



Burien

Washington, USA

400 SW 152nd Street • Suite 300 • Burien, WA 98166

Phone: (206) 241-4647 • FAX (206) 248-5539

www.burienwa.gov

September 27, 2011

Sharon Hall
625 SW 155th St., #201
Burien, WA 98166

Re: Burien Animal Control – In Name Only

Dear Ms. Hall:

Thank you for your correspondence regarding animal control services in Burien. I am happy to respond to your concerns on behalf of the City Manager.

As you may know, King County, starting in the mid-1980's, provided animal control, sheltering and licensing functions on behalf of cities on a regional basis, in exchange for keeping all pet licensing revenue. In April 2010, a Joint Cities-County Work Group released a new proposed regional animal control system that would have cost the City of Burien \$163,000 annually in addition to the pet licensing revenue collected, approximately \$120,000 per year. On April 26, 2010, the Burien City Council chose not to participate in King County's proposed regional animal control system and directed staff to develop an alternative animal control program. City staff did reach out to rescue organizations in the region such as Seattle Humane Society but they were not able to provide services for Burien. Ultimately, it was the recommendation of an outside consultant and city staff, that the city contract for animal control services beginning July 1, 2010.

The City's current contractor, Community Animal Resources Education Society (C.A.R.E.S.), began providing these services on June 15, 2011. C.A.R.E.S. is a new organization that is committed to providing humane animal control services for Burien. The incident you describe in your letter occurred around the time that services were transferring between providers. It appears that C.A.R.E.S. did attempt to assist you in resolving the issue regarding feral cats that you had found although it should be noted that finding homes and/or performing spay/neuter operations for feral cats is not part of the animal control services contract. We also know that since C.A.R.E.S. took over animal control services, they have been able to form a relationship with the Feral Cat Spay/Neuter Project in order to address the issue of feral cats in the Burien community.

The city is also pleased with the contractual services that C.A.R.E.S. provides for Burien. In August, C.A.R.E.S. responded to 257 calls. As a benchmark, in August of 2009, King County responded to 27 calls from Burien. This is only one data point that we look at but from our standpoint, service has improved since we began contracting with C.A.R.E.S. for animal control services. We look forward to their continued growth and improvement. Thank you again for contacting the City Manager's Office with your concerns.

Sincerely,

Jenn Ramirez Robson, Management Analyst
City Manager's Office

cc: Burien City Council
Burien City Manager

CFT 10/03/11

RECEIVED

SEP 23 2011

City Manager, Mike Martin

Re: Burien Animal Control – In Name Only

CITY OF BURIEN

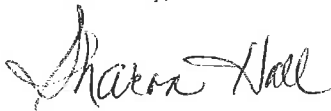
This summer when I needed help with a mother cat and her seven kittens I was told by the Kent shelter Burien had their own animal control and they could no longer accept animals from Burien residents.

In conversations with a City Council member I was told of the location of the Burien Animal Control (BAC) on 153rd. I paid them a visit and found a young woman there but no facilities for taking the mother cat and her kittens or any help in trapping them. Their office was not going to be up and running until July 1. With each new day the kittens were growing and I could not wait to try and trap them. On June 21 I was able to trap five of the seven kittens. I went to BAC and the same young woman was there. I told her I was not going to put the kittens back on the street—I needed a place to take them. She contacted her boss and he made some calls and said Bellevue Humane shelter would take them. So I drove to the Bellevue shelter where Sara Walker, Program Mgr., graciously accepted the kittens and said she would also accept the two remaining kittens whenever I was able to trap them. On July 1 I was able to trap the two kittens and took them to the Bellevue shelter. All seven kittens were put in foster care. Bellevue could not take the mother cat. On July 5 I trapped the mother cat and took her to BAC. Burien Animal Control took her to Burien Veterinary Hosp. and she was euthanized.

To this day BAC does not seem to have the expertise or facility to spay/neuter stray cats and dogs and to care for them until they can be adopted. Seattle Humane Society and King County have the expertise and facilities to help with stray, feral cats and stray dogs. Why are we now contracting for animal control in name only. It is a waste of money. All you have to do is read the information Seattle Humane Society sends to their supporters and you can see what a wonderful service they provide. They have been caring for homeless animals for years – have the know-how and the facilities to care and prepare animals for adoption. That is where Burien should be contracting for the care of the homeless animals in our neighborhoods.

It is my hope that the City Council will renegotiate a contract with King County for animal care and control. Please stop wasting money for animal control in name only. This is a disservice to our community and our homeless animals.

Sincerely,



Sharon Hall

625 SW 155th St. #201

✓ Cc: City Council

CFR: 10/02/11