



by email only
(to Karen.Sheppard@huntsvilleal.gov)

March 30, 2015

Dr. Karen Hill-Sheppard
Huntsville Animal Services
4950 Triana Boulevard SW
Huntsville, Alabama 35805

Re: Public Records Act Request and Assistance on Marketing and Dog Testing

Dr. Hill-Sheppard:

The statistics for the shelter for February of 2015 indicate that eleven (11) treatable dogs were destroyed. Please provide us with copies of the permanent record and/or complete history record for each of the treatable dogs destroyed in February sufficient to help us understand what was wrong with the dogs. As was the case with our request for the treatable dogs destroyed in January, we are happy to receive either printed records or records in some electronic format, such as .pdf document(s) or .jpeg images. You may choose whichever production method is easiest for you, takes you the least amount of time and helps us understand that conditions these dogs had which led to the decision to have them destroyed. This request is made pursuant to Code of Alabama (1975), Section 36-12-40. Please contact Aubrie Kavanaugh at or using our email address of admin@nokillhuntsville.com once the materials sought are ready to be retrieved. If you opt to provide electronic copies of your records, they may be sent to our email address.

We understand from your meeting with Jean Douglas that you are having issues with marketing and with testing and placement of dogs. We broached both of these subjects with Humane Network and we understand that you will likely interact with Diane Blankenburg at the upcoming HSUS Expo. We are hopeful you will consider discussing both of these challenges with Diane while you are in New Orleans.

- Diane is agreeable to doing a pro bono telephone call with a volunteer team on the subject of marketing. We presume this team could be formed from existing members of Huntsville Pets Alive or other long-term volunteers you select.
- Humane Network advocates a method of dog evaluation developed at the Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine which goes beyond the SAFER evaluation method advocated by the ASPCA. Humane Network uses Kelley Bollen as a consultant to help provide training on how to evaluate shelter dogs using this method and is open to looking for funding to bring Kelley here to help train your staff and members of the Madison County Animal Control Department. By training your staff, you do not need to seek funding for an additional staff member and you will have a large number of people who are all qualified to test dogs (or to do balanced testing in the event dogs are initially considered a public safety risk).

Thank you in advance for your cooperation regarding providing the records we seek. We are hopeful you and Diane will engage at the expo and discuss these issues so that you can make further progress to save more lives.

Sincerely,
read but not signed to avoid delay
 Nina Beal, The Ark
 Karen Borden, Dixie Dachshund Rescue
 Dianne Burch, World of Pawsabilities
 Susan Burlingame, Challenger's House
 Jean Douglas, Animal Advocate
 Jane Jattuso, North Alabama Spay & Neuter Clinic
 Aubrie Kavanaugh, Paws4Change

cc: Mr. John Hamilton
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