

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: Corte Madera Town Council

By: _____

FINDINGS

- I (we) agree with the findings numbered: F1, F2, F3, F5, F7
- I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the findings numbered: 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: 6/18/08 Signed: [Signature]

Number of pages attached _____

RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT

Report Title: "Tails of Marin" Marin County Animal Control Services and the Marin Humane Society

Report Date: April 7, 2008

Response By: Michael Lappert Title: Mayor of the Town of Corte Madera

FINDINGS:

F1. The nonprofit Marin Humane Society is nationally respected and honored. It has served Marin's citizens and animals well over the past 100 years.

Response: Agree.

F2. The Marin County Board of Supervisors and Marin's city councils have supported the Marin Humane Society and its mission for many years, and historically contracted with the Marin Humane Society as the county's sole animal service agency. The current MHS contract expires on June 30, 2008.

Response: Agree.

F3. The Joint Powers Agreement between Marin County, Marin's cities and MHS promotes uniform ordinances, equitable enforcement and cost-effective delivery of animal control services throughout Marin's jurisdiction.

Response: Agree.

F4. The Marin Humane Society subsidizes 10 percent or more of animal control services costs with its own charitable funds.

Response:

We are not in a position to address the financial position of the MHS.

F5. MHS collects fees for dog-licensing, impound, boarding, permit, quarantine, veterinary and disposal services. These funds are remitted to the county. County and city taxpayers fund the balance of animal control services costs.

Response: Agree.

F6. MHS's dual role as both a private nonprofit organization and as a contractor to the county for animal control services is not widely understood and is not clearly explained to the public.

Response:

We are not in a position to determine how the public perceives the services of the MHS.

- F7. Two performance goals set forth in the Joint Powers Agreement are not being met: (1) licensing of all dogs in Marin County is targeted at 75 percent, while MHS estimates compliance at 25-33 percent; and (2) license and other fees were to be set at a level to fund 20 percent or more of animal control services costs, while actual fee revenues account for only 10 percent.**

Response: Agree

- F8. Novato has been a strong advocate for control of its cat population by mandatory micro-chipping and spaying or neutering.**

Response:

Although we recognize that Novato has enacted mandatory control measures for its cat population, we are not in a position to comment on how strongly they advocate these laws.

- F9. Pet-owner compliance with leash laws, noise ordinances, and waste pickup is dismal. The need continues for improved enforcement of local animal control ordinances**

Response: Disagree.

Although the need continues for improved enforcement, we disagree that compliance is dismal. In addition to animal control services enforcement, each agency's police department also provides animal control enforcement.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The 2007-2008 Marin County Civil Grand Jury recommends that the County take the following action:

- R2. The county, Marin's municipalities and MHS work to update their websites and public outreach materials to explain their cost sharing agreement and the relationships established by the Joint Powers Agreement.**

Response: Agree.

Corte Madera will explain the relationships established by the JPA in an upcoming quarterly newsletter.

- R4. The county and Marin's other cities adopt measures similar to Novato's progressive ordinances to control their unwanted cat population through mandatory micro-chipping and spaying and neutering.**

Response: Disagree.

We believe that it should be left to the individual JPA agencies to determine the most effective means for controlling the unwanted cat population.

- R5. The county, city and MHS staffs take appropriate steps to improve pet-owner compliance with all animal control, annual licensing and animal protection ordinances. These steps could include, but are not limited to: (1) holding public workshops; and (2) conducting intensive public education efforts.**


Response: Disagree

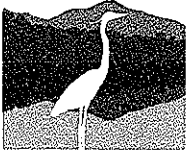
Corte Madera does not have the financial capability nor the expertise among its staff to hold public workshops or conduct intensive public education efforts.

Date: _____

7/1/08

Signed: _____


Michael Lappert, Mayor



THE TOWN OF
CORTE MADERA
MARIN COUNTY CALIFORNIA

June 17, 2008

300 TAMALPAIS DRIVE
CORTE MADERA, CA
94925-1418

www.ci.corte-madera.ca.us

TOWN MANAGER
TOWN COUNCIL
415-927-5050

TOWN CLERK
415-927-5086

FINANCE / BUS. LICENSE
415-927-5055

FIRE DEPARTMENT
415-927-5077

PLANNING / ZONING
415-927-5064

BUILDING INSPECTOR
415-927-5062

TOWN ENGINEER
PUBLIC WORKS
415-927-5057

RECREATION DEPARTMENT
415-927-5072

SANITARY DISTRICT NO. 2
415-927-5057

TWIN CITIES POLICE AUTHORITY
415-927-5150

The Honorable Verna Adams
Marin County Superior Court
P.O. Box 4988
San Rafael, CA 94913

Roberta Robinson, Foreperson
Marin County Grand Jury
3501 Civic Center Drive, Room 275
San Rafael, CA 94903

Dear Honorable Judge Adams and Foreperson Robinson:

Attached you will find Corte Madera's response to the Marin County Civil Grand Jury Report titled "*Tails of Marin*" *Marin County Animal Control Services and the Marin Humane Society*. The Town Council reviewed the report and the recommended responses at its regularly scheduled meeting of June 17, 2008.

As required by Sections 933(c), 933.05(a), and 933.05(b) of the California Penal Code, this letter acknowledges receipt of and responds to the April 7, 2008 Marin County Grand Jury report, "*Tails of Marin*" *Marin County Animal Control Services and the Marin Humane Society*.

Sincerely,

Michael Lappert
Mayor