witnesses. In addition, we reviewed hundreds of documents, written records, and other items of potential evidentiary value. In the end, over 70 pages of investigative narrative, not including seized documents, statements and the like was generated.

On August 2, 2011, the entire report was forwarded to the District Attorney's office for review.

On October 11, 2011 the Sheriff's Office received notice from the District Attorney advising that they had independently reviewed the investigation and concluded that there is no basis for the filing of criminal charges against any individual.

Respectfully submitted,



J. PAUL PARKER
SHERIFF-CORONER

cc: Sutter County Board of Supervisors
Stephanie Larsen, County Administrative Officer
Carl Adams – District Attorney