



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY REPORT NO. 1708
"Animal Shelter Services in Antioch and Contra Costa County"

Note: The Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors is required to respond to findings F10 to F12 and recommendations R9 and R10. The Antioch City Counsel is required to respond to finding F1 to F13 and recommendations R1 to R8, and R10 to R12.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' RESPONSE

FINDINGS – California Penal Code Section 933.05(a) requires a response to the designated findings of the Grand Jury.

F10. The County does not operate an animal shelter in east County.

Response: The respondent agrees with the finding.

F11. People from cities, other than Antioch, drop off animals at the shelter rather than driving them to a County Shelter.

Response: The respondent disagrees partially with the finding. Although non-Antioch residents may drop off animals at the Antioch Shelter, Contra Costa County Animal Services (CCAS) will, when notified by the Shelter, pick up those animals and transfer them to the Martinez shelter. Similarly, people sometimes bring animals from or found within Antioch city limits to the County's shelters.

F12. The county and the shelter do not have an agreement that the county will pick up and transport animals left by non-Antioch residents to a County shelter.

Response: The respondent disagrees partially with the finding. The location that an animal is found, and "not" the residency of the person finding that animal, determines the jurisdiction of the shelter to which the animal should be transported. In the interest of providing seamless service to all Contra Costa residents, CCAS and the Antioch Shelter, as well as any other Bay Area shelter, have a long-standing understanding and practice of exchanging animals that were inadvertently or deliberately taken to the "wrong" shelter. In such cases where an animal was found in the County's jurisdiction and taken to another jurisdiction's shelter, one of three actions will occur:

1. The shelter where the animal was deposited will file a "found" report with CCAS and then continue, at its own discretion, to hold the animal through its legal holding period.
2. The shelter where the animal was deposited will contact CCAS and request a pick-up. Upon such request, CCAS will dispatch an officer to transport the animal to a County shelter.

3. *The shelter where the animal was deposited will, at its own discretion, transport the animal to CCAS.*

RECOMMENDATIONS - California Penal Code Section 933.05(b) requires a response to the designated recommendations of the Grand Jury.

R9. The County Board of Supervisors should consider funding a study to examine the feasibility of establishing a County animal shelter in east County.

Response: The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted. The 2009 Citygate report and the grand jury have cited many factors other than jurisdiction issues contributing to the problems that exist at the Antioch Shelter. The City of Antioch appears to be taking corrective measures to address those problems. The City and the County have worked cooperatively to address issues of jurisdiction and will continue to do so.

R10. The County Board of Supervisors and the Antioch City council should consider negotiating an MOU whereby the Shelter agrees to accept all animals. Those that are identified as non-city of Antioch animals should be regularly picked up and transported to a County shelter by County Animal Control Officers.

Response: The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted. The Antioch Shelter and CCAS already cooperate, via pick-up and transport, to address the issue of animal jurisdiction. Additionally, the Antioch Shelter may continue to refer citizens who wish to surrender an animal from outside the City of Antioch to the appropriate County shelter or advise them to confine the animals to a safe area in their home where a CCAS officer can pick the animal up and take it to the appropriate shelter.