

From: Susan Pricco <
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 8:39 PM
To: Clerk of the Board <ClerkOfTheBoard@cob.cccounty.us>
Cc: Supervisor John_Gioia <John_Gioia@bos.cccounty.us>; Supervisor Candace Andersen <SupervisorAndersen@bos.cccounty.us>; Supervisor_Burgis <Supervisor_Burgis@bos.cccounty.us>; Supervisor Carlson <supervisorcarlson@bos.cccounty.us>; Supervisor Federal Glover <DistrictFive@bos.cccounty.us>
Subject: Public Comment on: Consent Agenda C.5 October 17 2023 BOS meeting

I note the report attached to the Consent agenda item relating to Contra Costa Animal Services. I am unable to speak in person at the Board meeting.

The figures of department finances are appalling. It is also not a fair representation of the day to day failures of CCAS. There is little positive engagement with rescue organizations. There is overuse of drugs in animals (mostly dogs) who are in the "care" of CCAS making them less adoptable in the frightening conditions they are in.

CCAS has been underfunded for decades. The current administration is neither capable nor compassionate towards animals, taxpayers and visitors.

The Pinole shelter was closed in 2020 with little to no citizen input. It is a clear depiction of discrimination to West Contra Costa residents who are routinely underserved by County services.

There is virtually no effort to increase funding and services, either by means of outreach, information campaigns, volunteerism or expanding partnerships in animal rescues. Anyone who has had to experience the process connected with the spay/neuter programs has also experienced a lack of appointments, long waits, inconsistent information from staff, and lack of cooperation.

Measure X funding has plenty of money for myriad "new programs" but not for maintenance of existing obligations – such as Animal Services.

It's an embarrassment that this County has neglected this department for so long. It is your duty to properly fund humane services in Contra Costa and the time is long past to honor that obligation.

Susan L Pricco

From: L Lecce <
Date: Tue, Oct 17, 2023 at 9:13 AM
Subject: Public Comment on: Consent Agenda C.5 October 17, 2023 BOS Meeting
To: <John_Gioia@bos.cccounty.us>, <SupervisorCarlson@bos.cccounty.us>, <clerkoftheboard@cob.cccounty.us>, <district5@bos.cccounty.us> <district5@bos.cccounty.us>, <supervisor_burgis@bos.cccounty.us>, <supervisor_burgis@bos.cccounty.us>, <supervisorandersen@bos.cccounty.us>

As I cannot attend in person today, I would like my voice to be heard relating to Contra Costa Animal Services.

I follow closely the reporting of pets up for adoption at this shelter and this May I noted a video of a German Shepherd puppy (approx 11 mos. old) that was on the euthanize list. This pup "shut down" in absolute fear and was unresponsive to stimulus. She was on gabapentin. My husband and I had already two rescues, a an adult German Shepherd and a terrier mix. My heart broke for this pup. It is NOT ok to drug these dogs and label them as "unadoptable". It is not ok for you young pup to be sedated (or any for that matter).

I looked into saving this pup's life and was told that I had to reach out to a rescue and become her foster. The shelter advised I could not directly adopt from the shelter. I immediately began calling German Shepherd rescues. I had 48 hours to save this pup's life. One rescue said they would not work with the Contra Costa facility because "they drug their dogs". They also stated that the rescues are treated poorly; made to wait in line with the public when they are there to pull the pups for rescue.

Why is your shelter a death camp for innocent creatures without a home? Why does your shelter have a high kill list? Is there a financial incentive for "putting down" an animal in your shelter?

Netherlands and Germany do not euthanize their strays. WE CAN DO BETTER.

"Article 1 of the Animal Protection Act (Germany) prohibits the killing of an animal without reasonable cause...if they are healthy"; leading to a ban on the euthanasia of (healthy) stray animals."

Contra Costa Animal Shelter's administration should be reviewed and audited. Something is horribly wrong.

Thank you for your time.

Luciana Lecce

Day 1 -



2 weeks later....a thriving gorgeous pup