



2015-2016

Madera County Grand Jury

Final Report

1516-02

Madera County Department of Animal Services

Publication Date: June 22, 2016

**2015-2016
Madera County Grand Jury
Final Report
1516-02 Madera County Department of Animal Services**

Introduction:

The 2015-2016 Madera County Grand Jury received two citizens' complaints regarding the operation of the Madera County Animal Shelter and actions of its Director alleging foster/rescued animals were seized without cause, the Director threatened one of the complainants, and that a seized dog was placed on a "kill list".

The Grand Jury investigated these complaints over a period of six months. Interviews included the two complainants, Animal Shelter employees, a volunteer with the Friends of Madera Animal Shelter (FMAS), a department director, members of the Board of Supervisors, and a senior county administrator. In addition, an unscheduled site visit to the Animal Shelter was conducted, pertinent websites were referenced, the sheriff's office was contacted and policies and procedures were reviewed.

While the Grand Jury could find no evidence to support the allegations in the complaints, the Grand Jury did discover numerous deficiencies requiring immediate actions which are stated under "*Grand Jury Recommendations*" in this report. According to the Madera County website, the Department of Animal Services is a "county agency whose purpose is to provide humane and professional solutions for animal related problems, to encourage responsible behaviors, and to create a safer environment for people and animals to co-exist" as required by law. The Madera County Grand Jury found this statement to be true in concept but hard to achieve. The department struggles with insufficient personnel, outdated facilities, and an underfunded budget.

Facts:

1. There was no evidence substantiating criminal activity by the Animal Shelter employees nor by its director.
2. There was no evidence substantiating the existence of a "kill list", one that singled out a specific seized dog or a particular breed of dog.
3. The Madera County Animal Shelter's (MCAS) physical plant was built in 1973. A new outbuilding dedicated to adoptions was constructed in 2007 due to a community member's donation (Roberta Wills).
4. A large outside area used for washing equipment and bathing animals is unprotected from the elements.

5. A 2013-2014 Madera County Grand Jury Final Report “Madera County Animal Services” included findings of understaffing impacting the county’s ability to respond to calls and that the Animal Services facilities need upgrading and repair.
6. The 2013-2014 Grand Jury recommended that staff be hired to manage the workload.
7. The 2013-2014 Grand Jury recommended that the needed building upgrading and repairs be made.
8. The Madera County Board of Supervisors agreed with the recommendations.
9. A sagging roof was repaired in 2014.
10. To-date, no other action has occurred regarding the 2013-2014 recommendations.
11. Every county employee and county representative interviewed during this investigation stated that the department needed a new facility and more staff. Everyone stated the department would cease to function without volunteer support.
12. The MCAS cares for approximately 7400 animals annually.
13. The size of Madera County is 2,147 square miles. The county is divided into three patrol areas.
14. The area of Madera Ranchos is not actively patrolled. An officer may respond to a citizen’s request as available.
15. There are fees for redemptions or adoptions.
16. The budget for the MCAS in 2008 (fiscal) was \$985,745. The budget for the MCAS in 2015 (fiscal) is \$1,073,376. This is an increase of **\$87,631**.
17. The budget for a similar size facility processing approximately 7,000 animals per year is \$2 million. (See attachment #1)
18. The salary for the Madera County Animal Services’ director is \$5,672 per month.
19. A January 2016 study of nine comparable counties indicated that those counties with a similar position and responsibilities paid anywhere from \$2,000 to \$5,000 more per month. (See attachment #2)
20. Full time staff positions funded in 2008 = 17. Full time staff positions funded in 2015 = 12.
21. At the time of this investigation there are currently three Animal Control Officer positions funded of which two officers are on the job.
22. Volunteers are limited in what activities they may perform for the shelter due to objections from County unions regarding volunteers performing a paid worker’s tasks.
23. A volunteer organization, FMAS, provides the funding for the medications, crates, cages, and transportation to the Spay-Neuter Clinics.

