

From: Eileen Samitz
To: [Clerkoftheboard](#)
Subject: Support for the Staff recommendations for the Yolo County Animal Services in the Staff report (item #25 on the March 7, 2023 agenda)
Date: Monday, March 6, 2023 3:22:08 PM

Dear Chair Villegas and Yolo County Supervisors,

I am writing in regard to agenda item #25 on the March 7th Board of Supervisors agenda to register my strong support for the actions proposed in the Staff report. The Yolo County Animal Shelter is in dire need for funding for the many facilities repairs needed, but also for adding facilities to address the needs of our County. The Animal Shelter has not had the funding needed over the years to have these facility maintenance issues addressed, but just as importantly, the Yolo County Animal Shelter desperately needs other improvements and expansion of the facilities for the animals. The Yolo County Animal Shelter is decades old and has not had the funding for crucial maintenance and facility additions needed. Yolo County's population of residents has expanded enormously over the many years since the shelter was built, and likewise the number of their pets, and other animals needing services from the County Shelter, also increased enormously.

While UCD is renowned to have one of the country's best veterinary schools, it is sad reality that we have a seriously outdated and inadequate Yolo Animal Shelter facility which cannot possibly address the needs of Yolo County's animal population. The longer we go without lower cost spaying and neutering services that use to be available at the County's animal shelter, the more the population of domestic pets as well as the feral cat populations are continuing to grow. The deficit of this critical service, in turn, is only creating more costs for the County and negative impacts on the animals since it is getting more and more difficult to find homes for them, and/or to provide supportive care for them.

It is critical that the Yolo County Animal Shelter gets additional facilities and staffing *soon*, including a spay and neuter facility, because at this point the shelter has had to suspend offering those desperately needed services to the County. While the Animal Shelter staff work tirelessly, they do not have the facilities, nor enough staffing to provide these critical services. As a result, the domestic pet and feral cat populations have been increasing dramatically due to these needed low cost spay and neutering services being unavailable at this point in Yolo County.

I urge the Board of Supervisors to unanimously support the Staff recommendations and to move forward with getting the improvements and added facilities needed by our outdated Yolo County Animal Shelter, including additional the staffing needed. That said, we need the cooperation and support of all of the Yolo County Supervisors to move forward with acquiring the funding and the action needed to remedy our animal shelter's needs now, which have already been delayed far too long. It is important to recognize that this situation is a public health issue as well.

Again, Yolo County residents and volunteers who work in the field of animal welfare, greatly appreciate the hard work that the current Yolo Animal Shelter staff are providing, but the shelter needs *far* more funding, staffing and facilities expansion to allow the shelter to provide the needs of Yolo County.

Thank you for your time and consideration and please feel free to contact me to discuss this

important issue by email at emsamitz@dcn.org or at (530) 756-5165 (landline) or (530) 304-1624 (cell phone).

-Eileen M. Samitz,

Davis resident and animal welfare volunteer (Yolo SPCA, Mercer Clinic for the pets of the homeless, Unleashing the Possibilities)

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