

## RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT FORM

Report Title: "Tails of Marin" Marin County Animal Control Services & The Marin Humane Society

Report Date: April 7, 2008

Response by: Fairfax Town Council

By: Mary Ann Maggiore, Mayor

### FINDINGS

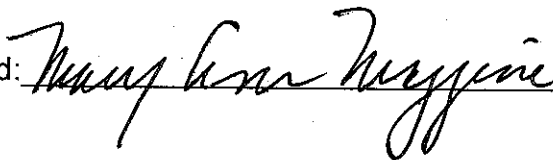
- I (we) agree with the findings numbered: F1, F2, F3, F5, F6, F7, F8
  - I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the findings numbered: F4, F9
- (Attach a statement specifying any portions of the findings that are disputed; include an explanation of the reasons therefore.)**

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommendations numbered \_\_\_\_\_ have been implemented.  
**(Attach a summary describing the implemented actions.)**
- Recommendations numbered R2 have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.  
**(Attach a timeframe for the implementation.)**
- Recommendations numbered \_\_\_\_\_ require further analysis.  
**(Attach an explanation and the scope and parameters of an analysis or study, and a timeframe for the matter to be prepared for discussion by the officer or director of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed, including the governing body of the public agency when applicable. This timeframe shall not exceed six months from the date of publication of the grand jury report.)**
- Recommendations numbered R4, R5 will not be implemented because they are not warranted or are not reasonable.  
**(Attach an explanation.)**

Date: July 2, 2008

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_



Number of pages attached 1

## RESPONSES TO MARIN COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY

**Report Title:** "Tails of Marin" Marin County Animal Control Services & The Marin Humane Society

**Report Date:** April 7, 2008

**Response by:** Fairfax Town Council

**By:** Mary Ann Maggiore, Mayor

### FINDINGS

F4 – The Fairfax Town Council partially disagrees with this finding. According to the County of Marin, the 10 percent of the costs of MHS Animal Control Services not covered by the JPA allocation support services that are not required by the JPA or mandated by the state. This arrangement allows MHS to provide its services – including those that are not part of the JPA contract – more flexibly and effectively. Additionally, there are overlapping administrative costs for JPA-contracted Animal Control services and Marin Humane Society services that are difficult to separate in the provisioning of contracted services.

F9 – The Fairfax Town Council partially disagrees with this finding. Without having more information, this Council cannot make an informed decision on the level of compliance countywide. In Fairfax, the local police department responds and takes enforcement action with many of the violations, most notably noise violations, identified by the Grand Jury. Without knowing the actual number of animals within a specific jurisdiction, it is hard to make a determination as to overall compliance.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

R2 – The Town of Fairfax should be able to update all their websites within a ninety (90) day period from the time the Marin Humane Society updates their website. The Marin Humane Society should initially accurately explain the cost sharing agreement as established by the Joint Powers Agreement prior to municipalities doing so. The Joint Powers members should have an opportunity to examine the cost allocation statement prior to website updates.

R4 – The Grand Jury Report did not provide specific information relative to the unwanted cat population in Fairfax. It is highly unlikely the residents of the Fairfax community would support mandatory micro chipping of cats without conclusive facts to support such a "big brother" solution. There currently is no evidence that micro chipping prevents breeding, any more that dog licensing prevents breeding.

R5 – The Town of Fairfax agrees pet-owner compliance is key to resolving animal control and annual licensing issues. The Town, however, believes the Marin Humane Society should work with other like agencies, specifically animal rescue groups like Wild Care, Cat Caring Connection, as well as various K-9 groups to achieve this goal. The Town of Fairfax does not have the staff or financial resources to commit to such projects. The Town joined into a Joint Powers Agreement to support the Marin Humane Society, a specialized agency designed in part to specifically organize public workshops and conduct intensive public education efforts.



# TOWN OF FAIRFAX

142 BOLINAS ROAD, FAIRFAX, CALIFORNIA 94930

*Mayor*

Mary Ann Maggiore

*Council*

Larry Bragman

Susan Brandborg

Lew Tremaine

David Weinsoff

July 2, 2008

Marin County Civil Grand Jury  
Roberta Robinson, Foreperson  
3501 Civic Center Drive, Room 275  
San Rafael, CA 94913-4988

Re: Responses to the April 7, 2008 Civil Grand Jury Report- "Tails of Marin"  
Marin County Animal Control Services & the Marin Humane Society.

Dear Ms. Robinson:

The Town Council of the Town of Fairfax has received a copy of the April 7, 2008, Grand Jury Report "*Tails of Marin*" Marin County Animal Control Services & the Marin Humane Society.

As required, I have enclosed two (2) copies of the Town Council's response to Findings F1 through F9 and Recommendations R2, R4, and R5.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you need additional information or clarification.

Respectfully,

Mary Ann Maggiore  
Mayor