

Clerk of the
Circuit Court
2013 MAR 11 10:13 AM

PR GEORGE #70

CAL
CAE/B 12376

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

PRINCE GEORGE'S FERAL FRIENDS,)
SPCA, INC.)
c/o Mr. Timothy Saffell, President)
P.O. Box 1036)
Bowie, Maryland 20718)

Plaintiff/Petitioner)

v.)

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD.)
14741 Gov. Oden Bowie Drive)
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772)

Defendant/Respondent)

PETITION FOR ENFORCEMENT OF
MARYLAND PUBLIC INFORMATION ACT REQUESTS, REQUEST FOR
ATTORNEY'S FEES AND PROPOSED ORDER

Petitioner Prince George's Feral Friends, SPCA, Inc., through counsel, requests that this Honorable Court order Respondent to provide the business records, commonly known as "kennel data". Petitioner has requested this information, repeatedly, and is entitled to receive it pursuant to Md. Code Ann.SG, 10-116, et seq. The fact that Petitioner must file the instant action to obtain the records is absurd and unfortunate, since Respondent has provided the information to Petitioner for nearly two years on a regular basis, and without request or charge. See, attached Composite Exhibit, Affidavit. Respondents' recent refusal to provide the data eludes justification, impedes Petitioner's ability to further its charitable mission, animal shelter reform advocacy and justifies an award for attorneys' fees.

The Animal Management Division of the Prince George's County Department of Environmental Resources (AMD), a public body, makes and keeps the requested records in the

ordinary course of its duties and is the custodian of records.¹ Prince George's County Code, Animal Control, Sec. 3-114 requires AMD to make and keep the business records that Petitioner has requested. That Subsection provides, in pertinent part:

It shall be the duty of the Administrator to keep accurate and detailed records of all licenses issued; impoundments, care, feeding, veterinary care, feeding, and veterinary treatment rendered, dispositions of animal, enforcement action, and other activities in relation to animals and animal control undertake for a period of three (3) years after each such activity.

Id., emphasis added.

Previously, Respondent Department of Environmental Resources (DER) established a practice of providing Petitioner with the records on a monthly basis on a CD-ROM, as this costs the agency nothing other than the time necessary to make an electronic copy of the “kennel data”. For reasons that elude comprehension, DER and AMD have refused to provide the records, despite having promised to do so as recently as February 12, 2013. See, attached composite Exhibit, February 12, 2013.

Approximately two years ago, then-Director of DER, Mr. Charles Wilson, established a policy whereby AMD provided Petitioner with the AMD's kennel data each month, without SPCA's having filed a formal MPIA request and without charge. See, attached Composite Exhibit, Affidavit. Because Petitioner is a shelter reform advocacy charity, and has had an on-going relationship with AMD for over ten years, the policy Mr. Wilson established is prudent and consistent with the Maryland Attorney General's Guidelines for Respondent, set forth in Maryland Public Information Act Manual (12 ed., October 2011) Appendix F-4.

¹ AMD's mode of record-keeping is via the Chameleon Database System which is designed for easy output of data in the form of a MS Excel spreadsheet of pet license renewals, adoptions and other points of contact between AMD and the public. The software's main site is found at: <http://www.chameleonbeach.com/ProductsandServices/ChameleonDataProcessingCenterCDPC/tabid/435/Default.aspx>. The site explaining how the system works with other, equally simple animal-related data-bases may be found at: <http://www.chameleonbeach.com/ProductsandServices/ChameleonPublicAccess/tabid/171/Default.aspx>

The Guidelines provide, in pertinent part:

5. PROVIDE COPIES, IF REQUESTED.

A. If the requester seeks copies, provide them within a reasonable time. If the request is voluminous, discuss a mutually agreeable schedule – for example, providing copies on a rolling basis.

B. If copies are requested in an electronic or other special format, honor that request if it is possible to do so without significant cost or burden on the agency. In some circumstances, the requester may have a right to an electronic copy.

CHARGE ONLY REASONABLE, COST-BASED FEES.

C. Rates. Fees must be related to the recovery of actual costs. They should not be set so as to deter requests to inspect records or get copies.

D. Fee Waivers. If the requester asks that you waive the fees, you may do so if a waiver would be in the public interest. Consider the ability of the applicant to pay, whether the information is sought for a broad public purpose or for a narrow personal or commercial interest, and other relevant factors.

Id., emphasis added. Since AMD keeps its records electronically, Petitioner has requested them in electronic format and is entitled to the records as requested.

Petitioner is entitled to an award of attorneys' fees. Counsel's involvement in this matter, and this court's, is required solely because Respondents willfully have refused to disclose the requested information, without any legitimate reason or justification. In determining an award, this court should consider the following criteria the Court of Appeals set forth in Kirwan v. The Diamondback, 352 Md. 74, (1998):

Awarding counsel fees..is a two-step process. First, the Court must determine that [Petitioner] has substantially prevailed in its action. Here, this Court finds that the requirement has been satisfied and [Petitioner] is eligible for an award of reasonable attorneys [sic] fees. The second step in the process requires the Court to examine three factors to determine whether [Petitioner] is entitled to reasonable attorneys fees. Those factors, are:

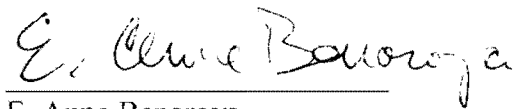
- (1) the benefit to the public, if any, derived from the suit;
- (2) the nature of the complainant's interest in the released information; and

(3) whether the agency's withholding of the information had a reasonable basis in law.

In the instant case, Respondent Prince George's County AMD complied with the policy for one and one-half years, but stopped for no articulated or discernible reason, the conduct is willful and Petitioner is likely to prevail. Petitioner's mission is shelter-reform advocacy, a public benefit clearly acknowledged in the "Stakeholders meetings" DER reference in the attached Composite Exhibit, March 11, 2013 Email and Attachment.

Plaintiff respectfully requests that this Honorable Court enter the attached Order that Prince George's County comply with the Maryland Public Information Act, and grant Petitioner's Forthcoming Petition for Attorneys' Fees.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "E. Anne Benaroya". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. Below the signature is a horizontal line.

E. Anne Benaroya
5625 Hogenhill Terrace
Rockville, Maryland 20853
(410) 977-3331

Attorney for Plaintiff,
Prince George's Feral Friends, SPCA, Inc.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 1st day of May 2013, a copy of the foregoing PETITION FOR ENFORCEMENT OF MARYLAND PUBLIC INFORMATION ACT REQUESTS, REQUEST FOR ATTORNEY'S FEES AND PROPOSED ORDER, along with the Attached Composite Exhibit and Order, was delivered by e-mail and by hand to the Prince George's County Office of Law, 14741 Governor Oden Bowie Dr. Room 5121, Upper Marlboro Maryland 20772.

E. Anne Benaroya
Anne Benaroya

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

PRINCE GEORGE'S FERAL FRIENDS,
SPCA, INC.
c/o Mr. Timothy Saffell, President
P.O. Box 1036
Bowie, Maryland 20718

Plaintiff/Petitioner

v.

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD.
14741 Gov. Oden Bowie Drive
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772

Defendant/Respondent

CAL-13-12376

ORDER

It is HEREBY ordered that Prince George's County Department of Environmental Resources, Animal Management Division, provide Petitioner with the requested Kennel Data on a monthly basis, without cost, in accordance with the pattern and practice established by Prince George's County during July 2009 through December 2010 within two (2) business weeks or fourteen (14) days of receipt of this ORDER; and,

It is FURTHER ordered, that upon finding that Respondent willfully violated Md. Code Ann.SG, 10-116, et seq., Respondents shall reimburse Petitioner the reasonable attorneys fees set forth in the attached Order For Attorneys' Fees' within (4) business weeks or (30) days of receipt of this ORDER.

Judge, Circuit Court for Prince George's County, Maryland

Copies to:

E. Anne Benaroya, Esq.
5625 Hogenhill Terrace
Rockville Maryland 20853

Counsel for Plaintiff,
Prince George's Feral Friends, SPCA

Prince George's County Office of Law
14741 Gov. Oden Bowie Dr., Room 5121
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772

Counsel for Defendant,
Prince George's County, Maryland

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

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Bowie, Maryland 20718)
Plaintiff/Petitioner)

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PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD., et. al.)
14741 Gov. Oden Bowie Drive)
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772)
Defendants/Respondents)

CAL-13-12376

AFFIDAVIT OF TIMOTHY SAFFELL

I, Timothy Saffell, am over twenty-one years old, a resident of Prince George's County, Maryland, and competent to testify and make the following statement:

During the period of October 2009 through December 2010, the Director of the Prince George's County Department of Environmental Resources established a practice of exporting the public data on the Animal Management Division kennel database to CD-ROM and providing it to me at no cost. This transfer was approved at the time by the Office of Law. During this period of about 15 months, approximately a dozen CD-ROMs were provided to me at no cost. The data is useful in the analysis of AMD performance.

Since January 2011, I have made numerous requests to continue the monthly export to CD-ROM for purposes of tracking progress in performance. These have been in the form of letters, email messages, phone conversations, and face –to-face meetings. During the 28 month period, only two properly prepared exports have been provided. A description of my efforts follows.

2/9/2011: Wrote to Acting Director of DER, asking for a monthly CD-ROM as before.

2/23/2011: Reply from Office of Law advising me that, due to a software upgrade, Animal Management would have to "figure out" how to do it. Advised me that, contrary to previously, there may be a fee.

4/4/2011: Reply from the Director, DER, indicating that there would be a charge of \$103.04 for the CD-ROM. Since this was a change from the previous practice, it was not acceptable.

7/11/2011: After having met the County's DCAO, Bradford Seamon, who seemed to be more accommodating, I sent the MPIA request to Mr. Seamon. This was a complete explanation of the request, its purpose, and a list of the data fields that had been included in previous exports.

8/25/2011: I sent a reminder of my MPIA request.

11/28/2011: I sent another MPIA request to Mr. Seamon. I described the history of my requests, thus far.

On December 1, 2011 a CD-ROM was produced that was incomplete. It contained only about 3% of the database.

On December 12, 2011, I wrote to the Director, DER and explained the deficiencies of the CD-ROM. I explained the range of records and included a list of the requested fields. I agreed to his request that I submit a new request on a monthly basis.

On January 17, 2012, I wrote to the Director, DER and pointed out that I had not received replacement for the December 1, 2011 CD-ROM. Once again I included a list of the desired fields.

On February 6, 2012, a CD-ROM was produced that was satisfactory. It contained all records on the database and all requested fields. This was the first properly produced CD-ROM in spite of fourteen months of requests for a monthly data transfer.

On April 4, 2012, I submitted another request, including a list of fields.

On April 30, 2012, I submitted a similar request.

On May 11, 2012, Friday, I received an email message from the AMD Data Tech informing me that there was a CD-ROM waiting for me at the desk in the lobby of the Animal Services Facility (ASF). I replied that I would come and get it.

On May 14, 2012, Monday, I picked up the CD-ROM from the ASF. Rather than the expected nearly 200,000 records, the CD-ROM contained less than 3,000 records. I emailed the Data Tech to report the deficiency.

On May 15, 2012, I received an email message from the Data Tech that a new CD-ROM would be at the front desk. I replied that I would come and pick it up. The Data Tech indicated that the CD-ROM would be ready in the afternoon. I picked up the CD-ROM and found that the data was missing about eight fields from each record. The Data Tech replied with a message that gave me the impression that the computer was simply out of her control. I felt that this was a deliberate effort to NOT comply with the MPIA.

On June 19, 2012, I had the opportunity to speak with several members of the CountyStat team about a number of issues concerning Animal Management Division's policies and performance.

On August 8, 2012, I followed up the meeting with an email message in which I provide statistics supporting my evaluation of AMD. I also point out that there has been only one time that AMD has complied with the MPIA request for a monthly data export. Mr. Adam Ortiz replied and asked what the MPIA request was for and when it was submitted. I replied to him with an explanation. I attached a copy of the entire set of requests and supporting documents.

On October 1, 2012, Mr. Ortiz asked for information about my outstanding MPIA requests. I pointed out that I had sent an entire set of documents on August 8, 2012, but I replied with a brief history of my requests and attached copies of the requests of 4/4, 4/30/2012, and the communications of 5/11 through 5/15/2012. I followed that message up with another asking if it would be helpful if I sent a new request, addressed to him.

On November 1, 2012, I initiated another MPIA request, addressed to Mr. Ortiz, Acting Director of DER, the custodian of the data. The request included a list of fields.

On November 2, 2012, I sent Mr. Ortiz an email with a detailed description of the problems with data reporting from AMD and the reasons why an information request for kennel data was necessary to evaluate the performance of AMD.

On January 11, 2013, I received a message that there was a CD-ROM waiting for me. Mr. Ortiz pointed out that there was a new Deputy Director, Mr. Larry Coffman, who would be dealing with Animal Management issues and that we should meet. He introduced us via email. Mr. Coffman followed up with a message to set up a meeting and provide the CD-ROM to me.

On January 14, 2013, I met with Mr. Coffman, discussed Animal Management issues, and picked up the CD-ROM. Upon checking the CD-ROM, I found that not all of the requested fields were included in the records. Mr. Coffman asked me for the original request and the list of fields. I sent him a copy of the November 1, 2012 MPIA request.

On January 24, 2013, I had not heard anything so I sent a reminder "tickle". Mr. Coffman replied that he was under the impression that some of the field were privileged. I replied that I was not asking for any privileged data, but simply the same fields that the Office of Law had approved in 2009, and had already been delivered many times, although only once in the previous 25 months. Mr. Coffman replied that he would have a CD-ROM prepared with all of the requested fields. He asked for more details about the missing information, and I explained.