24. Vaccinations used at the shelter are donated by FMAS.
25. Friends of Madera Animal Shelter has donated more than \$3 million to the Animal Shelter since its inception in 2001. (See attachment #3)
26. Policy and Procedure documents provided to the Grand Jury were incomplete, outdated, disorganized, and difficult to interpret. Documents often were without any indication of when implemented.
27. Knowledge of policies and procedures is primarily passed on from senior to new-hire via word-of-mouth.
28. Training of staff is conducted by more senior staff without the benefit of an organized program.
29. No evidence of any type of volunteer guidelines was produced.
30. County policy states that full-time employees receive annual evaluations.
31. One employee has not received an evaluation since reaching his/her top salary step.
32. Euthanasia is done per County policy. (See attachment #4)
33. The schedule of animals to be euthanized is created the evening before the designated day for euthanizing.
34. Animal Shelter personnel must be certified in order to perform euthanasia. Staff are rotated through this assignment.
35. The Animal Services department's "Live Release Rate %" has increased over fourteen percent since 2008.

Findings:

1. The MCAS facility is old, in disrepair, and inadequate to accommodate the needs of the county.
2. Staffing levels at the facility are inadequate and the department is unable to deliver the services required by law.
3. The MCAS budget is insufficient to allow the department to operate without relying on the support of volunteers and to be able to deliver the services required by law.
4. At the time of this investigation, the Board of Supervisors has not taken decisive action regarding recommendations of the 2013-2014 Grand Jury.
5. No organized, detailed, written policy/procedure for orientation of new hires was produced nor did present staff know of a formalized orientation program.

6. No organized, detailed, written policy/procedure for orientation of volunteers and extra help staff was produced.
7. The Grand Jury could not substantiate that all full-time staff received an annual evaluation.
8. The Grand Jury found that the Animal Shelter director was significantly underpaid compared to other similar counties.
9. Pet owners experienced difficulties in complying with the Animal Shelters' policies/procedures regarding showing proof of ownership (photograph) and/or having the monies to pay for redemption/adoption in full at the time of redemption.
10. Euthanasia is mainly performed due to limited space at the facility. Euthanasia may be performed on a sick, injured, or vicious animal. Unclaimed pets may be euthanized.

Recommendations:

The Grand Jury recommends that:

1. The Madera County Board of Supervisors allocate funds to build a new Animal Shelter within three years.
2. The Madera County Board of Supervisors increase the budget for the Department of Animal Services to reflect budgets of like facilities in like counties by the 2017-2018 budget year.
3. The Madera County Board of Supervisors budget enough money so that the Department of Animal Services does not have to rely on donations from volunteers and volunteer organizations to function.
4. The Madera County Board of Supervisors fund staff positions to a total of fifteen full-time employees at the Department of Animal Services now.
5. The Madera County Board of Supervisors increase the salary of the Animal Services Department director commensurate with comparable positions in comparable counties by the 2017-2018 budget year.
6. The Madera County Board of Supervisors authorize the immediate installation of a shelter over the outside area used to wash equipment and bathe animals.
7. The Director of Animal Services develop standardized orientation programs for full-time staff, extra help staff and volunteers.
8. The Director of Animal Services ensure all full-time employees receive annual evaluations per Madera County policy.
9. The Director of Animal Services review, revise, and update a policy and procedures manual specific to the department. The manual needs to be dated.

10. The Director of Animal Services with approval from the Board of Supervisors institute a method of assisting animal owners in the redemption of their pets when payment in full at the time of redemption is a hardship. A payment plan or community service in lieu of monetary payments should be considered.

11. The Board of Supervisors specifically respond to these recommendations and not just reference responses that may be submitted by the director of the department.

12. The Board of Supervisors identify a specific date for implementing recommendations they endorse and not state “in the future” or some such vague time frame.

Commendations:

The Madera County Grand Jury Commends:

1. The dedication of the Department of Animal Shelter’s director and staff.
2. The many volunteers and the *Friends of Madera Animal Shelter* for supporting the Animal Shelter through hours worked and money donated.

