

## RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT

Report Title: HUMBOLDT COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER,  
ANIMAL SHELTER + ANIMAL RESCUES = LIFESAVING PAW-TNERSHIP

Report Date: JULY 11, 2025

Response by: HUMBOLDT COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

### FINDINGS

The county agrees with the findings numbered 1-3 and 5.

The county partially agrees with Finding 4.


### RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 2 will be implemented.

Recommendations 3 and 4 will not be implemented as written.

Recommendation 5 has been implemented.

Date: Sept. 23, 2025

Signed:   
Michelle Bushnell, Chair  
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors

Number of pages attached:



## COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

### COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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#### INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
**FROM:** COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE  
**SUBJECT:** HUMBOLDT COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER,  
ANIMAL SHELTER + ANIMAL RESCUES = LIFESAVING PAW-TNERSHIP  
**DATE:** TUESDAY, SEPT. 23, 2025

In the Grand Jury Report, "*Humboldt County Animal Shelter, Animal Shelter + Animal Rescue = Lifesaving Pawtnership*" the Grand Jury has requested that the Board of Supervisors respond to Findings 1 through 5 and Recommendations 2 through 5. The County Administrative Office is proposing the following response as detailed below.

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#### FINDINGS

Finding 1: *The staff of the Humboldt County Animal Shelter are dedicated. Their efforts allow them to work effectively under the stress of handling high volumes of animals with less than a full staff.*  
(R1)

Agree.

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Finding 2: *Collaboration between the Animal Shelter and the local benefit our community.* (R1)

Agree.

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Finding 3: *Volunteers donate approximately 400 hours per month. Their crucial contribution to animal*

*enrichment by socializing, walking, and training animals is a factor in increasing adoptions and meeting other needs of the Animal Shelter. (R2)*

**Agree.**

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Finding 4: *Long-standing leaks have led to a severely damaged roof that houses necessary mechanical equipment for the Animal Shelter. This damage can significantly impact staff and animal health and safety. (R3)*

**Partially agree.** The Humboldt County Department of Public Works has confirmed that the leaks do not indicate severe damage. While the roof is old and has experienced leaks, an inspection found no evidence of structural damage. However, Public Works agrees that the leaks are a concern and that the roof should be replaced to protect both the structure and its occupants.

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Finding 5: *The outside lighting at the Animal Shelter needs replacement and repair; this poses a safety concern for both staff and visitors, especially during the winter hours. (R4)*

**Agree.**

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## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Recommendation 2: *The Board of Supervisors shall establish a Volunteer Appreciation Day for all Humboldt County Volunteers on April 20th, which is National Volunteer Recognition Day, by October 1, 2025. (F3)*

**This recommendation will be implemented.** The Humboldt County Board of Supervisors is grateful for the dedication of all county volunteers, including animal shelter volunteers, animal rescue partners and animal foster care providers. To honor their service, the Board will issue a proclamation recognizing everyone who volunteers for the County of Humboldt and will designate April 20 of each year as Volunteer Appreciation Day.

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Recommendation 3: *The Board of Supervisors direct the Department of Public Works to complete the reroofing of the Animal Shelter and any necessary repairs by no later than October 31, 2025. (F4)*

**This recommendation will not be implemented.** This recommendation must be implemented by the Humboldt County Sheriff, as the facility is maintained and funded by the Sheriff's Office. It should be noted that the proposed work was begun previously by Public Works but put on hold due to a lack of funding from the Sheriff's Office. The project has now been incorporated into a project led by the County Administrative Office's Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Compliance Team. The ADA Compliance Team plans to implement this recommendation in 2026.

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Recommendation 4: *The Board of Supervisors direct the Department of Public Works to complete the*



*replacement and repair of outside lighting at the Animal Shelter by no later than December 31, 2025. (F5)*

**This recommendation will not be implemented.** This recommendation must also be implemented by the Sheriff. The Department of Public Works has confirmed that replacing the exterior lighting and poles is warranted and had previously identified this issue as needing funding. The most severely deteriorated poles have already been removed, while those still structurally sound remain in place to ensure adequate lighting until funding becomes available to replace all poles and fixtures. This project was also put on hold due to a lack of funding from the Sheriff's Office. However, this project has been reassigned to the County Administrative Office's ADA Compliance Team who plans to implement this recommendation in 2026.

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**Recommendation 5:** *The Animal Shelter includes weekend hours by no later than September 1, 2025. (F6)*

**This recommendation has been implemented.** The Humboldt County Sheriff's Office implemented this recommendation on July 7, 2025, prior to the release of the Grand Jury's report. The Humboldt County Animal Shelter is open Monday through Saturday, closed Sunday and holidays.