

The Lincoln County Animal Shelter

Its History and Future
September 2011



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- “The greatness of a people and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated”—Mohandas Gandhi

The Early Years

- Current facility built circa 1967
- Operated by the county until 1977, when management was contracted to Central Coast Humane Society (CCHS)



A Change in Operations

- After successfully operating the shelter for several years, CCHS turned the shelter back to the county in 1987
- Sheriff's Office assumed management of the shelter



Recent History

- In 2009, county faced an unprecedented sudden drop in revenues (18 percent), forcing major cuts
- Sheriff proposed closing shelter to the public and scaling back its operations

Why the Shelter?

- Although the shelter is a “locally desired” service it is not “legally required”
- ORS 609.090 only requires the county to provide an “adequate and sanitary” facility for impounded dogs

Public Outcry Followed

- Packed hearing rooms at every budget hearing
- More than 90 percent of the testimony was about the future of the shelter
- Other significant cuts, such as 20 percent reduction in mental health services, brought little or no comment

A Solution Develops

- A new non-profit, Friends of the Lincoln County Animal Shelter (FOLCAS) formed




Closure Averted

- FOLCAS worked with Commissioners and Sheriff to craft a plan to keep shelter open for the 2009-10 budget year
- FOLCAS took active role in passing five-year Animal Services levy in November 2009



Looking Beyond the Levy

- FOLCAS expressed interest in assuming management of the shelter during the 2009 budget process
- BOC publicly indicated it would be receptive to a proposal from FOLCAS. Don Lindly, 6/2/09: 
- Discussions with FOLCAS board began in November 2010

What the Agreement Does

- Establishes public-private partnership for animal services
- Animal control remains with Sheriff
- Shelter remains under county ownership, fiscal management and operational oversight by FOLCAS
- Existing shelter employees transfer to FOLCAS payroll with guarantee of continued full salary for one year

Distribution of Funds

- FOLCAS will receive quarterly payments
- 65 percent of levy dollars for the Shelter
- 35 percent of levy dollars for Animal Control
- 85 percent of dog license funds for the Shelter
- 15 percent of dog license funds for Animal Control

Key Features

- Transparency and Accountability, including yearly audit of FOLCAS, published on FOLCAS website
- Information on finances and operations available to the public
- County has ongoing voice in FOLCAS policy and operations through seats on FOLCAS Advisory and Shelter Management committees

Why Are We Looking At this?

- NOT because of dissatisfaction with current shelter operations
- Quality of the shelter operation has improved in recent years

The Reason Why

- Finding a SUSTAINABLE operating model
- What is the best service we can provide, at a price our customers—the public—are willing and able to pay?
- As stewards of the county's finances, we need to maximize service delivery and minimize service cost to the greatest degree we can
- No decision has been made—options are being explored



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