

2025 RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT

Report Title: Humboldt County Animal Shelter

Report Date: June 2025

Response by: W. Honsal, Sheriff, County of Humboldt

FINDINGS

See Following Pages

RECOMMENDATIONS

See following pages

Date: 8/18/25

Signed: W. Honsal

Number of pages attached: 2

RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT – RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESPONSE SUMMARY STATEMENT

FINDINGS:

Finding 1: The staff of the Humboldt County Animal Shelter are dedicated. Their efforts allow them to work effectively under the stress of handling high volumes of animals with less than a full staff.

Response: Agree

Finding 2: Collaboration between the Animal Shelter and the local benefit our community.

Response: Agree

Finding 3: Volunteers donate approximately 400 hours per month. Their crucial contribution to animal enrichment by socializing, walking, and training animals is a factor in increasing adoptions and meeting other needs of the Animal Shelter.

Response: Agree

Finding 4: Long-standing leaks have led to a severely damaged roof that houses necessary mechanical equipment for the Animal Shelter. This damage can significantly impact staff and animal health and safety.

Response: Agree

Finding 5: The outside lighting at the Animal Shelter needs replacement and repair; this poses a safety concern for both staff and visitors, especially during the winter hours.

Response: Agree

Finding 6: The Animal Shelter is only open to the public from Monday to Friday. Offering operational hours on the weekend would increase the rate of adoptions.

Response: Agree

RECOMMENDATIONS:

R1: Collaboration between the Animal Shelter and the animal rescue network, in a professional and respectful manner, should continue as it is beneficial to the animals and everyone involved.

The recommendation has been implemented.

The Humboldt County Animal Shelter is grateful for the dedication of our volunteers, animal rescue partners, and foster care providers. Together, this animal loving network plays a crucial role in helping us keep euthanasia rates low and ensuring the animals in our care have the best possible chance for a loving home. The Sheriff's Office is proud of these strong partnerships, and we remain committed to working hand in hand with our community. Through responsible pet ownership, including spaying and neutering, we can continue to reduce overpopulation and create a healthier, safer environment for animals across Humboldt County.

R5: The Animal Shelter includes weekend hours by no later than September 1, 2025.

The recommendation has already been implemented.

The Animal Shelter is now open on the weekend. The Shelter is open Monday-Saturday, closed Sunday and Holidays. The Saturday hours are 10am-4pm. We believe more people will adopt animals on the weekends. Thus, the change was made earlier in the year.