



## **Seattle Humane Society Urges King County Council to Protect the Animals** *Set expectations and a timeline for the county shelter to achieve humane objectives*

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The Seattle Humane Society supports the concept of a regional animal care and control system. We hope this plan will be successful, and urge the King County Council to impose *measurable* performance standards, and conduct regular outside audits, to ensure that our county's animals get the humane care they deserve.

The Seattle Humane Society is dedicated to the welfare of all animals in King County. Last fall, when the King County Council decided the county should get out of the animal sheltering business, we offered to help. County Executive Dow Constantine has decided to keep the county running an animal shelter. We have no problem with this – as long as those animals receive humane treatment and proper care.

Two years ago, experts from the U.C. Davis Shelter Medicine Program inspected the county's shelters and found multiple, serious shortcomings in the county's ability to provide animals with basic humane care. Many additional problems have been found by other experts both before and since. In a report last fall, the King County Auditor found issues with the county's ability to keep track of its animals and provide reliable statistics with which to measure the needs and progress of its program.

The council has invested millions of dollars in attempting to address these problems. Before continuing this funding, we urge the council to establish firm benchmarks that animal services must meet within an established timeline – to improve humane care, solve the other problems that persist in the system, and present reliable statistics showing compliance with the lifesaving standards mandated in 2007. The council should also require regular inspections by outside experts who share its humane and lifesaving goals, to ensure all animals in the county's custody receive proper care.

The Seattle Humane Society remains committed to helping the orphaned animals of King County with funds from its generous donors. We also remain ready to assist King County government as it transitions to this regional plan. Our goal is clear: to save as many adoptable animals as possible and find them loving homes.

*Seattle Humane Society has been awarded the coveted 4-star rating by Charity Navigator, America's largest independent charity evaluator. Founded in 1897 to bring people and pets together, Seattle Humane Society provides incredible companion animals for adoption 7 days a week, pet workshops and training, a pet food bank, a low-fee spay/neuter surgery program, humane teen club, a visiting pets program and more. Seattle Humane Society is located in Bellevue, at 13212 SE Eastgate Way. For directions and more information, visit [seattlehumane.org](http://seattlehumane.org) or call (425) 641-0080.*

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