

**COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO
CALIFORNIA**

June 15, 2009

To: Board of Supervisors

From: Animal Care and Regulation

Subject: Report Back: Savings from Reduced Hold Time of Impounded Animals

Supervisory
District: All

Contact: Pat Claerbout

BACKGROUND

During budget hearings the question was raised “What would be the saving from reducing the holding period on impounded animals from five to three days.”

DISCUSSION

The Department estimates that reducing the holding time on impounded animals from five to three days will provide very little savings. If the current mandated holding time is suspended, we would be required to hold all stray animals three business days. Having to exclude the days the shelter is closed (Sunday and Monday) the holding time then extends to four or five days for some animals.

We estimate 1/3 of the animals would fall into this longer holding time. We estimate a savings of \$10,000 annually in food and supplies associated with the shorter holding time. We do not feel any further reduction in kennel staff is possible to meet minimum operational needs.

The average hold time of adopted animals is eight days. A three day hold time would result in the majority of animals being euthanized before they are adopted. We would still incur initial cost as animals come into the shelter for vaccination and medical care but then could not recoup any of these costs through adoption or redemption. We estimate the resulting loss in adoption revenue would outweigh the additional costs and savings of reducing the holding period to three days. The three day hold would essentially eliminate our adoption program.

The cost per day to hold animals for adoption is a very small part of the overall shelter operations cost. The facility allocated costs would not be affected by reducing the daily kennel population.

Respectfully submitted,

PAT CLAERBOUT, DIRECTOR
Animal Care and Regulation