On January 25, 2013, Mr. Coffman sent an email message to the Administrator of AMD to prepare a CD-ROM with all of the requested fields. The Administrator replied "Will prepare". I sent Mr. Coffman a detailed explanation of the data to be expected on a properly prepared CD-ROM – number of records, and number of fields within each record. I also sent to him a small XLS file which was representative.

On January 30, 2013, I sent a reminder "tickle". Mr. Coffman repeated his request to the Administrator to produce a CD-ROM.

On January 31, 2013, Mr. Coffman learned that the Administrator was not in that day, so his assistant was assigned to produce the CD-ROM.

On February 11, 2013, after Mr. Coffman had been on vacation, I reported that the CD-ROM had been properly prepared. It contained all of the expected records, and each record had all of the requested fields. I said that I would like to set up a procedure to receive a CD-ROM like that on a monthly basis, which had been my original request from the beginning.

On February 12, 2013, Mr. Coffman agreed to a monthly CD. Suggested that I provide an email tickler as a reminder, and I could pick up the disc at the Animal Services Facility. He suggested that I make a donation in return for the information. I agreed to the automatic email reminder. I pointed out that we were continuing the DER policy of 2009-2010. Since I had provided a great deal of analysis of the data, I suggested, as a joke, that we discuss my consulting fee.

On February 20, 2013, I received an invitation to participate, with others, in a series of stakeholders' roundtable meetings to discuss how AMD might be improved. The first meeting was scheduled for March 14.

On March 5, 2013, An automatic reminder of the monthly MPIA request was sent to Mr. Coffman.

On March 11, 2013, I received information about the objectives of the stakeholders' meetings.

On March 14, 2013, I received a CD-ROM from the Administrator at the stakeholders' meeting.

On March 18, 2013, Sent an email message to the Administrator of Animal Management, with a copy to Mr. Coffman, that the CD-ROM that had been provided was missing fields. I asked if March 20 would be time enough to pick up a replacement disc at the ASF.

On March 20, 2013, I had not heard back about the replacement CD-ROM. In email to Administrator, with copy to Mr. Coffman, asked if there was a target date for pickup.

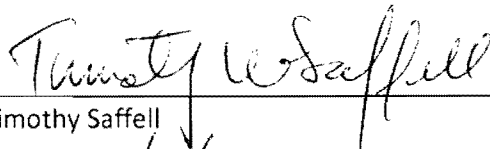
On March 25, 2013, I sent a reminder to the Administrator, with a copy to Mr. Coffman.

On April 4, 2013, I sent a copy of a YesBiscuit! blog post related to shelter management to Mr. Ortiz and Mr. Coffman. Mr. Ortiz replied. He asked me to remove a reference to the Administrator as "dishonest, insubordinate, and incompetent" from our web page. I replied with an explanation, including examples of the Administrator's dishonest practice of excluding from published reports, several large categories of animals that were routinely killed, in order to avoid embarrassment, which necessitated the disclosure of kennel data in order to

accurately evaluate the performance of Animal Management Division. I also pointed out the insubordination of the Administrator, who was not carrying out the direction of his superior, who had agreed that I should be given a monthly CD-ROM containing the kennel data. I have not received a reply to this email message.

On April 5, 2013, An Automatic reminder of the monthly MPIA request was sent to Mr. Coffman.

I SOLEMNLY AFFIRM UNDER THE PENALTIES OF PERJURY AND UPON PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE THAT THE CONTENTS OF THE FOREGOING AFFIDAVIT ARE TRUE.



Timothy Saffell
5/1/2013

Date



Prince Georges Feral Friends, SPCA, Inc.

P.O. Box 1036, Bowie, MD 20718

www.PGFerals.Org (301) 262-6452

Compassion Watch



The television outreach of the
Prince George's Compassion Project

February 9, 2011

Board of Advisers

Dr. Christina B. Chambreau
Veterinary Lecturer, Teacher

Bob Christiansen
Author, *Save Our Strays*

Michelle Bernard
Holistic Breeder

Officers

Timothy W. Saffell
President

Linda D. Saffell
Vice President

Thomas Spencer
At Large

Programs

The Prince George's
Compassion Project
www.PGCompassion.org

Compassion Watch
Television Outreach
www.CompassionWatch.org

Adopt A Classroom
www.PGAdoptAClassroom.org

Holistic Health Care for Pets
www.HolisticHealthCareForPets.org

Mr. Samuel E. Wynkoop, Acting Director
Prince George's County Department of Environmental Resources
9400 Peppercorn Place, Suite 500
Upper Marlboro, MD 20774-5358

Dear Mr. Wynkoop:

This is a request under the Maryland Public Information Act, State Government Article §§10-611 to 628.

Background

I had the great pleasure of working alongside of Mr. Charles W. Wilson, former Director of the Department of Environmental Resources. I was asked to advise him on ways in which the Animal Management Division could be reformed to improve their dismal performance.

We observed that the County's Charter for Change has some helpful principles that could be applied to the effort, providing, ...

- *Accountability*
- *Transparency*
- *Efficient and effective service delivery*
- *Inform decision making*
- *Focus the organization's efforts on working toward and accomplishing a strategic plan*
- *Continuous improvement*
- *Communicate the organization's purpose, problems, issues, and successes*

A basic principle in the Charter for Change is ...

Providing a strong plan, accurate performance measure data, and a commitment to improving; even when you are not performing well, establishes trust. Illustrating and evaluating performance (good or bad) can help win support with decision makers for limited resources and improve services to customers.

With this in mind, we began evaluating Animal Management's kennel data from the Chameleon System. (Co-incidentally, the University of Maryland requested the same set of data for a statistical project. The Office of Law was consulted at that time and Mr. Wilson was told "It's public data, give it to them.")

During the period of approximately a year and a half that I was working with Mr. Wilson, he provided me a CD-ROM on a monthly basis. This CD-ROM contained an Excel file which Simone Parks, of Animal Management, generated based on a specific procedure that was designed for this purpose. It takes just a few minutes to run the procedure to copy the data, plus a blank CD-ROM. If I was not scheduled to meet with Mr. Wilson, I picked up the CD-ROM at the front desk of the Animal Services Facility.

**The Prince George's Compassion Project
Addressing Domestic Violence and Animal Cruelty at the Root Cause**

Prince Georges Feral Friends, SPCA

I used the data to generate charts showing trends in animal intake, adoptions, transfers to rescue groups, and the number of animals killed, etc. The data provided a baseline for performance before the announcement of Mr. Wilson's Life Saving Philosophy. As the philosophy became the basis for changes in policy, we expected to see changes in the trends.

Sadly, during the time since the departure of Mr. Wilson, the accountability and transparency which accompanies an open government has disappeared. Therefore, I am making this request.

Maryland Public Information Request

I would like to receive a copy of the Animal Management kennel data, identical to what has been provided, as described above, on a monthly basis.

If all or any part of this request is denied, I request that I be provided with a written statement of the grounds for the denial.

I look forward to receiving the requested information promptly and, in any event, to a decision about all of the requested material within 30 days.

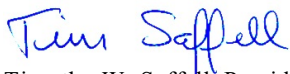
Prince Georges Feral Friends, SPCA is a non-profit educational organization. We are active in bringing animal related information to the citizens of the county. We have monthly meetings at which we distribute and read the Animal Control Statute. We have a public access television program, Compassion Watch, on which we also provide information to county residents about animal issues. The program is provided, free of charge, to all public access television channels in the county who would like it. It is also available on the World Wide Web at www.CompassionWatch.org. Alex Hirtle, formerly Constituent Aide for County Council Member Thomas Dernoga has said, "Our county needs more educational television like this."

Although, according to the Maryland Public Information Act, State Government Article §10-621(a) "the official custodian MAY charge an applicant a reasonable fee ... " (emphasis mine), §10-621(e) also states that "The official custodian may waive a fee ... if (1) the applicant asks for a waiver, and (2) ... the waiver would be in the public interest." Because the time and cost of producing a CD-ROM is minimal, and the data will be used to educate the public, I would request the waiver of any fee.

Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions regarding this request, please telephone me at the above number.

Oh, I would be happy to share the information derived from the analysis of the data, if you would like.

Sincerely,



Timothy W. Saffell, President
Prince Georges Feral Friends, SPCA

cc: Ms. Kristin Dorsey, Office of Law



**THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT
OFFICE OF LAW**

Rushern L. Baker, III
County Executive

Stephanie P. Anderson
County Attorney

February 23, 2011

Mr. Timothy W. Saffell, President
Prince Georges Feral Friends, SPCA, Inc.
P.O. Box 1036
Bowie, Maryland 20718

Re: Maryland Public Information Act (MPIA) Request
Kennel Data

Dear Mr. Saffell:

The County is in receipt of your renewed request dated February 9, 2011, for Animal Management Group ("AMG") kennel data. The AMG was forwarding a data CD to former Department of Environmental Resources ("DER") Director, Charles Wilson, on a monthly basis. Apparently Mr. Wilson was then providing you with the CD.

According to the appropriate AMG records custodian, AMG changed software in December of 2010. They had formatted the old software so that they could easily provide you with a CD each month. AMG needs to figure out how to format this new software in order to provide you with the requested kennel data.

There may be search and/or preparation fees associated with this renewed request. Pursuant to the Annotated Code of Maryland, State Government Article §10-621, the County may charge a fee (after the first two hours) for the search, preparation and record reproduction required to respond to your request. Also, according to case law an agency is not required to reprogram its computers or aggregate computerized data files so as to effectively create new records. However, I will ask AMG to ascertain the best way to respond to your request.

If preparation and copying fees are required, we will contact you. Once we provide you with the cost, payment for the estimated charges must be received within fifteen (15) business days. Documents will not be searched for or released until the estimated charges are received. Without such payment, your request file will be closed without further action.

Please be assured that your request is being handled as equitably as possible and all records that can be released will be made available at the earliest possible date. Also, you may seek judicial review of this response pursuant to the Annotated Code of Maryland, State Government Article §10-623. If you have any questions or need to contact me regarding this matter, I can be reached at (301) 952-5225.

14741 Gov. Oden Bowie Drive, Suite 5121, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772
(301) 952-5225 FAX (301) 952-3071

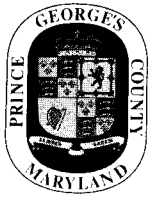
Sincerely,



Kristen L. Dorsey
Associate County Attorney

KLD/lrl

cc: Samuel E. Wynkoop, Acting Director, DER
Rodney C. Taylor, Associate Director, Animal Management Group, DER



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Department of Environmental Resources

April 4, 2011

Mr. Timothy W. Saffell, President
Prince Georges Feral Friends, SPCA, Inc.
P.O. Box 1036
Bowie, Maryland 20718

Dear Mr. Saffell:

This is in response to your correspondence requesting a CD of the Department of Environmental Resources' kennel data records through the Maryland Public Information Act (MPIA). Your request was forwarded to our Animal Management Group (AMG) for review and appropriate action.

The AMG has researched and formatted the information as requested with assistance from our Information Technology Coordinator. The processing of your request has incurred a fee of \$103.04. Two hours of the research and formatting was provided free of charge. Please make your check in the amount of \$103.04 payable to Prince George's County Government. Payment should be sent to the attention of Mr. Rodney Taylor, Animal Management Group, 3750 Brown Station Road, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772. Your information will be forwarded to you after we have received the funds due.

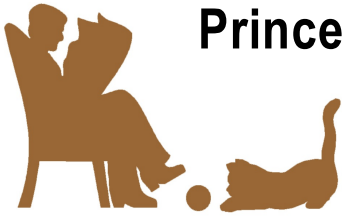
Should you need additional assistance, please feel free to contact me at (301) 883-5812.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Samuel E. Wynkoop, Jr.", is written over a horizontal line.

Samuel E. Wynkoop, Jr.
Acting Director

cc: Kristen Dorsey, Associate County Attorney
Office of Law



Prince Georges Feral Friends, SPCA, Inc.

P.O. Box 1036, Bowie, MD 20718

www.PGFerals.Org (301) 262-6452

Compassion Watch



The television outreach of the
Prince George's Compassion Project

July 11, 2011

Board of Advisers

Dr. Christina B. Chambreau
Veterinary Lecturer, Teacher

Bob Christiansen
Author, *Save Our Strays*

Michelle Bernard
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Officers

Timothy W. Saffell
President

Linda D. Saffell
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Mr. Bradford L. Seamon, DCAO
Office of the County Executive
County Administration Building, Suite 5032
14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772 - 3070

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**The Prince George's Compassion Project
Addressing Domestic Violence and Animal Cruelty at the Root Cause**

Prince Georges Feral Friends, SPCA

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Providing a strong plan, accurate performance measure data, and a commitment to improving; even when you are not performing well, establishes trust. Illustrating and evaluating performance (good or bad) can help win support with decision makers for limited resources and improve services to customers.

With this in mind, we began evaluating Animal Management's kennel data from the Chameleon System. (Coincidentally, the University of Maryland requested the same set of data for a statistical project. The Office of Law was consulted at that time and Mr. Wilson was told "It's public data, give it to them.")

Because we were working together on this project, Mr. Wilson requested that I NOT submit a Public Information Request, but rather simply ask for the data that we determined was necessary for our study.

During the period of approximately a year and a half that I was working with Mr. Wilson, he provided me a CD-ROM on a monthly basis. This CD-ROM contained an Excel file which Simone Parks, of Animal Management, generated based on a specific procedure that was designed for this purpose. It takes just a few minutes to run the procedure to copy the data, plus a blank CD-ROM. If I was not scheduled to meet with Mr. Wilson, I picked up the CD-ROM at the front desk of the Animal Services Facility.

