



Seattle Humane
THE HUMANE SOCIETY
FOR SEATTLE/KING COUNTY

October 7, 2009

Executive Kurt Triplett
King County Chinook Building
401 5th Ave. Suite 800
Seattle, WA 98104
kccexec@kingcounty.gov

RE: Companion Animal Shelter Services

Dear Executive Triplett,

Earlier this week, the Seattle Humane Society wrote you to extend our offer to provide all animal sheltering and adoption services for King County as early as November 1, 2009, the date on which the King County Animal Care and Control shelter in Kent is set to be closed. Since that time, a member of your staff has indicated that this plan is not feasible, because King County would not be able to contribute the one-time capital expansion grant of \$2 million dollars until after June 2010.

The Seattle Humane Society would like to make sure that this procedural hurdle does not prevent us from working together to do what is best for the animals, the cities, and the county taxpayers. As a result, we are willing to use our reserve funds and a temporary workforce, so that we can take the more than 300 animals who are still housed at the Kent shelter before the shelter is closed on Nov. 1, and begin to provide county sheltering services as of that date.

Obviously, the details of this offer need to be negotiated, but all we anticipate needing from King County for this transition would be the use of the trailers, cages, and other equipment currently located at the Kent shelter, temporary parking space on the county land adjoining our property, and funds to assist us in moving this equipment and the animals. We are willing to take these animals under a temporary agreement, as a result of the emergency created by possible flooding of the Green River. We would then anticipate continuing negotiations on a more permanent agreement to provide county animal sheltering services, which would include discussion of the capital funds offered by the county.

We understand that this morning, the council's budget committee will consider a proposal from you to provide emergency funding to respond to the flooding threat from the Green River. According to your September 17, 2009 transmission letter, nearly \$1 million is being requested to set up a temporary animal shelter (at an undisclosed location), to replace the KCACC shelter in Kent, and to take other action to provide temporary animal care and control services. We urge you to withdraw this

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budget request, as we are offering to take on this burden with minimal expense to the county, and believe that this expenditure would be enormously wasteful. I think we can all agree that at this point, King County does not have an extra \$1 million to spare. After years of deadlock, we all have a unique opportunity to at last do the right thing for the animals in this community. Already, the community is coming together with offers to help provide the care and treatment that the orphaned and abandoned animals in King County need and deserve.

For example, we were delighted to hear that the Progressive Animal Welfare Society (“PAWS”) has contacted the cities of Shoreline, Bothell, Woodinville, Lake Forest Park and Kenmore, to discuss providing animal sheltering services for these cities at its facility in Lynnwood once KCACC is closed. We have also been contacted by other animal welfare organizations, such as MEOW, Homeward Pet Adoption Center, and South County Cats Spay/Neuter Assistance Organization, expressing their desire to be a part of the solution. If a deal is struck to for us to take the animals from the Kent facility, we would immediately reach out to other portions of the animal welfare community for support, including asking the veterinary community to provide us with temporary volunteer assistance to provide necessary medical treatment for the influx of new animals. I am confident that the compassionate people of King County will respond.

It is unconscionable for King County to insist on providing continuing support to an agency that has failed time and again to provide adequate care for companion animals, and to do so at a great and unnecessary expense. We urge you to consider our offer, and to engage in negotiations with us so that we can come to a solution that is better for both the animals, and the taxpayers.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Brenda F. Barnette
Chief Executive Officer