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Animal shelter funding not much changed in 20 years

I wholeheartedly support the idea of realigning the reporting structure of Placer County Animal Services as suggested by Rosemary Frieborn, Journal, Nov. 13. For a county as progressive as Placer, our county animal shelter is an embarrassment. It is undersized, under-funded and lacks basic hygiene components critical to maintaining a healthy population.

Until the Animal Services program is moved out from under several layers of management not familiar with the needs of animals, and community issues relative to animals, it will continue to be inadequate and on some levels, unsafe.

As an active animal rescuer in Auburn for over 20 years, I have seen only a few positive changes at the shelter. Those that I have seen came about directly as a result of the "Friends of Placer County Shelters," an organization founded by Ms. Frieborn. She was also the driving force behind the transformation of an old trailer to a beautiful veterinary clinic which is now housed at the shelter, but is seldom used.

All of these were stop-gap efforts to try and improve conditions at the shelter for the animals and to make the shelter a more inviting place for potential adopters to visit. While a few of these accomplishments are a direct result of Ms. Frieborn's tireless crusades to compel the county to provide its taxpayers with the services they demand, the vast majority were accomplished with volunteer labor and donated materials.

The long-term expectation was that there would ultimately be a new animal shelter for Placer County.

Cassandra Reeves, Auburn Area Animal Rescue Foundation

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