



Animal Friends of the Valleys

June 23, 2008

Response to the Riverside County Grand Jury report dated 6/18/08

Dear Grand Jury Members,

I received your report and recommendations. It was truly a pleasure to meet with you personally during my meeting in Riverside.

Listed below are some corrections to your findings along with my comments on each finding:

Background:

The euthanasia of animals is done in an area adjacent to the freezer. It is not done in a brick building. When the new modular (that is replacing the one that was destroyed in the fire) is set up and operating the euthanasia will be done inside the modular in a quiet room with a private entrance.

Grand Jury Finding #1:

AFV has always had disinfecting pans and spray bottles with disinfectant set up outside the puppy modular area and kennels (see enclosed picture taken the day of the fire). AFV uses RAMSEY FREQUENCY 256 as a disinfectant. It is proven effective in killing the parvovirus. AFV, like all shelters, is very concerned about the spreading of diseases.

We will install signage for the public explaining Parvo & warning them of the potential to carry the disease on their shoes. We will continue to use pans with disinfectants and provide spray bottles with disinfectant solutions for staff and the public. Sadly, the two puppies' immune system was in distress not only from the fire but also from the never ending stress from just being at the shelter and they contacted the virus.

Grand Jury Findings #2:

New outdoor lights had been installed in the kennels on 5/20/08. The misters have been removed. We are looking into other options to try to keep the dogs cooler during the summer months when the temperatures exceed 100 degrees quite frequently.

Grand Jury Findings #3:

The dogs in the kennels are provided a dog house during the colder months. They are also provided a blanket. This allows them to get inside to have adequate protection from the wind and cold. During the warmer months the tops are removed from the dog houses allowing the dogs a bed in which carpeting is installed. We will provide carpeting for the very large dogs and remove the beds completely during the summer. Some of the dogs enjoy sitting on top of

dog house to see above the brick wall that separates each kennel. The dogs are walked and/or exercised a minimum of 2-3 times per day.

Grand Jury Findings #4:

The flooding that occurs at AFV is not due to poor drainage. It is due to properties in the area improperly draining onto the shelter property causing us to flood. The amount of water that drains into the shelter from the surrounding properties, hills, and streets is what causes the flooding.

I certainly hope that the Environmental Compliance Division of the building and safety department will be able to find a solution to the flooding that occurs at the shelter. We have approached EVMWD and the City of Lake Elsinore to help us with this problem in the past. We have been told that we cannot divert the water onto another property; however the water that comes into the shelter is being diverted to the shelter by surrounding properties. I am not aware of any type of flood control in the area. Until this problem is fixed, we will continue to sand bag, line the shelter kennels with bales of straw, and try to divert the water into the sewer.

Grand Jury Findings #5:

Smoke detectors were installed in the cattery and two offices shortly after the fire. The new modular will have smoke detectors when it is complete and operating. We are currently talking with several companies to set up fire alarm systems and/or install fire sprinklers in each of the modulars.

Grand Jury Findings #6:

An address sign with a white background and 4" black numbers has been installed on the front gate to the shelter the day after I met with the Grand Jury.

In closing, I thank you all for your time and concern for the shelter and the animals in our care.

Sincerely,



Willa Bagwell
Executive Director



**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
HUMANE OFFICER**

Badge #001

Willa A. Bagwell

Investigations

Case# _____

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