Respondents:

Madera County Board of Supervisors
200 West 4th Street
Madera, California, 93637

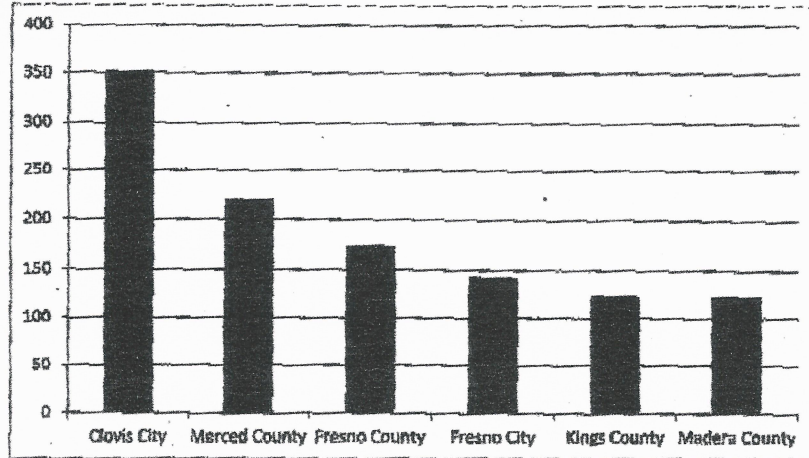
Madera County Administrative Officer
200 West 4th Street
Madera, California

Director
Madera County Department of Animal Services
200 West 4th Street
Madera, California.

Information only:

Friends of Madera Animal Shelter
PO Box 923
Madera, CA 93639

**COST COMPARISONS FOR LOCAL ANIMAL SHELTERS 6/20/2015
FRIENDS OF MADERA ANIMAL SHELTER**



Location	Annual Budget	Animals Impounded	Cost Per Animal
Clovis City	\$1,085,800	3077	\$352
Merced County	\$1,787,850	8895	\$201
Fresno County	\$750,000	4319	\$174
Fresno City	\$3,043,691	21,232	\$143
Kings County	\$852,752	6893	\$124
Madera County	\$979,514	7949	\$123
Average	\$1,416,601	8,727.5	\$186

**COMPARABLE CLASSES FOR THE POSITION OF MADERA COUNTY ANIMAL
SERVICES DIRECTOR
1/14/2016**

Fresno County:
No Comparable Class

Certain functions of animal services, such as issuing of dog licenses are handled through the Public Health Dept (Environmental Health).

Kings County:
No Comparable Class

There is an Animal Services Manager position, with a top monthly salary of \$5,752; however, the position is not a department head and the functions are within the Sheriff's Office.

Tulare County:
No Comparable Class

There is an Animal Control Manager position, with a top monthly salary of \$7,060; however, the position is not a department head and the functions are within Environmental Health.

Kern County:
Possible Comparable Class (further research is required): Director of Animal Services, with a top monthly salary of \$9,679.

This position is a department head position and serves at the will of the Board of Supervisors. The position also provides monthly reports and serves as staff to the Kern County Animal Control Commission.

Merced County:
No Comparable Class

The Ag Commissioner/Sealer also serves as the Animal Control Director

Stanislaus County:
Possible Comparable Class (further research is required): Director of Animal Services, with a top monthly salary of \$11,537.

Like Kern County, this position reports to the Animal Services Commission, as well as an Animal Services Agency Board.

Tuolumne County:
No Comparable Class

The Ag Commissioner/Air Pollution Control Officer also serves as the Animal Control Director

Nevada County:
No Comparable Class

The functions of Animal Control are within the Sheriff's Office.

Sutter County:
No Comparable Class

Thank you and please let me know if you have any questions.