I used the data to generate charts showing trends in animal intake, adoptions, transfers to rescue groups, and the number of animals killed, etc. The data provided a baseline for performance before the announcement of Mr. Wilson's Life Saving Philosophy. As the philosophy became the basis for changes in policy, we expected to see changes in the trends.

Sadly, during the time since the departure of Mr. Wilson, the accountability and transparency which accompanies an open government has disappeared. Therefore, I am making this request.

Maryland Public Information Request

I would like to receive a copy of the Animal Management kennel data, identical to what has been provided, as described above, on a monthly basis. (Field Names are listed below.) The first disc should include all data through the end of June 2011, then each subsequent month, as the previous month's data input is completed.

If all or any part of this request is denied, I request that I be provided with a written statement of the grounds for the denial.

I look forward to receiving the requested information promptly and, in any event, to a decision about all of the requested material within 30 days.

Although, according to the Maryland Public Information Act, State Government Article §10-621(a) "the official custodian MAY charge an applicant a reasonable fee ... " (emphasis mine), §10-621(e) also states that "The official custodian may waive a fee ... if (1) the applicant asks for a waiver, and (2) ... the waiver would be in the

**The Prince George's Compassion Project
Addressing Domestic Violence and Animal Cruelty at the Root Cause**

Prince Georges Feral Friends, SPCA

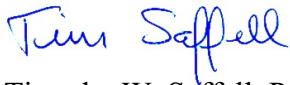
public interest.” Because the time and cost of producing a CD-ROM is minimal, and the data will be used to educate the public, I would request the waiver of any fee.

Prince Georges Feral Friends, SPCA is a non-profit educational organization. We are active in bringing animal related information to the citizens of the county. We have monthly meetings at which we distribute and read the Animal Control Statute. We have a public access television program, Compassion Watch, on which we also provide information to county residents about animal issues. The TV program is provided, free of charge, to all public access television channels in the county who have requested it, as all have. It is also available on the World Wide Web at www.CompassionWatch.org. Alex Hirtle, formerly Constituent Aide for County Council Member Thomas Dernoga has said, “Our county needs more educational television like this.”

If you opt to waive the fee, I will be happy to share any charts, graphs, or analysis that are generated from the data, as I did with Mr. Wilson.

Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions regarding this request, please telephone me at the above number.

Sincerely,

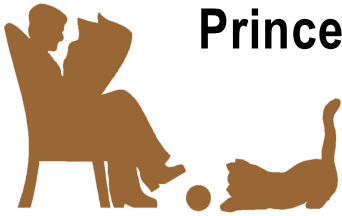


Timothy W. Saffell, President
Prince Georges Feral Friends, SPCA

Prince Georges Feral Friends, SPCA

Field Names Requested

AnimalID	Temperment	Jurisdiction
Name	AnimalCondition	Reason
Type	AnimalStatus	InDate
Gender	StatusDate	InTime
DOB	S/NDueDate	StaffIn
Breed1	S/NCompleteDate	IntakeTotal
Breed2	KennelNo	EndHoldDate
Color1	KennelStatus	Hold?
Color2	TagNo	HoldNotify
Description	TagType	HoldReason
Tattoo	IntakeID	DueOut
Collar	OutcomeID	OutType
Size	Location	OutSubtype
Coat	SurrenderReason	OutDate
Ears	Source	OutTime
Tail	KennelCondition	StaffOut
Muzzle	InType	Weight
Bite?	InSubtype	EuthDosage



Prince Georges Feral Friends, SPCA, Inc.

P.O. Box 1036, Bowie, MD 20718

www.PGFerals.Org (301) 262-6452

Compassion Watch



The television outreach of the
Prince George's Compassion Project

August 25, 2011

Board of Advisers

Dr. Christina B. Chambreau
Veterinary Lecturer, Teacher

Bob Christiansen
Author, *Save Our Strays*

Michelle Bernard
Holistic Breeder

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Holistic Health Care for Pets
www.HolisticHealthCareForPets.org

Mr. Bradford L. Seamon, DCAO
Office of the County Executive
County Administration Building, Suite 5032
14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772 - 3070

Dear Mr. Seamon:

This is a reminder of my request under the Maryland Public Information Act, State Government Article §§10-611 to 628, dated July 11, 2011.

In that request I stated that I would like to receive a copy of the Animal Management kennel data. The details of the request were given in my original request, a copy of which is attached. Sufficient time has passed that I would expect the first CD-ROM to contain data through July 2011.

According to the Maryland Public Information Act (MPIA), Section 10-612, Access to Public Records, (a) In General,

All persons are entitled to have access to information about the affairs of government and the official acts of public officials and employees.

Since the requested data has previously been determined by the Office of Law to be public, according to the MPIA, Section 10-614, you are required to either,

1. Within 10 days in form me that the information that I have requested does not exist, or
2. Immediately, but not to exceed 30 days, provide the information to me, or
3. Request permission for an extension of this deadline.

It has been more than 30 business days since my request, dated July 11. It seems that you are therefore in violation of the Maryland Public Information Act. According to the

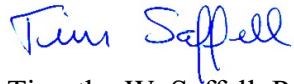
**The Prince George's Compassion Project
Addressing Domestic Violence and Animal Cruelty at the Root Cause**

Prince Georges Feral Friends, SPCA

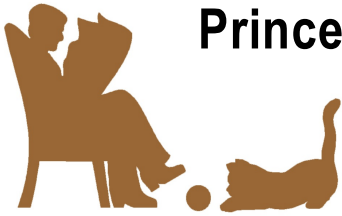
MPIA, Section 10-627, a failure to comply may result, not only in injunctive relief, but also criminal penalties, as well as disciplinary action.

Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions regarding this request, please telephone me at the above number.

Sincerely,



Timothy W. Saffell, President
Prince Georges Feral Friends, SPCA



Prince Georges Feral Friends, SPCA, Inc.

P.O. Box 1036, Bowie, MD 20718

www.PGFerals.Org (301) 262-6452

Compassion Watch



The television outreach of the
Prince George's Compassion Project

November 28, 2011

Board of Advisers

Dr. Christina B. Chambreau
Veterinary Lecturer, Teacher

Bob Christiansen
Author, *Save Our Strays*

Michelle Bernard
Holistic Breeder

Officers

Timothy W. Saffell
President

Linda D. Saffell
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Holistic Health Care for Pets
www.HolisticHealthCareForPets.org

Mr. Bradford L. Seamon, DCAO
Office of the County Executive
County Administration Building, Suite 5032
14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772 - 3070

Dear Mr. Seamon:

This is a request under the Maryland Public Information Act, State Government Article §§10-611 to 628.

My request is for a dump of the kennel data contained in the Animal Management Division database, and that this be provided to me on a monthly basis.

Mr. Charles W. Wilson, Director of the Department of Environmental Resources established a pattern of practice by providing this data regularly over a period of a year. The Office of Law determined that the data in question is public data. Mr. Wilson provided the data to me on CD-ROM at no cost.

In a MPIA Request dated July 11, 2011, I made request for this data, and provided a list of the fields that had been on the CD-ROM that Mr. Wilson habitually provided.

In a letter dated August 25, 2011, I reminded you of the outstanding request for the data.

On September 20, 2011, I received a second copy of the county's response to a separate MPIA request for budgetary information, apparently thinking that I had not received it. I forgave this misunderstanding, as both the MPIA request for the kennel data and the budgetary information had been dated July 11, 2011. Nevertheless, I attempted to clarify that the MPIA request for kennel data was still outstanding.

On November 10, 2011, in a conversation with Ms. Kristin Dorsey, she stated that the requested information had been prepared and was to be sent out through the Department of Environmental Resources. I assumed that this was the request for the kennel data, but apparently I was mistaken. The MPIA Request for the kennel data is still outstanding.

**The Prince George's Compassion Project
Addressing Domestic Violence and Animal Cruelty at the Root Cause**

Prince Georges Feral Friends, SPCA

I am hereby requesting that a dump of the Animal Management database, including all records, and all fields which were included in the dump provided by Mr. Wilson, and listed in my request of July 11, 2011, be placed on a CD-ROM by the 5th of December, 2011, and on the 5th of every succeeding month without a separate request, and delivered to me by the 10th of December, 2011, and every succeeding month, without cost. This is precisely the pattern of practice that Mr. Charles W. Wilson established when he was the Director of the Department of Environmental Resources.

Please acknowledge this request, and your intent to comply, by December 5, 2011, and I will look forward to receiving the first CD-ROM by December 10, 2011. Otherwise I will be filing suit on December 12, 2011 for violation of the Maryland Public Information Act, State Government Article §§10-611 to 628.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

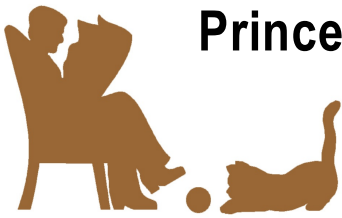
Sincerely,



Timothy W. Saffell

cc: Office of Law
E. Anne Benaroya, Esq.

Inc: MPIA Request, July 11, 2011
MPIA Request Reminder, August 25, 2011
Email Message, September 23, 2011



Prince Georges Feral Friends, SPCA, Inc.

P.O. Box 1036, Bowie, MD 20718

www.PGFerals.Org (301) 262-6452

Compassion Watch



The television outreach of the
Prince George's Compassion Project

December 12, 2011

Board of Advisers

Dr. Christina B. Chambreau
Veterinary Lecturer, Teacher

Bob Christiansen
Author, *Save Our Strays*

Michelle Bernard
Holistic Breeder

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Timothy W. Saffell
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Linda D. Saffell
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www.HolisticHealthCareForPets.org

Mr. Samuel E. Wynkoop
Department of Environmental Resources
9400 Peppercorn Place, Suite 500
Largo, MD 20774

Dear Mr. Wynkoop:

Thank you for the CD-ROM which I have received under your cover letter dated November 23, 2011 which was in response to my MPIA request of July 11, 2010.

I agree to submit a request for each transfer of data, so that the county can track MPIA requests. I will do so on approximately a monthly basis, however, if I should skip a month, please do not assume that I will no longer request future transfers.

In the meanwhile, I would like to point out that there were a few deficiencies on this first disc. I would like to work with you to correct these on the next disc.

- 1) Range of records. There may have been a misunderstanding, so I should clarify that my MPIA request was for "... *all data* through the end of June 2011," virtually *through "the present,"* since the request was dated July 11.

To explain further ... Records are created in the database when an animal enters the system. The same record may be updated many times over the following weeks or even months. A simple example is the case in which an animal is relinquished during one month, and adopted in the next, or a future month. The impact of exporting a short range of records, say a month at a time, is that the record reflecting this animal's intake would be exported in the month that it was first entered, but the animal would seem to remain at the facility forever, because the updated record reflecting the outcome would not be exported.

In 2009, we discussed the possibility of receiving an "update" of records that are changed, but the technical issues involved in matching the changed records to the original records which had previously been exported, made it a burden. The simplest solution was to simply export all of the records each time, which would automatically include the latest version of each.

The Prince George's Compassion Project
Addressing Domestic Violence and Animal Cruelty at the Root Cause

Prince Georges Feral Friends, SPCA

I request that future exports contain all records on the database. This is the routine that was established during 2009-2010.

- 2) Fields included in records. My request was for the same set of fields that were included in the exports provided during 2009-2010. I provided a list of the field names with the request. Many of the fields were omitted from the CD-ROM that was sent to me. Some of the fields which have been omitted are necessary for critical analysis. For example, the AnimalID allows tracking of animals which are repeatedly entering the facility.

I request that future exports contain all of the requested fields. I have attached the original list of fields. The ones that were omitted from the CD-ROM that I received are in red.

This is a request under the Maryland Public Information Act, State Government Article §§10-611 to 628.

I would like to receive a copy of the Animal Management kennel data, identical to what has been provided in the past. In keeping with the practice of 2009-2010, the CD-ROM should contain every record on the database. Also in keeping with the practice of 2009-2010, the names of the fields which should be included in each record are listed below.

Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions regarding this request, please telephone me at the above number.

Sincerely,



Timothy W. Saffell, President
Prince Georges Feral Friends, SPCA

cc: Ms. Kristin Dorsey,
Office of Law

Bradford L. Seamon,
Office of the County Executive

Prince Georges Feral Friends, SPCA

Field Names Requested

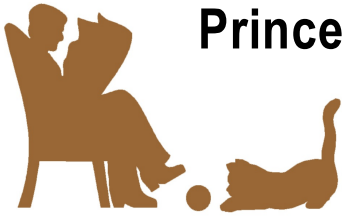
AnimalID

Name
Type
Gender
DOB
Breed1
Breed2
Color1
Color2
Description
Tattoo
Collar
Size
Coat
Ears
Tail
Muzzle
Bite?

Temperment
AnimalCondition
AnimalStatus
StatusDate
S/NDueDate
S/NCompleteDate
KennelNo
KennelStatus
TagNo
TagType
IntakeID
OutcomeID
Location
SurrenderReason
Source
KennelCondition
InType
InSubtype

Jurisdiction

Reason
InDate
InTime
StaffIn
IntakeTotal
EndHoldDate
Hold?
HoldNotify
HoldReason
DueOut
OutType
OutSubtype
OutDate
OutTime
StaffOut
Weight
EuthDosage



Prince Georges Feral Friends, SPCA, Inc.

