

MEMORANDUM
PLACER COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Animal Services Division

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors

FROM: Richard J. Burton, M.D., M.P.H.
Placer County Health Officer and Director of Health & Human Services
Mark Starr, D.V.M., M.P.V.M., Director of Community Health, Clinics, and Animal Services

DATE: April 6, 2010

SUBJECT: Reduce County Animal Shelters Public Hours to Five Days per Week

ACTION REQUESTED:

Approve a schedule change for Placer County Animal Services' Auburn and Tahoe shelters effective May 1, 2010, whereby the shelters will be open to the public five days per week instead of the current six days per week. There are no County General Funds required for this action.

BACKGROUND:

Beginning in FY 2009-10, the State budget discontinued funding for certain animal shelter activities. These activities, known as the "Hayden mandates," required that animal shelters have longer holding periods for dogs and cats and provide extended hours to the public. The discontinuation of funding resulted in suspension of the mandates to conduct these activities. Placer County Animal Services (PCAS) recognizes the value of some of these activities to animals and the public, so we are proposing a schedule change that maintains the current after-hours access to the shelter while still helping to address the funding decrease that resulted from the State budget action.

In order to continue to maximize services to our residents and their animals within available resources and to operate as efficiently as possible, PCAS is requesting Board approval to amend its animal shelters' schedule in Auburn and Tahoe. These shelters are currently open to the public six days per week, Monday through Saturday. The revised schedule would have the shelters open to the public five days per week, Tuesday through Saturday, effective May 1, 2010. Although the shelters would be closed on Mondays under the proposed schedule, both shelters will continue to be open to the public on Saturdays, and the Auburn shelter will continue to be open on Wednesday evenings until 7:00 p.m.

Even with the revised schedule, PCAS, in collaboration with our robust community partners that facilitate reunification, adoptions, rescues, and other placements, will continue to maintain a high placement rate, euthanizing animals only for medical or behavioral reasons that are not otherwise adoptable.

Placer County Animal Control Officers' schedule will not change. They will continue to provide field services Monday through Friday, after hours and on holidays. PCAS averages about 7,000 calls each year requesting animal control services for our citizens – our response to these calls will not be affected by the change in shelter schedule. Shelter services to our contracted cities will also not be affected. Our kennels will be available on Mondays, as usual, to receive animals brought in by animal control and law enforcement officers from other jurisdictions.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This revised schedule will assist PCAS to continue to operate within available resources. No increased County General Fund will be required as a result of the Hayden Law suspension.