Banking Summary - All Dates

11/4/2004 through 4/12/2016

4/12/2016

Page 1

Category	11/4/2004- 4/12/2016
INCOME	
Uncategorized	4,190.00
"Divot" Memorial Golf	11,053.00
Additional Vet. Services	9,391.29
ASPCA	5,220.00
Boutique	515.80
Bricks For Expansion	4,395.53
Cans For Critters	3,609.30
Chow. Vac. Clinic	20,664.52
Chowcilla Chapter	10,626.50
Christmas Cards	103.00
CHUKCHANSI GRANT	24,000.00
Consulting	0.00
Cookbook	5,547.00
De Flores	1,721.00
Doggie ID	163.00
Donation - Red & Nancy Arnold Foundation	1,500,000.00
Donation Shelter Box	2,443.60
Expansion and Kennels	19,240.00
Food	6,546.00
Food 4 Less Raffle	155.80
Food4Less	6,108.00
Funds for Frankie	6,605.97
General Fund	239,908.72
HOPE	14,856.90
-Horses	4,948.00
Seymore	580.00
TOTAL HOPE	20,384.90
HOPE, Cats	810.00
HOPE-Clover	945.00
HORSE SHELTER	1,600.00
Interact	746.00
Interest Inc	6,344.63
Jim Raymond Trust	28,165.20
Litter Pins	362.39
Madera District Fair Donations	465.00
Madera Vac. Clinic	243,848.94
Magnetic Ribbons	93.50
Membership	725.00
Memorial	30,686.08
New Shelter Now	14,466.55
Newletter Inserts-Direct Mail	585.00
Odd Fellows Raffle	771.00
Opening Funds	28,470.56
Other Inc	20.00
Pancake Breakfast	7,889.70
Pennies For Pets	81.14
Petco	13,675.05
Petco Security	500.00
Petsmart Adoption Daly City	272,407.08

ATTACHMENT #3

151602

Banking Summary - All Dates

11/4/2004 through 4/12/2016

4/12/2016

Page 2

Category	11/4/2004- 4/12/2016
Petsmart Rewards	130,670.99
PG&E Donation	166.55
Quilt Raffle	998.00
Raffle	207.00
Recycle	843.37
Rescue on The Runway	150.00
Reward Fund	3,210.00
Rewards First Bank Card	1,175.00
Ride For The Barn	13,879.00
Round Table	1,197.00
Rummage Sale	5,078.77
Sale of Asset	500.00
San Joaquin Wine Co. Event	301.00
Save a Shelter Dog (income)	5,174.00
SHARES	9,453.61
Spay & Neuter-co-pays	220,590.03
Spay & Neuter-donations	204,520.00
Spay & Neuter-Feral Cat Program	11,000.00
Spay and Neuter-general	113,129.00
SpayVaccine Pin	86.75
Strut Your Mutt 2004-2012	68,004.40
Super Adoption	70.00
Tax Inserts	46,213.76
The Paw Spa Reimbursements	1,513.00
Trees For Charity	21,899.75
VAC Adoption	279.70
Volunteer Apprec. Dinner Donation	1,589.87
XMAS	2,916.43
TOTAL INCOME	3,421,067.73

EXPENSES

Uncategorized	5,802.54
2006 Ford E150	10,798.00
2013 Van E250	22,161.57
Accounting	12,094.14
Ads	641.99
Auto	3,767.02
Fuel	46,402.80
Insurance	15,213.49
Registration	4,698.00
Service	8,238.31
Trailer	4,283.91
TOTAL Auto	82,603.53
Auto Insurance	8,044.24
Banfield	1,711.68
Bank Charge	5,635.45
Barn	1,897.70
Brick Garden	2,206.00
Cat Adoption Fee Match	16,220.00
Cat Redemption Reward	1,760.00
Cat Rescue HOPE ACCT	4,241.95