P.O. Box 1036, Bowie, MD 20718

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Compassion Watch



The television outreach of the
Prince George's Compassion Project

January 17, 2012

Board of Advisers

Dr. Christina B. Chambreau
Veterinary Lecturer, Teacher

Bob Christiansen
Author, *Save Our Strays*

Michelle Bernard
Holistic Breeder

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www.PGAdoptAClassroom.org

Holistic Health Care for Pets
www.HolisticHealthCareForPets.org

Mr. Samuel E. Wynkoop
Department of Environmental Resources
9400 Peppercorn Place, Suite 500
Largo, MD 20774

Dear Mr. Wynkoop:

I would like to point out that I have not received the CD-ROM containing kennel data which I requested in my MPIA request of December 12, 2011. I realized that it has not yet been 30 business days.

In accordance with your requirement that I submit a request for each transfer of data, this is a request under the Maryland Public Information Act, State Government Article §§10-611 to 628.

I would like to receive a copy of the Animal Management kennel data, identical to what has been provided in the past. In keeping with the practice of 2009-2010, the CD-ROM should contain every record on the database. Also in keeping with the practice of 2009-2010, the names of the fields which should be included in each record are listed below.

Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions regarding this request, please telephone me at the above number.

Sincerely,

Timothy W. Saffell, President
Prince Georges Feral Friends, SPCA

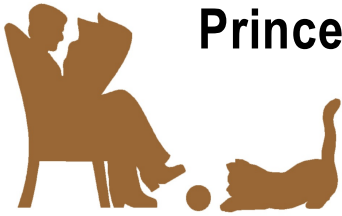
cc: Ms. Kristin Dorsey, Office of Law
Bradford L. Seamon, Office of the County Executive

**The Prince George's Compassion Project
Addressing Domestic Violence and Animal Cruelty at the Root Cause**

Prince Georges Feral Friends, SPCA

Field Names Requested

AnimalID	Temperment	Jurisdiction
Name	AnimalCondition	Reason
Type	AnimalStatus	InDate
Gender	StatusDate	InTime
DOB	S/NDueDate	StaffIn
Breed1	S/NCompleteDate	IntakeTotal
Breed2	KennelNo	EndHoldDate
Color1	KennelStatus	Hold?
Color2	TagNo	HoldNotify
Description	TagType	HoldReason
Tattoo	IntakeID	DueOut
Collar	OutcomeID	OutType
Size	Location	OutSubtype
Coat	SurrenderReason	OutDate
Ears	Source	OutTime
Tail	KennelCondition	StaffOut
Muzzle	InType	Weight
Bite?	InSubtype	EuthDosage



Prince Georges Feral Friends, SPCA, Inc.

P.O. Box 1036, Bowie, MD 20718

www.PGFerals.Org (301) 262-6452

Compassion Watch



The television outreach of the
Prince George's Compassion Project

April 4, 2012

Board of Advisers

Dr. Christina B. Chambreau
Veterinary Lecturer, Teacher

Bob Christiansen
Author, *Save Our Strays*

Michelle Bernard
Holistic Breeder

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Mr. Samuel E. Wynkoop
Department of Environmental Resources
9400 Peppercorn Place, Suite 500
Largo, MD 20774

Dear Mr. Wynkoop:

In accordance with your requirement that I submit a request for each transfer of data, this is a request under the Maryland Public Information Act, State Government Article §§10-611 to 628.

This MPIA request should not be confused with, or combined with, any other similar MPIA request.

I would like to receive a copy of the Animal Management kennel data, identical to what has been provided in the past. In keeping with the practice of 2009-2010, the CD-ROM should contain every record on the database. Also in keeping with the practice of 2009-2010, the names of the fields which should be included in each record are listed below.

Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions regarding this request, please telephone me at the above number.

Sincerely,

Timothy W. Saffell, President
Prince Georges Feral Friends, SPCA

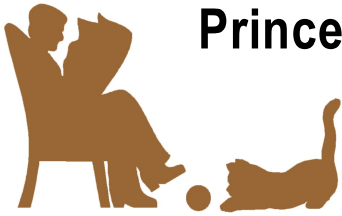
cc: Office of Law

**The Prince George's Compassion Project
Addressing Domestic Violence and Animal Cruelty at the Root Cause**

Prince Georges Feral Friends, SPCA

Field Names Requested

AnimalID	Temperment	Jurisdiction
Name	AnimalCondition	Reason
Type	AnimalStatus	InDate
Gender	StatusDate	InTime
DOB	S/NDueDate	StaffIn
Breed1	S/NCompleteDate	IntakeTotal
Breed2	KennelNo	EndHoldDate
Color1	KennelStatus	Hold?
Color2	TagNo	HoldNotify
Description	TagType	HoldReason
Tattoo	IntakeID	DueOut
Collar	OutcomeID	OutType
Size	Location	OutSubtype
Coat	SurrenderReason	OutDate
Ears	Source	OutTime
Tail	KennelCondition	StaffOut
Muzzle	InType	Weight
Bite?	InSubtype	EuthDosage



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P.O. Box 1036, Bowie, MD 20718

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Compassion Watch



The television outreach of the
Prince George's Compassion Project

April 30, 2012

Board of Advisers

Dr. Christina B. Chambreau
Veterinary Lecturer, Teacher

Bob Christiansen
Author, *Save Our Strays*

Michelle Bernard
Holistic Breeder

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Mr. Samuel E. Wynkoop
Department of Environmental Resources
9400 Peppercorn Place, Suite 500
Largo, MD 20774

Dear Mr. Wynkoop:

In accordance with your requirement that I submit a request for each transfer of data, this is a request under the Maryland Public Information Act, State Government Article §§10-611 to 628.

This MPIA request should not be confused with, or combined with, any other similar MPIA request.

I would like to receive a copy of the Animal Management kennel data, identical to what has been provided in the past. In keeping with the practice of 2009-2010, the CD-ROM should contain every record on the database. Also in keeping with the practice of 2009-2010, the names of the fields which should be included in each record are listed below.

I would like to point out that I have made similar requests, in accordance with your requirement, on December 12, 2011, January 1, 2012, April 4, 2012. I have received only one CD-ROM in compliance with these requests, on February 1, 2012. Please provide me with a CD-ROM in accordance with these requests on or before May 4, 2012.

Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions regarding this request, please telephone me at the above number.

Sincerely,

Timothy W. Saffell, President
Prince Georges Feral Friends, SPCA

cc: Office of Law

**The Prince George's Compassion Project
Addressing Domestic Violence and Animal Cruelty at the Root Cause**

Prince Georges Feral Friends, SPCA

Field Names Requested

AnimalID	Temperment	Jurisdiction
Name	AnimalCondition	Reason
Type	AnimalStatus	InDate
Gender	StatusDate	InTime
DOB	S/NDueDate	StaffIn
Breed1	S/NCompleteDate	IntakeTotal
Breed2	KennelNo	EndHoldDate
Color1	KennelStatus	Hold?
Color2	TagNo	HoldNotify
Description	TagType	HoldReason
Tattoo	IntakeID	DueOut
Collar	OutcomeID	OutType
Size	Location	OutSubtype
Coat	SurrenderReason	OutDate
Ears	Source	OutTime
Tail	KennelCondition	StaffOut
Muzzle	InType	Weight
Bite?	InSubtype	EuthDosage

----- Original Message -----

Subject: cd

Date: Fri, 11 May 2012 16:12:12 -0400

From: Parks, Simone N. <SNParks@co.pg.md.us>

To: 'TimSaffell@USA.Net' <TimSaffell@USA.Net>

Mr. Saffell,

Your cd is ready for pickup please retrieve it from the reception desk in lobby anytime we are open.

Thanks,

Simone

Simone Parks
IT Specialist
Department of Environmental Resources
Animal Management Division
3750 Brown Station Road
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772
(301) 780-7232

This E-mail and any of its attachments may contain Prince George's County Government or Prince George's County 7th Judicial Circuit Court proprietary information or Protected Health Information, which is privileged and confidential. This E-mail is intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to which it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this E-mail, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution, copying, or action taken in relation to the contents of and attachments to this E-mail is strictly prohibited by federal law and may expose you to civil and/or criminal penalties. If you have received this E-mail in error, please notify the sender immediately and permanently delete the original and any copy of this E-mail and any printout.

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Re: cd

Date: Fri, 11 May 2012 17:50:14 -0400

From: Timothy W. Saffell <TimSaffell@USA.Net>

Reply-To: TimSaffell@USA.Net

To: Parks, Simone N. <SNParks@co.pg.md.us>

Simone,

Thank you very much. I'll stop by first chance I get.

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Re: cd

Date: Mon, 14 May 2012 16:56:08 -0400

From: Timothy W. Saffell <TimSaffell@USA.Net>

Reply-To: TimSaffell@USA.Net

To: Parks, Simone N. <SNParks@co.pg.md.us>

Simone,

I picked up the CD from the front desk this afternoon. A complete export has about 180,000 records on it. This CD has about 2,700 records on it from late 2010 and early 2011.

If you accidentally entered the wrong selection criteria and would like to swap this CD for a complete export, I won't say anything about it. Please let me know.

----- Original Message -----

Subject: RE: cd

Date: Tue, 15 May 2012 12:41:32 -0400

From: Parks, Simone N. <SNParks@co.pg.md.us>

To: 'timsaffell@usa.net' <timsaffell@usa.net>

A new disc will be at the front counter

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Re: cd

Date: Tue, 15 May 2012 12:55:12 -0400

From: Timothy W. Saffell <TimSaffell@USA.Net>

Reply-To: TimSaffell@USA.Net

To: Parks, Simone N. <SNParks@co.pg.md.us>

Simone,

Thanks. I'll stop by later this afternoon. If that is too soon, let me know.

----- Original Message -----

Subject: RE: cd

Date: Tue, 15 May 2012 14:02:23 -0400

From: Parks, Simone N. <SNParks@co.pg.md.us>

To: timsaffell@usa.net <timsaffell@usa.net>

This afternoon is fine. It is at the front desk

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Re: cd

Date: Tue, 15 May 2012 15:54:44 -0400

From: Timothy W. Saffell <TimSaffell@USA.Net>

Reply-To: TimSaffell@USA.Net

To: Parks, Simone N. <SNParks@co.pg.md.us>

Simone,

Thanks. I picked up the disc. There are about a half dozen or so fields missing from the list.

I don't want to draw attention to you if this is an oversight. Please let me know.

----- Original Message -----

Subject: RE: cd

Date: Tue, 15 May 2012 16:01:51 -0400

From: Parks, Simone N. <SNParks@co.pg.md.us>

To: timsaffell@usa.net <timsaffell@usa.net>

I have not removed anything from the export report. One report was crashing when I attempted to export the database therefore chameleon sent me a new report.

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Touching Base
Date: Wed, 08 Aug 2012 17:09:28 -0400
From: Timothy W. Saffell <TimSaffell@USA.Net>
Reply-To: TimSaffell@USA.Net
To: Adam Ortiz <AOrtiz@co.pg.md.us>

Adam,

It's August, one of the highest months for intake at the ASF, it seems like a lot of people are on vacation, but the killing won't take a break, so I thought I'd touch base with you, share some thoughts, possibly reiterate, vent some of my frustration ... sorry.

I'm doing my best to help you to accomplish what I'm convinced needs to be done. Taylor has abused his county position to post false information on the county's web site. After losing in court, he posted that he had won, thumbing his nose at the judge's ruling. This is criminal contempt of court, and I would think that it would be grounds for removal from a government position. It is now in the Court of Appeals.

In stark contrast to the transparency promoted by the CountyStat project, the opacity of AMD continues. Taylor has complied only once in 18 months with the Maryland Public Information Act. I'm expecting to file suit on this issue this week, or soon thereafter.

Is there a standard of conduct for County employees? How bad must it get before one is removed?

I'm attaching a chart of the kill numbers as reported in the AMD Monthly Reports. Notice that the 2009 (blue) and 2010 (red) lines, when Mr. Wilson was Director of DER, are in the middle. Then 2011 (green), after the departure of Mr. Wilson, takes a dramatic leap up to the all-time high of 970 in June 2011. There is a space representing the (still) missing August and September 2011 reports.

You will notice that January 2012 (purple) is nearly identical to January 2011, but then takes a dive in February 2012. This is NOT because of any changes made in policies or improvements in outcomes. It is the result of excluding pit bulls and feral cats from the count. Closer analysis (not in this chart) reveals that the bulk of the kills are considered to be "unhealthy/untreatable". This is because ALL feral cats are placed in that category. This is blatantly dishonest, as these animals are categorized as "healthy" and "active" on intake, then categorized as "unhealthy/untreatable" when they are killed -- on the same day. The ultimate insult is to shift the blame to the people of Prince George's County by categorizing healthy animals killed as having "No Public Interest". (How did he get away with all that?)

As we said in our meeting, typically about 3% of all animals taken in will be suffering and require euthanasia. When the report shows 20% or 30%, it's a lie.

I'm laying a bit low for the time being, so as to give CountyStat the time to do what is necessary. This is a gamble for me, because, in the 14 years that I have been working in animal welfare, no action has ever been taken by the county which substantially improved the state of affairs at the ASF. Only Mr. Wilson made a concerted effort.

I notice that there are a lot of deadlines to be met on October 1. Many of them are the responsibility of departments other than AMD, but I'm hoping that there might be performance evaluation at that time. I also notice that the web still shows no evidence of completion of the 11/30/2011 assignment.

I don't feel that I have shared all that I would have liked to about organizational structure and personnel. If you don't mind me making a suggestion, you might talk to Mr. Wilson about deferred retirement. He was passionate and frustrated in 2010. I'm sure that he is just as passionate about this reform now as he was then and would be happy to reverse what he described to me as the greatest disappointment of his career. As you have seen, nothing has happened in DER since his departure.

