



TOP STORIES

Animal advocates call for changes to county ***Group asks for Animal Control to become a standalone department***

By: Gus Thomson, Journal Staff Writer
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With concerns ranging from Placer County foot-dragging on construction of a new animal shelter to ineffective management of the Animal Control Division, the president of the volunteer Friends of Placer County Animal Shelter is calling on the Board of Supervisors to make changes.

Among the top requests was for the division to be turned into its own standalone department answering to the county CEO's office.

Speaking Tuesday at the Board of Supervisors meeting, Friends President Rosemary Frieborn asked that the division be taken out from under the bureaucratic wing of the Department of Health and Human Services to foster more action on several fronts, most notably on the question of the long-promised construction of a new animal shelter.

Citing a 1999 report by the Humane Society that declared the North Auburn animal shelter "little more than a holding facility," Frieborn said that the same is true today.

"It's still little more than a holding facility," Frieborn said. "We have a functionally obsolete facility."

While acknowledging that improvements need to be made, board Chairman Robert Weygandt said that he would want to wait until new CEO Tom Miller was able to learn more about the issues involved and make recommendations.

Miller, who succeeded CEO Jan Christofferson at the beginning of the month, said that he's committed to meeting with an ad hoc committee Frieborn said has languished over the past three years. Miller said he also wants to bring all parties into discussions.

About 40 people accompanied Frieborn to the Board of Supervisors chambers, some wielding signs with slogans like "Volunteers Can't Do It All."

Supervisor Jim Holmes told the audience that he had attended the shelter's open house over the weekend and that he could be counted on to take a serious look at perceived problems.

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