Banking Summary - All Dates

11/4/2004 through 4/12/2016

4/12/2016

Page 3

Category	11/4/2004- 4/12/2016
Chow Vac Clinic	907.50
Chowchilla Committee	14,147.23
Clothing	2,495.81
COMPUTER SOFTWARE	1,950.00
COMPUTER Web Site	1,340.43
Cookbook Fund Raiser	1,956.10
Crates	17,797.92
Divot 2009	425.59
Dog Adoption Fee Match	1,050.00
Dues And Fees	404.92
Dues, Fees, and Subscriptions	40.00
Education	13,004.15
Employee Expense	734.55
Entertainment	350.00
equipment	9,879.72
Fashion Show	146.00
Feral Cat Program	1,394.73
FMAS Resale Items	1,880.77
Food Account	5,949.57
Foster Food	6,964.49
Foster Food Reimbursement	2,445.91
Fuel Reimbursement	2,446.98
Gifts Given	16.62
Groceries	624.23
Grooming	40.00
HOPE Expense	7,039.77
HOPE Expense, Horses	24,072.43
Horse Barn	6,956.44
Insurance	10,747.78
Insurance Workers Comp	5,312.89
Insurance, Bus	3,378.09
Insurance, Bus Directors & Officers	9,833.40
Interest Exp	14.89
Justice For Clover	831.45
Kennels, new	19,477.26
Legal-Prof Fees	40.00
Licenses and Permits	20.00
Madera District Fair Expense	139.46
Meals & Entertn	937.68
Meals & Entertn Vol Dinner	1,691.05
Medical	295.00
Doctor	368.12
Medicine	142,670.88
TOTAL Medical	143,334.00
Misc	2,135.98
Miscellaneous, Bus	166.90
Newsletter	5,209.21
Office	983.93
Office Supplies	2,285.47
Outreach	948.62
Payroll Taxes	21,962.77

Banking Summary - All Dates

11/4/2004 through 4/12/2016

4/12/2016

Page 4

Category	11/4/2004- 4/12/2016
Pet Carriers	984.12
Petfinder Expense	1,109.60
Petfinder Expense Entry	11,319.00
PetSmart Adoption, Daly City	162,962.62
Petty Cash	500.00
Postage	2,415.21
Postage and Delivery	1,345.39
Printing and Reproduction	46,223.08
Printing Newsletter& Post	1,775.60
Prison Program	1,634.19
Professional Fees	750.00
Promotion	14,554.19
Registration Fee	90.00
Rent	700.00
Rent Paid	875.00
Returned Check	1,503.00
Run For The Barn	442.57
Save a Shelter Dog	5,327.78
Security	128.00
Seymore Rescue	50.00
Signs	309.69
Spay And Neuter	1,857,208.06
Storage	405.00
Strut Your Mutt 2004-2012 Exp	6,831.86
Supplies, Bus	586.71
Supplies, Other	11,317.85
Supplies, Volunteer Expense	2,621.37
Tax	
State	2,860.00
TOTAL Tax	2,860.00
Tax Inserts Printing	2,279.43
Toy Hauler	2,000.00
Training	50.00
Trees For Charity Expense	1,109.40
Utilities	
Telephone	12,645.17
TOTAL Utilities	12,645.17
Utilities, Bus	
Telephone, Bus	1,730.76
TOTAL Utilities, Bus	1,730.76
VAC Adoptions	1,100.00
Vaccine	69,247.44
Vaccination Clinic-Chowchilla	1,701.18
Vaccination Clinic-exp.	106,074.01
VAN Purchase	23,354.61
Void	0.00
Vol Dinner Expenses	6,233.95
Vol. Expense	3,717.26
Volunteer Expense	5,708.83
Wage Garnish Payment	890.21
Wages	112,036.02