The more I study, the more convinced I am that Prince George's County has one of the most favorable environments effective Animal Services. The current state of affairs is a shame (and in some cases actually criminal). As Ed Shultz says, "Let's get to work." I'm ready and it's overdue.

--

----- Original Message -----

Subject: RE: Touching Base

Date: Wed, 08 Aug 2012 19:08:59 -0400

From: Ortiz, Adam <AOrtiz@co.pg.md.us>

To: 'TimSaffell@USA.Net' <TimSaffell@USA.Net>

Thanks Tim, I hear you and thank you for your email. Can you let me (cc Carla) know what your mpia request was, and when? Many thanks.

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Re: Touching Base
Date: Wed, 08 Aug 2012 19:41:07 -0400
From: Timothy W. Saffell <TimSaffell@USA.Net>
Reply-To: TimSaffell@USA.Net
To: Ortiz, Adam <AOrtiz@co.pg.md.us>
CC: Carla A. Reid <CAReid@co.pg.md.us>

Adam,

During the latter part of 2009 and all of 2010, DER established a policy of providing a dump of the Chameleon kennel data on a regular basis (every month or so). I was specifically asked NOT to submit a MPIO request for each dump. This is a very simple process -- all records (rows) and all fields (columns) within the records on the kennel file. It takes only a few minutes to create an Excel spreadsheet from the database. The Excel data was provided on a CD-ROM without cost to me. It's all public information (so said the Office of Law).

In 2011, I made my first request, in writing, on Feb. 9, followed by many others. Please see the attachment. On May 15, 2012, I realized that there was no intention to comply on the part of DER/AMD, so I have been assembling the material for the law suit since then.

During the period, I received only one properly executed dump which was on February 1, 2012. I have received a few other CDs, but they had missing records, or missing fields within records, or were defective in some way.

This is the only way that we REALLY know what is happening in the ASF.

Thanks for taking an interest in this.

--

Note: This message included an attachment:
Enforcement Petition & Attachments (all correspondence through May 2012)fx

----- Original Message -----

Subject: MPIA Requests
Date: Mon, 01 Oct 2012 16:59:10 -0400
From: Timothy W. Saffell <TimSaffell@USA.Net>
Reply-To: TimSaffell@USA.Net
To: Adam Ortiz <AOrtiz@co.pg.md.us>

Adam,

I looked back through my outbox and found that I had sent you and Carla the entire set of MPIA requests on the evening of August 8.

Here is a summary:

I made four requests for the kennel data in 1011, but did not receive the data.

I DID receive one disk that was properly done containing data as of February 1, 2012. This is the only MPIA request that has been complied with since the departure of Mr. Wilson.

Since then I have made the requests which I have attached. It became apparent in May that there was no intent or desire to comply so I did not make any more requests, but started working on the law suit.

This issue is made very complex because the March 1, 2012 Agency Response, under "Strategy to Increase Adoptions", paragraph f) says that they will

"Reduce intake numbers by eliminating these categories: Pit Bulls, vicious animals, owner requests and feral cats.

AMD will be removing these animals from its intake number and adding a footnote in its monthly report denoting that these animals are excluded from its intake numbers. February 2012 monthly report begins this process.

This eliminates this Public Information data from the Monthly Report (without even a footnote, in spite of the promise). When we attempt to obtain the information through the MPIA, the Office of Law responds by saying that the information that we are requesting is in the Monthly Report and CountyStat is determining what is published!

Please let me know if there is any other information or explanation that would help.

--

Note:

Included attachments of requests made 4/4/2012, 4/30/2012, and 05/11-15/2012.

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Re: MPIA Requests

Date: Mon, 01 Oct 2012 17:59:49 -0400

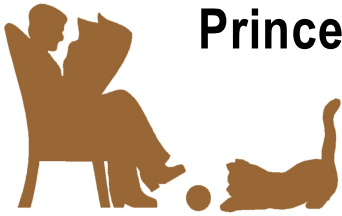
From: Timothy W. Saffell <TimSaffell@USA.Net>

Reply-To: TimSaffell@USA.Net

To: Adam Ortiz <AOrtiz@co.pg.md.us>

Adam,

If you think it would help you to find a problem, I could copy the last MPIA request, put a current date on it and submit it. According to the MPIA, the Dir. DER is the custodian of the data and should be the addressee, but if sending a copy of it to a particular person would help, ... or whatever else I could do, just let me know.



Prince Georges Feral Friends, SPCA, Inc.

P.O. Box 1036, Bowie, MD 20718

www.PGFerals.Org (301) 262-6452

Compassion Watch



The television outreach of the
Prince George's Compassion Project

November 1, 2012

Board of Advisers

Dr. Christina B. Chambreau
Veterinary Lecturer, Teacher

Bob Christiansen
Author, *Save Our Strays*

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Compassion Watch
Television Outreach
www.CompassionWatch.org

Adopt A Classroom
www.PGAdoptAClassroom.org

Holistic Health Care for Pets
www.HolisticHealthCareForPets.org

Mr. Adam Ortiz, Acting Director
Department of Environmental Resources
9400 Peppercorn Place, Suite 500
Largo, MD 20774

Dear Mr. Ortiz:

In accordance with your requirement that I submit a request for each transfer of data, this is a request under the Maryland Public Information Act, State Government Article §§10-611 to 628.

This MPIA request should not be confused with, or combined with, any other similar MPIA request.

I would like to receive a copy of the Animal Management kennel data, identical to what has been provided in the past. In keeping with the practice of 2009-2010, the CD-ROM should contain every record on the database. Also in keeping with the practice of 2009-2010, the names of the fields which should be included in each record are listed below.

Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions regarding this request, please telephone me at the above number.

Sincerely,

Timothy W. Saffell, President
Prince Georges Feral Friends, SPCA

Prince Georges Feral Friends, SPCA

Field Names Requested

AnimalID	Temperment	Jurisdiction
Name	AnimalCondition	Reason
Type	AnimalStatus	InDate
Gender	StatusDate	InTime
DOB	S/NDueDate	StaffIn
Breed1	S/NCompleteDate	IntakeTotal
Breed2	KennelNo	EndHoldDate
Color1	KennelStatus	Hold?
Color2	TagNo	HoldNotify
Description	TagType	HoldReason
Tattoo	IntakeID	DueOut
Collar	OutcomeID	OutType
Size	Location	OutSubtype
Coat	SurrenderReason	OutDate
Ears	Source	OutTime
Tail	KennelCondition	StaffOut
Muzzle	InType	Weight
Bite?	InSubtype	EuthDosage

----- Original Message -----

Subject: AMD Information

Date: Fri, 02 Nov 2012 15:46:08 -0400

From: Timothy W. Saffell <TimSaffell@USA.Net>

Reply-To: TimSaffell@USA.Net

To: Adam Ortiz <AOrtiz@co.pg.md.us>

Adam,

I'd like to share that I feel like we are both on the same side of this effort, and I'm sorry that you will probably find yourself effectively handcuffed. I believe that we both know that the real obstacle to progress is one individual, and without removing that one, there will not be any significant change. I saw it before and it was very frustrating. Mr. Wilson was overruled, even contradicted in the press, and was prohibited from doing anything about it. Then he was considered incompetent because he was not able to improve the situation. My role in this effort will be to advocate for the change that is necessary without reflecting on you. If you feel differently about this, please let me know.

There will be a campaign for "getting the right people on the bus" as Baker promised during the pre-election campaign. I'm not going to quit, so if you get the opportunity, have some whiteboards installed in the ASF conference room. There will need to be a lot of training after the change is made.

In the meanwhile, I don't feel like I have done a good job explaining the issues when it comes to AMD data. First of all, there are two issues, and only a little overlap between them, so I want to be sure to keep them separate.

You know that when Mr. Wilson asked me to meet with him, I suggested that it would be helpful to analyze the kennel data to spot problems, trends, etc. After the Office of Law approved the release of the very same data when a request was made by the University of Maryland, saying "It's public data, give it to them", he also provided a CD-ROM to me. He asked me NOT to submit a MPIA request, because that created unnecessary work. The biggest problem that we had was that he would ask Rodney to prepare a disc, but Rodney would ignore the request until he had been asked several times, so the monthly request resulted in the preparation of a disc only about 8 or 10 times over a year and a half.

After Mr. Wilson's departure, I requested the same data several times (you have copies of the MPIA requests), but received a CD-ROM only once, around February 1, 2012, in nearly two years.

I have sent you a MPIA request, identical to one that I sent Sam Wynkoop in April, except with the name and date changed. You should get it in a few days. I suspect that mail from me may not be delivered to you, though. We'll see. I've attached a PDF of the request, just in case, so we can continue this exchange while waiting for the mail to arrive.

The data that I'm requesting is a complete dump of the kennel data file. Each record on that file has nearly 50 fields -- animal name, animal type, gender, breed, color, intype, indate, outtype, outdate, etc. Notice that on page two of my MPIA request, I have listed the fields by name. I have attached a sample of the kennel data for approximately one month -- January 2012.

On February 1, 2012, there were about 187,000 records in the file. By now, there should be nearly 200,000.

Now, let me interject, here, that this MPIA request for kennel data has nothing to do with the "Monthly Report" that Rodney posts on the web. I believe that he started posting that "report", possibly because Mr. Wilson requested more transparency (we did not discuss that, so I can't say). It serves as something that Rodney can point to to show that he is providing public data, but it does not provide much useful information.

Now back to the real data and the performance metrics.

I am not a bit surprised that AMD has not converted over to a standard reporting format.

When I first entered the "Automated Data Processing" field, as it was called in about 1970, I learned about a basic principle. "Garbage IN, Garbage OUT." In other words, the usefulness of the report that you get out of your database is dependent on the quality of the data that you put in.

The most important thing that must be done is to come up with a way to input the data that allows the data to produce the output that is needed. Then consistency of data entry is required. AMD has been very irregular about data entry. During 1995 and 1996, 366 animals were entered as CONFISCATE. Then that category was discontinued. It's possible that the IMPOUND category was used to mean the same thing from 1997 on. The category WILD was used during 1995 to 1997, then discontinued, then used again from 2001 on. During 2001 and 2002, 485 animals were labeled FERAL, then that category was no longer used. During 2001 and 2002, 1354 animals were brought in as OWNREQPTS, reflecting AMD's veterinary service for euthanasia. That category was discontinued. Then in 2010 and 2011, EUTHREQ was used for 120 animals. (I assume that as an INTYPE, EUTHREQ means "euthanasia requested", not "euthanasia required". EUTHREQ is also an OUTTYPE reflecting, I suppose, "euthanasia required".)

All of this inconsistency makes it very difficult to determine what is happening, since categories of animals are tracked separately, then absorbed into other categories. Accounting for trends is very difficult.

So, given the records that we have, ... when you produce a report for a shelter operation, the first number that you need to start with is the number of animals that you have taken in.

Problem Number 1: Using the data that has been entered into the AMD

database, there is no way to produce that number. I want to be clear, this is not a deficiency in the software, but in the way that the data has been entered.

I mentioned this in our meeting in Carla Reid's office, so this might sound familiar. I suspect that the designers of the software expected that each record would represent one animal entering and leaving the facility. If you want to know how many animals you have taken in, you just count the records. Look at the kennel export sample data attached to this message. I did not plan it this way, I just selected records from January, but the first one is a cat named "3 FERAL CATS". Line 172 is a cat named "3 CAT". I have scanned the database and found animal quantity information in several fields, including the description and location (address) field. When I loaded the kennel data into my own system, I created an additional field that I called "animal-count" and I wrote routines to search for "2 CAT", "2 DOG", "2 KIT", "2 PUP", "2 ADULT", "2 NEWBORN", ... "3 CAT", "3 DOG" etc. in all of the various fields, and accumulate a quantity. I have probably not found all of the combinations in all of the fields where they might occur, but I have found that the real quantity of animals is at least 12% higher than just counting records. What I can not account for is when the GENDER field contains "A LITTER". How many is that? Can't tell. In that case I assume a typical litter size.

An interesting twist ... if an animal has an outcome of "ADOPTED", it is always in a record of it's own. On the other hand, if a litter is brought in and killed, one record might represent a large number of animals. The whole litter killed only counts as one. This means that the actual kill rate is higher than reported.

OK, so assuming that you can come up with the number of animals that you have taken in during the period, the next thing that you need to do is subtract out the number of animals that came in dead. Nobody expects that road kill will be adopted out, and it's not reasonable to blame AMD for killing an animal that was dead when it arrived.

Problem Number 2: There is no way to determine from the data in the database, the number of animals that were DOA. It seems like there should be a value in the INTYPE field for "DOA", but there is not. This is another piece of information that is scattered throughout several fields and must be determined by searching. I created a new field in my copy of the database for NEWINTYPE, and replaced "STRAY", or whatever was there, with "DOA" whenever it was appropriate.

When you take the TOTAL INTAKE count, subtract the DOA count, you come up with the LIVE INTAKE count. It is highly unlikely that AMD is getting this information from the database, and I doubt that the counts are being kept outside of the database, like in a log book.

This is just the beginning, but I'm sure that you have other things to do and I want to be sure that I'm making sense before continuing, so let me know. If this is helpful, I'll continue with another chunk.

Also, let me know if you have any questions about the MPIA request. If

you don't want to pass it along through channels, but handle it like Mr Wilson did, that would be fine with me, so long as I get the data. The numbers since February should be very enlightening.

