

RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT

Report Title: Dogs on the Run _____

Report Date: June 26 2018 _____

Response by: City of Eureka City Council Title: Frank Jager, Mayor _____

FINDINGS

1. The City of Eureka agrees with the findings numbered: F1 F2 F3 F4 F5 F6 F8 and F9.
2. The City of Eureka disagrees wholly or partially with the findings numbered: (please see response to recommendation R6 below for explanations regarding the City's disagreement, either wholly or partially, with this finding).

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Recommendations numbered have been implemented. (Attach a summary describing implementation actions.)
2. Recommendations numbered RI R2 R4 and R9 have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.
(Attach a timeframe for the implementation.)
3. Recommendations numbered R6 require further analysis.
(Attach an explanation and the scope and parameters of an analysis or study, and a timeframe for the matter to be prepared for discussion by the officer or director of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed, including all governing body of the public agency when applicable. This timeframe shall not exceed the six months from the date of the publication of the Grand Jury report.)
4. Recommendations numbered N/A will not be implemented because they are not warranted or are not feasible.
(Attach an explanation.)

Date: _____ Signed: _____

Number of pages attached: 5.

RESPONSES TO RECOMMENDATIONS

R1: Over the past 12 months the Eureka Police Department ("EPD") has been working with the former City Attorney to revise and update Eureka's Municipal Code, Chapter 91 — Animals. Animal Control Officer ("ACO") Celeste Villarreal researched current law, best practices, and

information from various sources and trainings to provide a draft update to Eureka's Municipal Code, Chapter 91.

The revisions have been returned to us for one final review and adjustment. The new Assistant City Attorney has reached out to ACO Villarreal and will be meeting soon to go over the code changes and to assist with implementation. It is EPD's goal to present the new written and updated Chapter 91 to the Eureka City Council in the 4th quarter of 2018 and have it passed and enforceable by January 1, 2019.

Each city and county can create codes that are as strict or stricter than California law. These codes are individualized to each city and county as each community is different and the goals of those communities can differ. Because of this, a combined task force to update codes across jurisdictions is not in feasible.

R2: Refer to response to RI.

R4: Historically, the EPD has only employed one ACO to address animal related issues in the City. Until 2014, the EPD also employed between four and six Police Service Officers (PSOs). These non-sworn PSOs were responsible for handling "cold" report calls, property calls, noninjury traffic collisions, and assisting the ACO with animal related calls. In 2014 the budget for the EPD was drastically cut the PSO positions were cut. With these cuts all the calls for service handled by the PSOs had to be absorbed by patrol officers and the ACO.

In response to these cuts, EPD looked at the types of calls for service its officers respond to and made adjustments to those calls. Some animal-related calls, such as animals at large not causing a hazard or safety concern, were downgraded. Calls involving dangerous animals remained a high priority.

The ACO position was vacant from January 1, 2016 until April 1, 2016 when our current ACO, Celeste Villarreal, was hired to fill the position. Since her employment ACO Villarreal has successfully completed the following trainings and work related experiences:

- April 2016 16 hours of Ride Alongs with Humboldt County Sheriffs Office ACOs.
- 7/20/16 — PC 832 Class College of the Redwoods, Law Enforcement Training Center — 40 hours.
- 8/10/16 — PC 832 Firearms College of the Redwoods, LE Training Center — 24 hours.
- 10/3/16 — Module B Training — National Animal Care and Control Association, Colorado State University — 40 hours.
- 01/13/17 — Module A Training — National Animal Care and Control Association, Colorado State University — 40 hours.

- 03/11-13/18 — 2018 Animal Care Conference coordinated by the California Animal Control Directors Association and State Humane Association of California. Attended multiple sessions covering case studies of Animal Cruelty, Hoarding, Cockfighting, Aggressive Dog Attacks, Disaster Preparedness for Animal Services, and Homeless Pet Ownership — 12 hours,
- Certifications — 01/13/17 — Animal Control Officer Certification National Animal Care and Control Association Training Academy.
- 01/16/18 — Taser Conducted Electrical Weapon Certificate — EPD.

In January 2018, Chief Stephen Watson brought PSOs (renamed Community Service Officers, or "CSOs") back to the EPD. The Eureka City Council authorized the addition of two new positions, and the first position was filled on February 1, 2018. CSO Juan Ramirez completed an approximate six-week training program and is currently operating as a solo CSO. The second position was filled on May 1, 2018. Sierra McLarty is in the final stages of her training program and should be cleared for patrol by August 1, 2018.

It is EPD's goal that the new CSOs will be crossed trained by ACO Villarreal to deal with some animal related issues and calls for service. This will provide seven days per week coverage in addition to our patrol officers who respond to in-progress animal related calls. Since the CSO's schedule will not directly overlap with ACO Villarreal's schedule, EPD will have more hours per day covered, which will significantly improve EPD's ability to cover calls for service for animal related issues. EPD will have the CSOs crossed trained and responding to animal calls for service by January 1, 2019.

