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Administration at fault in animal services issue

Unless you've been to the animal shelter in Auburn, you may not know just how inadequate it is. County animal control services have been neglected under the Health and Human Services Administration, which is chronically underfunded. The 2005-06 budget for animal control shows a 63 percent loss of revenue from intergovernmental service agreements.

Local governments need to pay their fair share, but need documentation and justification for signing agreements, and Health and Human Services hasn't provided it.

Page 6 of the Health and Human Services budget report also mistakenly gives the department credit for replacing the old jail doors on the shelter kennels and improving the laundry facilities. Both were entirely funded through donations.

The current system is inefficient and needs restructuring. Studies have been done and recommendations made, but there's been little follow-through. Please ask your supervisor to support having Animal Services report directly to the CEO, which would also let Health and Human Services focus on its own very large, and growing, mandate.

Janet Thew

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