--

Note: Included 2 attachments:

MPIA Request of 11/1/2012 (.PDF)

Sample of data being requested (.XLSX)

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Your message

Date: Fri, 11 Jan 2013 16:47:17 -0500

From: Timothy W. Saffell <TimSaffell@USA.Net>

Reply-To: TimSaffell@USA.Net

To: Adam Ortiz <AOrtiz@co.pg.md.us>

Adam,

I just received the message that there is a disk waiting and that you would like to have a meeting. I assume that the office is closed now, since it is going on 5 pm. I know that you work beyond the standard hours, but if you don't reply to this message, I'll call on Monday morning.

I will be free on Monday morning, but I will have to reserve a block of about 3 hours on Monday afternoon. Not sure exactly what time that will be, but I should be free until at least 1 pm. I may stop over and pick up the disk on Monday morning anyway, even if we are not meeting, so that I can have a report back to you on its status when we do meet.

For the rest of the week, my schedule is flexible and I could get together most any time that is convenient for you.

BTW, nice work on the investigation of the inspector.

--

----- Original Message -----

Subject: RE: Your message

Date: Fri, 11 Jan 2013 17:21:38 -0500

From: Ortiz, Adam <AOrtiz@co.pg.md.us>

To: 'TimSaffell@USA.Net' <TimSaffell@USA.Net>

CC: Coffman, Larry S. <LSCoffman@co.pg.md.us>

Hey Tim, good to connect with you. As mentioned, our Deputy Larry Coffman is heading up a review of AMD and would be happy to talk to you about the issues, so please accept this introduction.

Have a great weekend, ao

----- Original Message -----

Subject: RE: Your message

Date: Fri, 11 Jan 2013 17:45:58 -0500

From: Coffman, Larry S. <LSCoffman@co.pg.md.us>

To: Ortiz, Adam <AOrtiz@co.pg.md.us>, 'TimSaffell@USA.Net' <TimSaffell@USA.Net>

Hi Tim,

As Adam mentioned, I'll be overseeing the AMD and have been tasked with addressing the issues and moving the program forward. As I'm in the process of gather information, I'm very interested in meeting with you to get your input. I'm available Monday morning (14th) from 8:30 to about 10:00 or any time in the afternoon. If Monday doesn't work for you let me know what does. Feel free to give me a call on my cell at 240-893-8520.

I also have the CD for you.

Looking forward to our meeting

Best,
Larry Coffman

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Report on Kennel Data CD-ROM

Date: Mon, 14 Jan 2013 14:42:56 -0500

From: Timothy W. Saffell <TimSaffell@USA.Net>

Reply-To: TimSaffell@USA.Net

To: Adam Ortiz <AOrtiz@co.pg.md.us>, "Coffman, Larry S." <LSCoffman@co.pg.md.us>

Adam,

I was very much encouraged to see that the data extended over four XLS sheets -- almost 200,000 records (rows). Just about the number that I expected.

This time the problem is missing fields (columns).

In my request I listed the set of fields that I received during 2009-2010. It seems as though they did not consult the list of fields.

Just a thought -- I have received one good CD-ROM in two years in response to a request that was to be on a monthly basis. Do you think that this might be a deliberate effort to keep from complying with the MPPIA?

Please keep in touch. I'll "tickle" you in a week. Thanks.

--

----- Original Message -----

Subject: RE: Report on Kennel Data CD-ROM

Date: Mon, 14 Jan 2013 16:29:02 -0500

From: Coffman, Larry S. <LSCoffman@co.pg.md.us>

To: TimSaffell@USA.Net <TimSaffell@USA.Net>, Ortiz, Adam <AOrtiz@co.pg.md.us>

Tim,

Can you please send me the original requests with the data fields in question. I'll check in to this and find out why they weren't included.

Thanks

Larry

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Re: Report on Kennel Data CD-ROM
Date: Mon, 14 Jan 2013 17:43:30 -0500
From: Timothy W. Saffell <TimSaffell@USA.Net>
Reply-To: TimSaffell@USA.Net
To: Coffman, Larry S. <LSCoffman@co.pg.md.us>

Larry,

This (attached) is the latest request.

Thanks.

--

Attachment: MPIA Request of 11/1/2012

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Re: Report on Kennel Data CD-ROM
Date: Thu, 24 Jan 2013 11:12:13 -0500
From: Timothy W. Saffell <TimSaffell@USA.Net>
Reply-To: TimSaffell@USA.Net
To: Coffman, Larry S. <LSCoffman@co.pg.md.us>
CC: Ortiz, Adam <AOrtiz@co.pg.md.us>

Larry and Adam,

This is a friendly "tickle".

----- Original Message -----

Subject: RE: Report on Kennel Data CD-ROM

Date: Thu, 24 Jan 2013 12:24:30 -0500

From: Coffman, Larry S. <LSCoffman@co.pg.md.us>

To: TimSaffell@USA.Net <TimSaffell@USA.Net>

CC: Ortiz, Adam <AOrtiz@co.pg.md.us>

Hey Tim,

It's my understanding (please correct me if I'm wrong) that the two data fields missing have codes that would allow access to personal information (home addresses and phone numbers) to someone knowledgeable in Chameleon. As general rule we are reluctant to release personal information to ensure confidentiality and to prevent miss-use of such information. However, if you are referring to other data fields not linked to personal information please let me know and we'll get the information to your right away. If the missing data fields are those linked to personal information, we may need to work out a special procedure / process for you.

Best,

Larry

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Re: Report on Kennel Data CD-ROM
Date: Thu, 24 Jan 2013 12:57:35 -0500
From: Timothy W. Saffell <TimSaffell@USA.Net>
Reply-To: TimSaffell@USA.Net
To: Coffman, Larry S. <LSCoffman@co.pg.md.us>
CC: Ortiz, Adam <AOrtiz@co.pg.md.us>

Larry,

The fields that I am asking for do not contain personal information. They contain codes. The codes point to personal information that is in other locations on the Chameleon database that are not being transmitted to me.

For example, the first missing field is the Animal ID. This is a code like "A123456" . The code itself is not meaningful, however if you have several records with the same Animal ID code that means that you have an animal that is repeatedly being impounded. This is very important to track. This code is also used on the Pet Harbor and PetFinder systems to link to a picture of the animal and other information. All of it is public.

Home addresses and phone numbers are only available to someone who has authorization to use the AMD Chameleon. This is a matter for security to be sure that everyone has a password and nobody who is not authorized gets into the system. I have no reason or authority to access the Chameleon database. If I did, I would not be asking for the CD-ROM.

When Mr. Wilson decided that this set of fields was public, it was on the basis of the response from the Office of Law. I am only asking for the same set of fields that the Office of Law has already decided is public information.

In response to my request for a monthly CD-ROM, AMD has responded once in 25 months. The single time that they complied, they provided the entire set of fields, as requested, including all of the fields in question. They were public in 2009, they were public in February 2012, and they are still public. There is no personal or confidential information in those fields, only the ability to analyse the data.

Please let me know if I can help.

----- Original Message -----

Subject: RE: Report on Kennel Data CD-ROM

Date: Thu, 24 Jan 2013 13:18:43 -0500

From: Coffman, Larry S. <LSCoffman@co.pg.md.us>

To: TimSaffell@USA.Net <TimSaffell@USA.Net>

CC: Ortiz, Adam <AOrtiz@co.pg.md.us>

Tim,

Thanks for the clarification. I'll get them working on another CD with the missing codes so you can track repeat impoundments. To make sure we get you what you exactly what you need and myself not having intimate knowledge of Chameleon (YET) is there a descriptor, e.g. name or line number for the codes in questions? Or are these only two lines of codes that were left of the CD?

Thanks,

Larry

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Re: Report on Kennel Data CD-ROM
Date: Thu, 24 Jan 2013 16:04:27 -0500
From: Timothy W. Saffell <TimSaffell@USA.Net>
Reply-To: TimSaffell@USA.Net
To: Coffman, Larry S. <LSCoffman@co.pg.md.us>
CC: Ortiz, Adam <AOrtiz@co.pg.md.us>

Larry,

Thinking of it as an XLS spreadsheet, these were about a half dozen fields (columns) that were not included in any of the records (rows) of the data.

----- Original Message -----

Subject: RE: Report on Kennel Data CD-ROM

Date: Fri, 25 Jan 2013 06:04:28 -0500

From: Coffman, Larry S. <LSCoffman@co.pg.md.us>

To: Taylor, Rodney C. <rctaylor@co.pg.md.us>

CC: Ortiz, Adam <AOrtiz@co.pg.md.us>, TimSaffell@USA.Net <TimSaffell@USA.Net>

Rodney,

Please prepare a new CD with all the information. Based on what Tim says the personal information can only be accessed if someone has AMD's personal information data base. So I'm confident about maintaining confidentiality. Please send me the new CD as I'd like to take a quick look at it and then I'll give it to Tim as before. I'd like to meet with him again to discuss my thoughts about the action plan we're developing.

As we move forward one of our goals is to increase transparency and accountability. I think it's very helpful to have outside eyes looking at our progress. We've got a lot to do to develop a model program so I'm grateful for Tim's interest and help to work with us to improve the program.

Thanks,

Larry

----- Original Message -----

Subject: RE: Report on Kennel Data CD-ROM

Date: Fri, 25 Jan 2013 09:00:11 -0500

From: Taylor, Rodney C. <rctaylor@co.pg.md.us>

To: Coffman, Larry S. <LSCoffman@co.pg.md.us>

CC: Ortiz, Adam <AOrtiz@co.pg.md.us>, TimSaffell@USA.Net <TimSaffell@USA.Net>

Will prepare

----- Original Message -----

Subject: AMD CD-ROM Format
Date: Fri, 25 Jan 2013 13:54:27 -0500
From: Timothy W. Saffell <TimSaffell@USA.Net>
Reply-To: TimSaffell@USA.Net
To: Coffman, Larry S. <LSCoffman@co.pg.md.us>

Larry,

Nice message.

I've extracted a sample of <500 records from October 2010 so that you can see what it should look like.

There are two things to look for in a quick examination with Excel:

- 1) You should see about 200,000 records -- 65,000+ on the first three Sheets, and the remainder on the fourth Sheet. That will mean that the proper number of records have been extracted.
- 2) If you scan across, you should see about 48 columns: column "A" through "Z", then "AA" through "AV". If you don't get to at least "AV" there are columns missing. Column "A" is "Animal ID", and column "AV" is "Euth Dosage".

Thanks.

--

Attachment: Sample Data from October 2010.

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Re: Report on Kennel Data CD-ROM
Date: Wed, 30 Jan 2013 19:42:56 -0500
From: Timothy W. Saffell <TimSaffell@USA.Net>
Reply-To: TimSaffell@USA.Net
To: Coffman, Larry S. <LSCoffman@co.pg.md.us>

Larry,

"tickle, tickle" again.

Since the production of this CD-ROM takes about 10 minutes, I wonder if it will be ready before you go on vacation?

Thanks for your persistence.

----- Original Message -----

Subject: RE: Report on Kennel Data CD-ROM

Date: Wed, 30 Jan 2013 20:07:03 -0500

From: Coffman, Larry S. <LSCoffman@co.pg.md.us>

To: TimSaffell@USA.Net <TimSaffell@USA.Net>

Thanks, I've sent another request to Rodney to get me the CD tomorrow. I hope to have it for you tomorrow afternoon but, we'll call or email to confirm. My fault - I wasn't clear to Rodney when to get me the CD.

Larry

----- Original Message -----

Subject: FW: Report on Kennel Data CD-ROM

Date: Thu, 31 Jan 2013 09:38:55 -0500

From: Coffman, Larry S. <LSCoffman@co.pg.md.us>

To: TimSaffell@USA.Net <TimSaffell@USA.Net>

CC: Robertson, Linda L. <LLRobertson@co.pg.md.us>

Tim,

I forgot Rodney was on leave today but, I just talked to Terri Littlejohn and they are working on the CD. She indicated creating the CD with the additional information it was a little more involved than you suggested but, we're still planning on get the CD today. However, just in case they can't, I've asked my Administrative Assistant Linda Robertson to keep track of progress and inform you when you can pick up.

Thanks,

Larry

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Re: FW: Report on Kennel Data CD-ROM
Date: Mon, 11 Feb 2013 11:00:11 -0500
From: Timothy W. Saffell <TimSaffell@USA.Net>
Reply-To: TimSaffell@USA.Net
To: Coffman, Larry S. <LSCoffman@co.pg.md.us>

Larry,

I hope you had a great vacation! I'm sorry that I did not get back to you before you left, but I got distracted on other things, and I wanted to leave you alone for your week off.

The CD-ROM is good. All of the records, all of the fields. Just over 200,000 records, as expected.

When you get your inbox sorted out, I'd like to deal with the rest of the MPIA request. It was for a monthly CD-ROM.

The Attorney General is leaning towards a "standing request" approach where one MPIA request is good for a periodic response, for a certain length of time, say, 18 months. I have agreed in previous talks to submit a monthly reminder via email, if that makes it easier to track, or to remember to do it. I'd be happy to do that. If you like that idea, I can send a message just after the first of the month, so that the previous month's data can be completed. I hope I can get the CD-ROM within about a week after the reminder. I assume that the message should be sent to you -- any others?

--

----- Original Message -----

Subject: RE: FW: Report on Kennel Data CD-ROM
Date: Tue, 12 Feb 2013 13:41:24 -0500
From: Coffman, Larry S. <LSCoffman@co.pg.md.us>
To: TimSaffell@USA.Net <TimSaffell@USA.Net>
CC: Taylor, Rodney C. <rctaylor@co.pg.md.us>

Hi Tim,

We'd be happy to provide you a CD each month. We can notify when the CD is ready or better yet you can send us a tickler email to remind staff. You can pick it up at the animal facility. Also, I'm sure you'd be willing to make a small donation to the shelter for our time and materials to produce the CD for you?