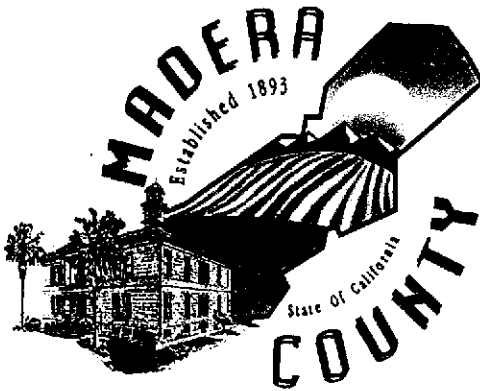
Banking Summary - All Dates

11/4/2004 through 4/12/2016

4/12/2016

Page 5

Category	11/4/2004- 4/12/2016
TOTAL EXPENSES	3,018,439.64
TRANSFERS	
FROM Central Valley Community Bank	1,250,000.00
FROM County Bank Spay Neuter	34,284.38
FROM CVCB CD (788)	251,546.95
FROM CVCB CDARS1 (7411)	250,010.21
FROM CVCB CDARS2 (0082)	250,054.18
FROM CVCB CDARS3 (0104)	250,255.70
FROM CVCB CDARS4 (0139)	250,261.94
FROM Original Acct. FMAS	4,020.00
FROM Union Bank Checking	165,972.21
FROM WESTAMERICA CD's	22,178.60
FROM Union bank CD's	31,286.37
TO Central Valley Community Bank	-1,392,437.62
TO County Bank Spay Neuter	-40,600.00
TO CVCB CD (788)	-250,000.00
TO CVCB CDARS1 (7411)	-250,000.00
TO CVCB CDARS2 (0082)	-250,000.00
TO CVCB CDARS3 (0104)	-250,000.00
TO CVCB CDARS4 (0139)	-250,000.00
TO Union Bank Checking	-10,800.43
TO WESTAMERICA CD's	-30,726.12
TO Union bank CD's	-30,000.00
TOTAL TRANSFERS	5,306.37
OVERALL TOTAL	407,934.46



Madera County Animal Control

14269 Road 28

Madera California 93638

559-675-7891 Fax 559-675-7617

MADERA COUNTY ANIMAL CONTROL EUTHANASIA POLICY

Section 1. (a) The California Legislature finds and declares the following:

- (1) Public and private shelters and humane organizations share a common purpose in saving animals' lives, preventing animal suffering, and eliminating animal abandonment.
- (2) Public and private shelters and humane groups should work together to end euthanasia of adoptable and treatable animals by 2010.

In accordance with California Senate Bill 1785: animal care policy, known also as the Hayden Bill, Madera County Animal Control has established policies regarding euthanasia. These policies follow the *intent or the spirit* of the Hayden Bill, but since the bill is an unfunded mandate, following the bill to the letter without reimbursement can be perceived as fiscally irresponsible.

It is the duty of all employees of Madera County Animal Control to make sure each animal impounded receives humane sheltering, adequate food, water, and medical attention. After the animal has been in the shelter for the required stray holding period it is then available for adoption or euthanasia.

The stray holding period for dogs and cats is five working days. The stray holding period for feral (wild or undomesticated) dogs and cats is three working days. Livestock are held for 14 working days. Other pets like birds, rodents, rabbits etc. are also held for five working days. Animals with known owners are held for 10 days and those under protective custody can remain in the care of the shelter for an extended period of time.

If the animal is adopted, held for rescue, held for upcoming adoption events or is highly adoptable and space is available at the shelter, then these animals can be held past their required holding period. This is in accordance with Sec. 5. 1834.4 (a) of the Civil Code which reads: It is the policy of the state that no adoptable animal should be euthanized if it can be adopted into a suitable home. (b) It is the policy of the state that no treatable animal should be euthanized. A treatable animal shall include any animal that could become adoptable with reasonable efforts.

EUTHANASIA OF THE GENERAL POPULATION OF IMPOUNDED ANIMALS

Each animal has an impound card with the dates indicating when it arrived and when it is available for euthanasia or adoption. These cards are in duplicate form with one copy on the cage of the animal and the other maintained in the office. These cards identify the animals with descriptions, an identification number, an impound number and other pertinent information.

Temperament assessment is very important when making the decision to euthanize a pet. Domestic tame cats can act very scared or feral like in a shelter environment. If they exhibit tame behavior after their initial impoundment, then the dating on the impound card must be changed to the five day holding period for tame animals. To protect the health and safety of residents, known vicious or aggressive animals will not be made available for adoption. All employees are required to report to their supervisor bite incidences, fractious behavior, and unsociable animals. Either the Director or Supervising Animal Control Officer will assess the animals' temperament prior to euthanasia.

