



## Office of Multnomah County Auditor

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February 24, 2016

Chair Kafoury; Commissioners McKeel, Shiprack, Smith, & Bailey; Sheriff Staton; District Attorney Underhill;  
COO Madrigal; DCS Director Peoples; MCAS Director Rose

### Animal Services Audit: Opportunities for Improvement

We last audited Animal Services in 2002 at a time of Director transition. In an inadvertent adherence to that tradition we started this audit just as the long-term Director was leaving, so what we have described here were the conditions that existed prior to the current Director coming on board. In part, we have made many more detailed recommendations to help the new Director with improvements.

Over the years there appears to have been sort of a benign neglect of MCAS by the County as well as this office. Perhaps it is a bit of out-of-sight, out-of-mind, given their location, but Animal Services is still required to perform certain services under state law and County Code. With new leadership and assistance of this audit, they will hopefully be better able to also follow professional guidelines going forward.

Over the last few years they have increased their live-release rates and it is evident that they have very dedicated staff and volunteers, including a significant number of foster homes for the animals. As detailed here, one issue is staffing, and a strong recommendation from this office is that they receive additional staffing in the upcoming budget cycle. This will allow the new Director to address both the recommendations we have made and the additional improvements already envisioned. We recognize that MCAS operates out of an obsolete facility that will eventually need replacing, but while they are still there, they need to be better staffed so that they can better fulfill their mission to the animals in their care and to the public.

We look forward to the improvements at MCAS and hope to return sooner to follow up with additional recommendations around issues like facilities. We would also like to commend management for changes that have already started; the new management reports they have already addressed the issues involving cat cages that we observed and reported here. The response to this report can be found after this letter.

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