Larry

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Re: FW: Report on Kennel Data CD-ROM
Date: Tue, 12 Feb 2013 18:37:11 -0500
From: Timothy W. Saffell <TimSaffell@USA.Net>
Reply-To: TimSaffell@USA.Net
To: Coffman, Larry S. <LSCoffman@co.pg.md.us>

Larry,

Welcome back.

I'll schedule a message to come as a reminder each month. Adam is the official custodian of the data, but I'll have it sent to you.

Considering that AMD is required by law to maintain business records, I'm already paying for their work with my taxes. Besides, we are just maintaining the policy that DER established during 2009-2010.

I look forward to talking to you again. In the meanwhile, we should talk about my consulting fee. :-)

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Stakeholders Meeting

Date: Wed, 20 Feb 2013 16:38:58 -0500

From: Coffman, Larry S. <LSCoffman@co.pg.md.us>

To: Ortiz, Adam <AOrtiz@co.pg.md.us>, Chappin, Steve R. <SRChappin@co.pg.md.us>, Powell, Reggie L. <RLPowell@co.pg.md.us>, 'goldesignbuild@verizon.net' <goldesignbuild@verizon.net>, 'commandoservices7701@gmail.com' <commandoservices7701@gmail.com>, 'clayhill1@comcast.net' <clayhill1@comcast.net>, Coffman, Larry S. <LSCoffman@co.pg.md.us>, Taylor, Rodney C. <rctaylor@co.pg.md.us>, 'amcwp@yahoo.com' <amcwp@yahoo.com>, Crankfield-Edmond, Angela M. <amcrankfield@co.pg.md.us>, 'Lransom@cityofbowie.org' <Lransom@cityofbowie.org>, 'casmith@humanesociety.org' <casmith@humanesociety.org>, 'ramccla@aol.com' <ramccla@aol.com>, 'connie4claw@yahoo.com' <connie4claw@yahoo.com>, 'wgomaa@alleycat.org' <wgomaa@alleycat.org>, 'apergosky@yahoo.com' <apergosky@yahoo.com>, 'joanbenson@earthlink.net' <joanbenson@earthlink.net>, 'wlnorman@aol.com' <wlnorman@aol.com>, 'bowieclaw@yahoo.com' <bowieclaw@yahoo.com>, 'sofferkatherine@gmail.com' <sofferkatherine@gmail.com>, 'stormyoaks@aol.com' <stormyoaks@aol.com>, 'John.Sands@ssa.gov' <John.Sands@ssa.gov>, 'theprettychicwiththepits@gmail.com' <theprettychicwiththepits@gmail.com>, 'timsaffell@usa.net' <timsaffell@usa.net>, 'johnfalcon58@yahoo.com' <johnfalcon58@yahoo.com>, 'marylanddogfederation@yahoo.com' <marylanddogfederation@yahoo.com>, 'ihavetofly@yahoo.com' <ihavetofly@yahoo.com>

CC: Fenstermacher, Jean M. <jmfenstermacher@co.pg.md.us>, Posten, Shirley D. <sdposten@co.pg.md.us>

When: Thursday, March 14, 2013 7:00 PM-9:00 PM (GMT-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada).

Where: 9400 Peppercorn Place, Suite 500, Largo, MD 20774; Conference Room 540

Note: The GMT offset above does not reflect daylight saving time adjustments.

~~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*

I would like to invite you to participate in the first of a series of roundtables aimed at improving the County's animal management control program. County Executive Baker's vision for Prince George's County is to be a regional leader in providing the highest quality animal care and management services. The purpose of the roundtable is to have an open dialogue with industry stakeholders and interested parties on setting more progressive goals and to develop an action plan to implement the best practices, enhance partnerships and expand available resources necessary to advance the program.

The animal management program's transformation to a regional model will be challenging and hard work. The County will need to make great strides to improve its internal and external capacities to optimize existing services and supporting partnerships to meet more progressive and proactive goals. The County cannot make this transformation alone. It must expand the volunteer programs, the utilization of non-profits, and support from retailers/service providers and industry professionals. We hope you will join us, as your knowledge, experience and demonstrated commitment to improving the County's animal care and management program will be vital to our success.

The first meeting will take place at the above address from 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Please confirm your attendance by contacting or emailing Linda Robertson @ 301.883.5795 or llrobertson@co.pg.md.us or by simply accepting this invitation. Once your confirmation is received, you will receive more background information and an agenda on the roundtable goals and desired outcomes.

Thank you for your consideration. Should you need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 301.883.5812.

Adam Ortiz

Acting Director
Department of Environmental Resources

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----- Original Message -----

Subject: Kennel Data CD-ROM

Date: Tue, 05 Mar 2013 13:59:52 +0000

From: TIMOTHY W. SAFFELL <timsaffell@usa.net>

Reply-To: TIMOTHY W. SAFFELL <timsaffell@usa.net>

To: <LSCoffman@co.pg.md.us>

Larry,

This is an automatically generated reminder.

Please provide a CD-ROM with a dump of the Kennel Data in accordance with the specifications that were previously provided.

Thank you very much.

Tim

--

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Animal Managment Roundtable Agenda & Power Point

Date: Mon, 11 Mar 2013 13:00:51 -0400

From: Robertson, Linda L. <LLRobertson@co.pg.md.us>

To: 'casmith@humanesociety.org' <casmith@humanesociety.org>, 'golddesignbuild@verizon.net' <golddesignbuild@verizon.net>, 'amcwp@yahoo.com' <amcwp@yahoo.com>, 'hdale@cityofbowie.org' <hdale@cityofbowie.org>, 'ramccla@aol.com' <ramccla@aol.com>, 'connie4claw@yahoo.com' <connie4claw@yahoo.com>, 'wgomaa@alleycat.org' <wgomaa@alleycat.org>, 'wlnorman@aol.com' <wlnorman@aol.com>, 'joanbenson@earthlink.net' <joanbenson@earthlink.net>, 'bowieclaw@yahoo.com' <bowieclaw@yahoo.com>, 'sofferkatherine@gmail.com' <sofferkatherine@gmail.com>, 'stormyoaks@aol.com' <stormyoaks@aol.com>, 'stormyoaks@aol.com' <stormyoaks@aol.com>, 'John.Sands@ssa.gov' <John.Sands@ssa.gov>, 'theprettychicwiththepits@gmail.com' <theprettychicwiththepits@gmail.com>, 'timsaffell@usa.net' <timsaffell@usa.net>, 'LindaSaffell@PGFerals.org' <LindaSaffell@PGFerals.org>, 'johnfalcon58@yahoo.com' <johnfalcon58@yahoo.com>, 'marylanddogfederation@yahoo.com' <marylanddogfederation@yahoo.com>, 'ihavetofly@yahoo.com' <ihavetofly@yahoo.com>, 'apergosky@yahoo.com' <apergosky@yahoo.com>, 'golddesignbuild@verizon.net' <golddesignbuild@verizon.net>, Chappin, Steve R. <SRChappin@co.pg.md.us>, 'commandoservices7701@gmail.com' <commandoservices7701@gmail.com>, Powell, Reggie L. <RLPowell@co.pg.md.us>, 'clayhill1@comcast.net' <clayhill1@comcast.net>

For your information, please find attached the Stakeholders Meeting - Roundtable Agenda along with the power point presentation for Thursday evening. The background information has also been attached for those who have not accepted the invitation.

Since the building closes at 6:00 p.m., someone will be available at the back doors (parking lot side) to give you access to the meeting room. Please enter from the back of the building.

Should you have any questions, please contact Linda Robertson at 301.883.5795 . We are looking forward to meeting with you and hearing your ideas.

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Animal Management Roundtable

Background / Format / Desired Outcomes

Thursday, March 14, 2013 / 7:00 – 9:00 P.M. / 9400 Peppercorn Place, Suite 540, Largo

I. Background Information

This will be the first in series of Roundtable discussions with various stakeholders and the County greater animal community. This first group of stakeholders is referred to as the “Animal Advocates”. These are some of the individuals and organizations that have demonstrated an active role in trying to improve the state of the County’s animal management program. It is hoped that this group will help better identify program deficiencies and the processes that must be taken to move forward. It is hoped that this group can develop a comprehensive list of actions items.

Other Roundtables will soon be held with other important components of the greater animal care industry in the County. These include:

1. Professional Service Providers (vets, boarding kennels, pet resorts & day care other providers). We’ll be exploring how to improve the County’s partnership with the service providers to enhance and improve the animal management program and better serve the interests of these professional groups.

2. Pet Supply Businesses (grocery stores, Pet Smart, Wal-Mart and other pet supply providers). The pet supply industry is big business. We intend to work with this group to explore how the County can help create stronger markets and develop stronger corporate partnering relationships to better support and fund the County’s animal management programs.

3. Internal County Staff (shelter workers, program management and administration staff). A series of internal meetings through CountyStats and DER’s Acting Director are ongoing and will be expanded to improve management outcomes and results.

II. Issues to be covered

This will be an open forum so please bring up any issues you feel are important that must be addressed to move the program forward. For example, the following issues are often identified:

- The County’s current program can be improved as its performance is below that of more progressive programs.
- Adoptions must be increased and optimized to reduce euthanasia.
- Humane treatment of animals in the County’s care must meet the highest standards.
- Non-governmental partnerships and resources must be optimized to support all programs.

- More effective public education is needed to reduce animal abuse and improve pet care.
- Improve public relations, marketing and promotions to increase volunteerism.
- Staff training and/or certification is needed to ensure the highest standards of professionalism.
- Increased funding is needed to support higher performance and program expansion.
- Enforcement of policies, practices and programs must be improved to achieve better outcomes.
- Staff morale is vital and must be improved.
- Improve public transparency to promote trust and responsiveness.
- Improved management practices and tools to measure performance and accountability.
- Codes must be revised and updated to support enhanced program goals.

III. Roundtable Facilitated Process

Although this is an open meeting and you are free to express your ideas, its directive is to achieve the desired outcome of developing a comprehensive action plan to move the program forward. The meeting will be facilitated by Larry Coffman, Deputy Director of DER. Mr. Coffman has had many years of experience in facilitating public meetings and roundtables in his 38 year career working in both the private and public sectors. The goal of the Roundtable is to develop action items that the County can implement as quickly as possible. So to this end, here are the simple rules of order to be followed:

1. Allow participants to express their issues and suggestions without interruption or comment. We want to hear everyone's opinion.
2. No one will be allowed to dominate the conversation. We want everyone to have input.
3. Come prepared with solutions. We're asking that you not just identify a problem or issue but, also provide a suggested solution such as a process or strategy that may help to address the problem. For example, if your issue is the need to increase the level of professionalism by the animal control officers, the solution may be to require training and certifications so, provide a list of organizations which provide training and certifications. The more specific you can be about the solution and process to achieve a solution the better.
4. We are not going to rehash the history of the County's animal management program. The past is the past and nothing can change it. Essentially we're moving forward to address today's issues.

5. The facilitator will help guide the discussion by verifying the issue from the speaker, eliciting a solution from the speaker and afterwards ask for input from the group, e.g. questions, comments and additional solutions.

6. The facilitator will not allow much time to debate the merits of any issue. This will be very much like a brain storming session to get the issues out, list possible solutions and move on. There are many possible topics to cover and we will not waste time in debating any one issue or person's opinion. We need actionable solutions. If you wish, free feel to bring supporting data on issues /solutions than can be part of the record and that help justify actions.

4. There will be a person to record the issues and solutions discussed.

5. A meeting summary will be made available.

IV. Desired Goals and Outcomes of the Roundtable

This Roundtable process was developed to engage, empower and ensure the interested / vested public has as a viable and transparent venue for input to affect and shape positive change in the future direction of the County's animal management program. As indicated above, this Roundtable will be a solution driven process to develop a comprehensive work plan for the County. Where feasible, DER will take immediate steps to implement actionable solutions. If regulatory or budget changes are required to implement actionable items, DER will take appropriate and immediate steps to obtain approvals from the County Executive and Council.

It will be up to the Roundtable members to determine if this Roundtable, or a version of it that may include broader representation by all stakeholder groups (advocates /professionals / businesses and program staff), should become a standing advisory group to allow future input to develop solutions.

V. Suggested Reading Materials

To help you develop issues and formulate solutions please take some time to look over Manatee County Government's - No Kill Manatee County website. Here's their link:

<http://www.mymanatee.org/home/government/departments/public-safety/animal-services/No-Kill.html>

What is important about the Manatee's program is their action plan is consistent with the desired outcomes of this Roundtable. Their Plan clearly states the issues and lays out very specific actions and timelines to address the Plan's goals. This is the type of comprehensive action plan driven by public input on strategies that the County would like to produce from this Roundtable.

VI. Directions / Phone numbers / etc.

Should you need additional information or directions, please contact Linda Robertson at 301.883.5795.

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Kennel Data CD-ROM
Date: Mon, 18 Mar 2013 13:02:48 -0400
From: Timothy W. Saffell <TimSaffell@USA.Net>
Reply-To: TimSaffell@USA.Net
To: Rodney C. Taylor <rctaylor@co.pg.md.us>
CC: Coffman, Larry S. <LSCoffman@co.pg.md.us>

Rodney,

Thanks for the CD-ROM with the kennel data export. Sadly, however, I must report that there are eight fields missing from the data.

Please use the procedure that was used on January 31 to export the complete set of fields. I'd be happy to pick up the CD-ROM at the ASF when it is ready. Is Wednesday afternoon time enough?

