

To Whom It May Concern:

Attached, please find a whistleblower complaint about King County Animal Care and Control, which I filed with the King County Council and the King County Ombudsman on August 14, 2009, along with a letter from the Ombudsman explaining the mutual decision not to launch a new investigation into my charges at this time, in the hopes that they will be solved by the political process. I am also enclosing just a few pictures that I have taken that will help to show the suffering of animals in KCACC's care, and illustrate the problems I talk about in my letter.

When I first filed this letter, I asked councilmembers and the ombudsman to keep it confidential, because of my fear of retaliation. I am coming forward publicly now, despite fears for my safety, because I am concerned by talk that KCACC is going to reformulate itself into a private organization with a different name, and that this group is going to take over sheltering for the animals in King County. The idea seems to be that this new organization will be private, and will therefore no longer need to try to meet standards set by the county, but will be free to design its own operations and set its own standards. I understand that the Seattle Humane Society has also offered to take over sheltering for the county, but KCACC and Guild leadership seem very confident that King County executive leadership has no intention of allowing this to happen. KCACC is sure that it has a special deal in place with the county that will make sure that it gets the full contract for animal control and sheltering services.

I want to make sure that the public knows that allowing a new, "private" KCACC to take over animal sheltering would be horrible for the animals. Even allowing KCACC to keep the animals for a 3-4 day stray hold would be a bad result, because the animals would get stressed during that time, and KCACC's poor practices would allow them to be exposed to any number of diseases before they were transferred to an adoption center. As my letter describes, conditions have not improved over the past two years, even with pressure from the county council, and all of the expert reports that have been done. If KCACC is no longer controlled by standards set by the county, and has its funding from the county cut down, I am sure that things will get even worse for the animals. I don't know too much about Seattle Humane Society, although I do know that KCACC leadership, and especially the Guild, are doing everything they can to make Seattle Humane Society look bad, and to make it harder for Seattle Humane Society to run a good shelter. It is disgusting to watch.

Everyone at KCACC is desperate to hang onto their power, and their jobs. I understand that -- I am frightened too, not only about retaliation because of my whistleblower letter, but about where I will go if the county shelter shuts down. I don't have another job lined up, and it will be hard to find anything that pays as well as KCACC does. But this is supposed to be about what is best for the animals, and the leadership down here seems to have forgotten about that. I know that allowing a "private" KCACC to take over sheltering would be very bad for the animals, and I hope that the public, the press, and the politicians will push hard to find a better option.

I am sending this letter out through a third party so that I can try to remain anonymous and protect myself. You may get into contact with me through Claire Davis, but I do not wish to do interviews at this

point. I hope that my letter speaks for itself. The attached letter from the ombudsman should confirm that I am who I say I am, but if there are any more questions about whether or not I am a legitimate whistleblower, Claire can provide names of council members and council staff members with whom I have met, who should be able to confirm that I am a KCACC officer.

Please, get the word out and help make sure that animals don't continue to suffer at KCACC.

Thank you,

*A Concerned KCACC Employee*

Photos:



Cats 1-2: The first two pictures show cats that became ill while at KCACC. These cats first became sick with an upper respiratory infection, which then spread to their eyes. While I was treating the first of these cats pictured, his eye exploded in my hands. These animals never should become this sick while in

our care. If they do, we should be able to provide them with quality veterinary care to help them to recover, instead of unskilled care for only a few minutes a day, which is the best that they get at KCACC.



Cat 3: Although the cat in this first picture looks dead, he is not. Although he was unable to move one of his legs and he was obviously in agony, officers were not able to get him any veterinary treatment, or even get permission to put him down, for several days. All we could do was try to help him by giving him fluids, and watching him suffer day after day until he finally fell over unable to move at all.



Dog 1: This dog was with us for days before anyone noticed that she was severely emaciated and asked a veterinarian to look at her. No one explored the possibility of pursuing animal neglect charges against her previous owner, or even noted anything unusual about her weight when she was checked in. She sat in a KCACC kennel for three weeks before we killed her because she didn't get along with another dog. No attempt was made to rehabilitate her and give her another chance, despite the obvious neglect she had suffered.