

ANIMAL SERVICES BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- In the past 4 months, the county Board of Supervisors (BOS) has held two workshops on Animal Services and plans a third for April 11. The Board has discussed the roles and responsibilities of Animal Services, the animal shelter facility, and has approved a fairly significant increase in the fee schedule to help cover more of the county costs of providing Animal Services. These workshops are in preparation for the FY 11/12 budget discussions scheduled for May/June.
- During these workshops, a few of the Supervisors have questioned whether the county should be in the business of providing ***any animal services beyond what is mandated by law.*** They have stated that a “nonprofit” should take over non-mandated functions. We believe they are referring to sheltering and caring for adoptable animals, which they see as “nice to do”. And we also believe that their thinking is: if they can shift this work to a “nonprofit”, there would be no need for the county to build the planned permanent animal shelter for the Western Slope.

For the past 5 years, PAWED and others have advocated for the new permanent shelter, supported Animal Services, met with individual Supervisors and testified at BOS meetings as necessary. In spite of this, our voices have not been heard by some of the Supervisors. We are calling on all PAWED supporters, who understand the value of Animal Services, to make your voice heard NOW because:

- 1) Protecting our community’s abused, neglected and homeless animals and providing the only animal shelter on the Western Slope is a basic and important public service and a county responsibility.
- 2) There is NO nonprofit organization in El Dorado County that is in a position to operate a shelter with the number and variety of animals that the county handles.
- 3) The BOS must immediately proceed to implement Phase I of the new shelter project, as they committed to do in July 2010. The current *leased* Animal Services shelter on Placerville Drive is only a temporary remedy to sheltering this county's abused/neglected, stray, quarantined, potentially dangerous, and homeless animals!