



MEDIA RELEASE

Lincoln County Board of Commissioners

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COUNTY COMMISSIONERS DECISIONS TODAY SHAPE THE FUTURE OF THE COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER AND ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICES

The Lincoln County Commissioners made a series of decisions today (October 12) relating to the future of the county animal shelter and animal control services. The deliberation and decisions by the board followed three public hearings on a proposal to contract with a non-profit group, Friends of the Lincoln County Animal Shelter (FOLCAS), for operation of the shelter.

The board did not vote on the proposed contract with FOLCAS, which means the shelter will remain under the Sheriff's Office. Instead, the board took the following actions:

--Voted to move ahead with formation of an Animal Services District to provide permanent funding for shelter operations and animal services. Public votes would be required to establish the district and provide it with funding. The current five-year levy for animal services expires in 2015; the goal would be to have the District in place by that time.

--Voted to establish an Animal Services and Shelter Oversight Committee. FOLCAS and the Central Coast Humane Society will each be invited to designate one member of this committee. The Sheriff will have one appointee, and the County Commissioners will appoint two at-large members. (Citizens interested in appointment to the at-large positions are invited to fill out the volunteer board application form on the county website and submit it to the commissioners' office.)

--Voted to adopt the allocation of tax levy funds and dog license funds designated in the proposed contract with FOLCAS. This calls for 65 percent of levy funds and 85 percent of dog license funds to be designated for shelter operations, with the balance going for animal control services.

Editors Note: Video of today's meeting will be available on the Lincoln County Web Site by noon on 10/13/11. Audio is available upon request.

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