--

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Re: Kennel Data CD-ROM
Date: Wed, 20 Mar 2013 16:11:31 -0400
From: Timothy W. Saffell <TimSaffell@USA.Net>
Reply-To: TimSaffell@USA.Net
To: Rodney C. Taylor <rctaylor@co.pg.md.us>
CC: Coffman, Larry S. <LSCoffman@co.pg.md.us>

Rodney,

I haven't heard back about the CD-ROM. Do you have a projected target for pickup of the disc?

--

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Re: Kennel Data CD-ROM

Date: Mon, 25 Mar 2013 10:58:33 -0400

From: Timothy W. Saffell <TimSaffell@USA.Net>

Reply-To: TimSaffell@USA.Net

To: Rodney C. Taylor <rctaylor@co.pg.md.us>

CC: Coffman, Larry S. <LSCoffman@co.pg.md.us>, Adam Ortiz <AOrtiz@co.pg.md.us>

Dear Administrator of Animal Management Division,

It has been a week since I pointed out that the CD-ROM that was delivered to me was incomplete. Even with a reminder message, I have not received any indication of your intent. I hope that this is not the "new transparency".

Please produce a CD-ROM according to the policy that was established by DER during 2009-2010 and let me know when I can pick it up.

--

Fwd: [New post] Save them all, kill the excuses.

Subject: Fwd: [New post] Save them all, kill the excuses.

From: "Timothy W. Saffell" <TimSaffell@USA.Net>

Date: 4/4/2013 11:48 AM

To: "Coffman, Larry S." <LSCoffman@co.pg.md.us>, Adam Ortiz <AOrtiz@co.pg.md.us>

----- Original Message -----

Subject: [New post] Save them all, kill the excuses.

Date: Thu, 04 Apr 2013 13:53:52 +0000

From: YesBiscuit! <comment-reply@wordpress.com>

Reply-To: YesBiscuit! <comment+ef0niajcty01hog_3vtv0tuw@comment.wordpress.com>

To: timsaffell@usa.net

Respond to this post by replying above this line

New post on **YesBiscuit!**



Save them all, kill the excuses.

by YesBiscuit

Many pet killing facilities in this country are enabled by caring volunteers and rescuers who buy into the Save a Few, Kill the Rest business model. How it works: The pet killing facility allows members of the public to care for, network and rescue certain pets *so long as the public plays by its rules*. The rest of the pets are

killed. The rules that must be obeyed typically center around silence on the part of the enablers - no speaking to the media or posting online about the truth of what goes on at the shelter.



Dog #0871849 at the Charlotte pound in NC, as pictured on [PetHarbor](#).

How do compassionate people stand by silently while healthy/treatable pets are being killed all around them? It a two-pronged attack - one from without and the other from within. The pet killing facility tells the rescuers and volunteers:

- We're not monsters. No one here *wants* to kill pets. We're animal lovers, just like you.
- It's the public's fault that we have to kill pets. With the exception of you guys, the rest of the public is irresponsible and uncaring.
- We're all on the same team. But if you speak to the media about what goes on here, people might get the wrong impression and stop donating. That will only hurt the animals.

The rescuers and volunteers carry the weight from there and tell themselves:

- If I publicly tell the truth about what happens at the shelter, I won't be allowed to walk dogs/foster kittens/rescue pets any longer and then the animals will have no one to be kind to them because the people here are monsters.
- The people here aren't monsters. They only kill pets because the irresponsible public forces them to do it. I am a member of the public and so are all the networkers, adopters, fosters, donors, rescuers, volunteers and transporters that I know. Before we got involved with the shelter, we were all just regular pet owners. I guess I and everyone I know are all exceptions. Yes, that must be right because only uncaring people would surrender their pets to these monsters.
- The people here aren't monsters. After all, they are allowing me to save a few of the pets. And saving a few is better than saving none so I am going to keep my mouth shut and play by their rules in order to maintain my privileges. If I don't, they might kill Fluffy, whom I've been working on getting into rescue for 2 weeks, in retaliation. I can't risk these monsters killing Fluffy.

Do you recognize yourself in any of these statements? This is how our broken shelter system's status quo of Save a Few and Kill the Rest is maintained. The monsters sell it and the compassionate public buys it. If you buy it, there will always be a place for you at your local pet killing facility. Because there will always be a Fluffy. They will dangle a Fluffy in front of your face forever and taunt you with their power of life and death.

If however you decide to empower yourself to be free from this mindset, to put the responsibility for Fluffy's protection on those paid to protect her, and to stand up for what you know in your heart is right - that ALL SHELTER PETS HAVE THE RIGHT TO LIVE - let me know. I'll stand by you.

We don't have to accept saving just a few. We can save them all. As compassionate pet advocates, we must reject [the myths of pet overpopulation](#) and [the "irresponsible public"](#) that have been put forth in an attempt to justify needless killing. It is our duty to publicly condemn the notion that saving shelter pets is a "privilege" which directors extend only to those who play ball. We must organize, not to enable more killing by keeping quiet, but to garner legislative support for the [Companion Animal Protection Act](#) to protect pets from monsters.

Fwd: [New post] Save them all, kill the excuses.

Take back your power. Giving it up was a tragic mistake but one that can be made right - unlike killing. Save them all, kill the excuses.

[YesBiscuit](#) | April 4, 2013 at 9:53 am |
Categories: [animal advocacy](#), [animal shelter](#), [enablers](#), [human-animal bond](#),
[No Kill](#) | URL: <http://wp.me/pR4Lh-2N0>

[Comment](#)

[See all comments](#)



A pet adopted from UPAWS, as posted on [Facebook](#).

Trouble clicking? Copy and paste this URL into your browser:

<http://yesbiscuit.wordpress.com/2013/04/04/save-them-all-kill-the-excuses/>

Thanks for flying with  WordPress.com

----- Original Message -----

Subject: RE: [New post] Save them all, kill the excuses.

Date: Thu, 04 Apr 2013 12:20:18 -0400

From: Ortiz, Adam <AOrtiz@co.pg.md.us>

To: 'TimSaffell@USA.Net' <TimSaffell@USA.Net>, Coffman, Larry S. <LSCoffman@co.pg.md.us>

Hello Tim,

Thanks for sharing this.

Since our administration has been here, we have made Animal Management a very high priority – mostly in response to you. It was the subject of the first CountyStat and many follow up CountyStats. When I came on board at DER, I have continued to make this a very high priority, as I am sure you agree. The numbers are not where they need to be, but they are getting better and we are committed to getting them down much further.

Larry and I have PGFF earnestly and have brought you and Linda into our stakeholders circle to figure out a better future for our operation, and are seriously looking at the pros/cons/practicality of no-kill, and will look into in more depth as our reform effort matures. Believe me, we have received a tremendous amount of criticism for including PGFF in the stakeholders effort, but Larry and I both believe we need your perspective.

On a related note, the staff at the shelter have been highly cooperative and dedicated, even though some of them have disagreed with some of our ideas and approaches. The most cooperative person has been Rodney Taylor. I cannot speak to the history of time before I was here, but under my leadership, and Larry's, he has been fully responsive, and we have been pretty tough - probably tougher than any Director to date.

All this being said, I ask you to remove the part of your homepage attacking Rodney as “dishonest, insubordinate, and incompetent.” If it was true at some time, it is not so now. This is a new day.

As you and Linda have seen, we have worked with you with full openness, engagement, and good faith. I am asking you to extend this same good faith in return, and remove this attack on our employee.

We may, or may not, be able to agree on everything as we go through this process, but we are committed to a genuine examination of the opportunities in an open and communicative manner. We have not made any empty or premature promises, but pledge to keep a steady effort at progressive reform to the degree that we can. Of course, you are free to criticize our policies or our policies, but the attack on Rodney is no longer appropriate. It is counterproductive and hurtful.

If you would like to discuss further, feel free to call me. I await your response.

Sincerely,
Adam

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Re: [New post] Save them all, kill the excuses.

Date: Thu, 04 Apr 2013 20:08:26 -0400

From: Timothy W. Saffell <TimSaffell@USA.Net>

Reply-To: TimSaffell@USA.Net

To: Ortiz, Adam <AOrtiz@co.pg.md.us>

Adam,

Thanks for your reply. Yes, I'm always happy to discuss Animal Management issues, and welcome the opportunity.

I realize that CountyStat addressed AMD first, and it is likely that the current round of meetings is largely, if not exclusively, a result of our efforts. Larry correctly said that "There are different strategies for making progress." It seems that the others at the roundtable seemed to miss the point -- that meeting would probably not have happened if it were not for our efforts.

Please let me explain my position on the state of Animal Management.

If you look at the Monthly Reports, particularly if you graph them, as I have, you will see a dramatic decline in the number of animals killed beginning in February 2012. This would appear to be a tremendous improvement in positive outcomes at the facility, but not so. In fact, this is the exclusion from the report of a large number of feral cats and pit bulls that are killed. Not fewer killed, they are just not reported. I believe this to be a dishonest misrepresentation of the performance of AMD.

CountyStat created a TO DO list which included "TNR Program" as an Action Item. At the roundtable meeting, that list was presented with "TNR Program -- Completed". I believe that the assignment of a task requires some action to be taken in order to complete it. When AMD was assigned "TNR Program", what action was taken in order to mark that task "Completed"? This seems like insubordination to me.

Another item on the TO DO list was "Asilomar Reporting". That item was also marked "Completed". I have not seen any Asilomar-format reports. If I'm missing them, please let me know where they are. Now, I'm not in favor of the Asilomar guidelines, because they approve of the withholding of information, if it can be embarrassing to the facility, thus making it look as though it is doing better than it really is. I'm not advocating that we use that format at all. However, AMD selected those guidelines which approve of withholding embarrassing data, adopted them, and discarded the rest of the system. I'm not sure if that is more dishonest for withholding information, or insubordinate for claiming "Completed", but not implementing the system.

AMD is responsible for enforcing the law. AMD is also responsible for complying with the law. This principle is called the "Rule of Law" -- the law applies to everyone equally. The Administrator is also responsible for training the employees to enforce the law properly, and to be in compliance with the law. The Administrator has done neither. In fact, even the ruling of the circuit court judge as been ignored. Besides being illegal, I believe this is incompetent, since the duties of the position are not being properly performed. I know that the Administrator thinks that the law does not apply to him. Sorry about that.

As far as the "dishonest, insubordinate, and incompetent" statement is concerned, the Administrator is a government employee. The 1st Amendment was created for the purpose of allowing criticism of the government. Even if it were NOT true, it would be my right to say so, but I believe that I can prove in many more ways than I have enumerated here, that the Administrator IS "dishonest, insubordinate, and incompetent". I welcome facts that would show otherwise.

I would like to provide some context ...

- 1) My first conversation with the Administrator was about 10 years ago. I offered to help to implement a program that would reduce the killing and would bring praise from far and wide to him and the county. He refused, misquoting some sections of the statute as justification.
- 2) Mr. Wilson attempted to make improvements, made assignments to, and provided education for the Administrator, but there was never any real change. This was apparently due to the cronyism in the corrupt Johnson administration.
- 3) CountyStat documented AMD's dismal performance under the Administrator, and created Action lists, but there was never any change. Brad Seamon said "Your numbers are NOT going up."
- 4) Again, there is yet another effort to make improvements. I recognize this movie and I know how it ends. Even so, I met with Larry twice, about two hours each time. He said that he wanted to make AMD "No Kill". I gave him the benefit of the doubt and promised to help. I provided a lot of documentation, explaining each item as I gave it to him. For example, I anticipated the excuse: "Not enough money" -- and provided a study showing that the save rate is not related to the budgetary allocation. The first issue that Larry chose to address was the lack of "resources", and attempted to get more money. Larry is a "process" guy. He chose Manatee Co, FL as a model. They have adopted a great Resolution, but their project plan reveals the same mindset that we have here. Not surprisingly, too much time has passed without results. Manatee is not progressing the way it should.

I'm willing to help. Like helping you to build a house on sand, it may mean saying "You're doing it wrong." Of course, it is your choice to continue to build on sand.

We are in the most favorable of environments for saving lives. Just one example: Reno NV has a very high rate of unemployment, low household income, takes in 49 animals per 1000 capita at their open admissions municipal shelter and saves 90%+ of them. Our county has a relatively low rate of unemployment, high household income, takes in only 11 animals per 1000 capita, and we have been saving about 40% of them, killing 6000 animals per year, on average, for a decade.

You may think that I'm exaggerating, but I'm not. An Administrator who knows the law and is willing to comply, and has the No Kill mindset, could reduce our kill rate by 50% on the first morning, just by making responsible changes in practices. Within a few months, at most, we could pass the 90% milestone. As the Manatee Co Resolution correctly says, it will not cost more, it will save money. However, we will not do it here with the current leadership.

In about the past two weeks, I have received reports of about a half dozen unlawful acts of AMD employees. Right now, the Administrator is withholding information that he is required to provide, in violation of the MPPIA, and not complying with the assignment of Larry, his superior. I'm not sure if that is dishonest, insubordinate, or incompetent, or a combination of the three. This is not a thing of the past. The corruption of the Johnson administration is alive and well in the Baker administration and it's happening on your watch.

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Kennel Data CD-ROM

Date: Fri, 05 Apr 2013 12:59:30 +0000

From: TIMOTHY W. SAFFELL <timsaffell@usa.net>

Reply-To: TIMOTHY W. SAFFELL <timsaffell@usa.net>

To: <LSCoffman@co.pg.md.us>

Larry,

This is a message that is automatically generated at your request.

Please provide a CD-ROM with a dump of the Kennel Data in accordance with the specifications that were previously provided.

Thank you very much.

Tim