R5: The EPD agrees with the recommendation to create a Dog Bite Report Checklist to assist any employee investigating a dog bite to ensure all the necessary steps are completed. This will greatly assist the ACO with her follow-up and any subsequent reports that need to be completed. It will further help to ensure EPD has all the necessary information and has taken the necessary steps to move forward with hearings regarding Potentially Dangerous or Vicious Animal classifications. EPD reviewed the form provided by the Grand Jury in Appendix A and created its own form that will capture the necessary information, guide the employee through the investigation, and follow EPD's policies and procedures. Some of the information found in the Grand Jury's checklist is already in EPD's Quarantine Form. Copies of EPD's checklist and Quarantine Form are included at the end of this response.

R6: It is not clear that the California Animal Code requires monthly reporting of all animal bites to the Public Health Department. EPD Captain Stephens has been in communication with Mary McKenzie, Public Health Nursing Supervisor for Communicable Diseases, to discuss the issue of rabies in Humboldt County. The requirements for reporting bites and handling cases of

suspected rabies appears to be inconsistent across the State and across agencies. For instance, the Public Health Department deals with rabies, and the County's Environmental Health Department deals with animal bites.

Further investigation and coordination by and between all interested agencies is required. Even assuming EPD did begin reporting all bites on a monthly basis, the agency receiving the report would have to implement a system by which to process and utilize the information. Otherwise, the added information is useless for reporting and tracking, and simply creates unnecessary work for agencies that are already taxed.

EPD is committed to continuing to work with all involved agencies to create a reporting procedure that is useful to agencies and the community.

R9: The EPD does not have authority over animals coming into or out of the Humboldt County Animal Shelter. EPD does support, in theory, the idea of microchipping all animals that pass through the Shelter.

The EPD's draft ordinance, discussed in response to RI, requires that any animal deemed vicious, potentially dangerous, or a nuisance be microchipped. EPD anticipates that ordinance will be adopted in the 4th quarter of 2018 and implemented by January 1, 2019.

Quarantine Form

Eureka Police Department Animal Control Office
604CSt, Eureka, CA 95501

Case Number _____ Officer _____
CITY OF EUREKA MUNICIPLE CODE 91.087 - QUARANTINE OF ANIMALS.

- (A) Isolation of a biting animal may be allowed on the owner's premises when, in the judgment of the Health Officer or Animal Control Officer, adequate facilities are provided to ensure adequate confinement and when the owner exhibits a responsible attitude that will ensure confinement during the isolation period. A securely fenced yard or caged area are considered adequate for home confinement.
- (B) When, in the judgment of the Health Officer or Animal Control Officer, adequate facilities for confinement may not exist or the owner may be unable or unwilling to properly supervise confinement of the animal, confinement shall occur at a veterinary hospital or a dog kennel, at the expense of the owner.

City and State ordinances require animals who have bitten any person to be quarantined and isolated under proper care and supervision. This may be done on the owner's premises at the discretion of the Animal Control Officer. It is unlawful for any person to release an animal impounded or quarantined except upon written release of the Animal Control Officer. It is unlawful for any person to kill, destroy, or otherwise dispose of any animal under quarantine.

Owner's Last Name _____ First _____ Middle _____
Phone Number _____ Driver's License Number _____

Physical Address _____

Dog's Name _____ Color _____ Sex _____ Age _____

Breed /Description _____

Quarantine will take place at Owner's home

In consideration of the animal being quarantined on my property, I agree to notify the Animal Control Officer of any unusual behavior or sickness, properly feed and house the animal and keep it under quarantine confinement and isolation until released and assume all responsibility for said care and custody. Quarantine will be in effect from _____ to _____. I agree to abide by the restrictions of quarantine as defined by California State Health and Safety Code 121580. I agree to confine the dog to my property for the duration of quarantine, with minimal contact with any other people or animals. They will not be taken off of the owner's property without written permission from the Animal Control Office. I understand that if I do not abide by these restrictions, the dog can be seized by the Animal Control Office and held for the duration of the quarantine period and I will be held responsible for all costs incurred.

Signed _____ Date _____ Witness _____

Quarantine will take place at O Humboldt County Animal Shelter - 980 Lycoming Ave, McKinleyville, CA 95519

I understand that the animal will be held in quarantine at the Humboldt County Animal Shelter where I will be subject to impound fees. Quarantine will be in effect from _____ to _____.

Signed _____ Date _____ Witness _____

Dog Bite Report Checklist

- Secure animal.

- Make contact with all known parties (victim, dog owner, witnesses, etc.) and get contact information.
 - Photograph bite.
 - Confirm Rabies vaccination status.
 - Determine if dog can be home quarantined or if it needs to be transported to the shelter.
 - Have dog owner sign the Quarantine Form indicating they understand the requirements of the 10 day quarantine.

- Inform victim of dog's vaccination status.

- Pull a case number and include a narrative of initial contact.

- Forward all information to Animal Control if ACO didn't respond initially.

- Confirm the animal is in good health at the end of the quarantine period.