Review of the animals history, health, adoption possibilities, rescue possibilities, identification, and checking the lost animal book, are all pre-euthanasia decision making procedures that are overseen by the Director or the Supervising Animal Control Officer.

Animal Control Officers who are certified to perform euthanasia are assigned the task to perform euthanasia for any given day. The officers will check the impound cards for those that are available for euthanasia and forward this information to the Director or to the Supervising Animal Control Officer. The Director or Supervisor will then assess each available animal for temperament, adoptability, health, and take into consideration other factors such as rescue group agendas, adoption events, and space availability in the shelter. The Director or Supervisor will then initial approval on the card for the animal to be euthanized.

Should the Director or Supervisor not be available for signatures to authorize euthanasia of a severely injured or ill animal, the officer must attempt to reach the Director and the Supervisor by cell phone. If both are still unavailable, a message must be left on the cell phones voice mail indicating the problem and the action taken by the officer. Only after getting a signature or leaving a voice mail message on both cell phone numbers of the Director and the Supervisor can the officer make the decision to go ahead with euthanasia.

The officer will take the designated animal to the euthanasia area. The officer will review the information on the kennel card for accuracy, check the animal for microchips or other identification, and compare the animal to those reported in the lost animal book. If their findings indicate that the animal should not be euthanized at this time, the information will be forwarded to the Director or Supervisor for review and a final determination.

The Animal Control Officer gives an injectable tranquilizer to the animal which renders it unconscious. After the animal is thoroughly sedated the Animal Control Officer will then give them an injection of Sodium Pentobarbital which stops the heart. Documenting the amount of tranquilizer and Sodium Pentobarbital used on each animal is then completed. The remains are placed in the freezer until disposal.

EUTHANASIA OF SICK, INJURED, OR NEWBORNS THAT NEED MATERNAL CARE.

Code Sections that address these issues include;

Section 11. Section 17006 added to the Food and Agricultural Code to read:
Animals that are irremediably suffering from a serious illness or severe injury shall not be held for owner redemption or adoption. Newborn animals that need maternal care and have been impounded without their mothers may be euthanized without being held for owner redemption or adoption.

Section 19. Section 597.1 (a) of the Penal Code is amended to read:
Any peace officer, humane society officer, or animal control officer shall convey all injured cats and dogs found without their owners in a public place directly to a veterinarian known by the officer to be a veterinarian who ordinarily treats dogs and cats for a determination of whether the animal shall be immediately and humanely destroyed or shall be hospitalized under proper care and given emergency treatment.

The Director or Supervising Animal Control Officer shall do an assessment on each sick, injured or newborn animal entering the shelter for seriousness of illness, severity of injury, and other issues. Taken into consideration are identification on the animal, available veterinary services, fostering possibilities and other concerns. Only after all the options are thoroughly reviewed, can the decision be made to hold the pet for additional days or humanely euthanize it.

The Director or Supervisor must assess the level of suffering and recoverability and make the decision to euthanize the animal or not. Severely injured or gravely ill animals are humanely euthanized by certified staff. Animals with less severe emergencies are transported to the local veterinarian and/or treated as per veterinarian recommendations. First aid and basic supportive care is provided to those animals with minor medical problems.

If neither the Director nor Supervising Animal Control Officer are available during the time a sick or injured animal is brought in, the Animal Control Officers will contact one of them by phone. After discussing the animals' condition, options, and shelter resources, the Director or Supervising Animal Control Officer will make the determination whether to treat, send to the veterinarian, or euthanize the animal. If neither the Director or the Supervisor is available, then the officer must leave a message on both

voice mail services explaining the circumstances and making that determination to euthanize.

Madera County Animal Control does not have a veterinarian on staff. We rely on local veterinarians to provide exams and treatment for our injured or sick animals. It is not fiscally feasible or reasonable to take every injured and sick animal to our local veterinarians. It is feasible and reasonable to do all we can to provide humane treatment for all unwanted animals and alleviate their suffering with euthanasia when applicable.

The decision to euthanize is permanent and will not be made in haste and without considering all the options.