

Hi Move to Act,

I'd like to make your organization aware of a major problem taking place in Hendricks County. The animal shelter is an absolute mess! I learned about the problems listed below while attending a volunteer meeting for the Hendricks County Humane Society (they do not operate a shelter, but are often confused as the shelter) and they had received numerous complaints by citizens who had terrible experiences at the Hendricks County Animal Shelter (HCAS). I decided after hearing about the stories to go check out the shelter myself to confirm the facts, and here's what I found:

1. No volunteers are allowed at the shelter.
2. Cages are hosed down while the animals remain in the cage (cats & dogs). Most of the animals have wet feet and belly's and are terrified of people because of this.
3. 78% euthanasia rate (44% are "adoptable" animals and not owner requested euthanasia's)
4. Squeeze cage euthanasia's along with the heart stick injection method are acceptable and commonly used at this shelter.
5. Petfinder.com is not used – and the shelter does not have a working website.
6. Very limited operating hours (there are no evening hours through the week and they are only open the 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month for a few hours)
7. Rescue groups are rarely called – and when they are called, they go through the same tedious adoption process as Joe Blow off the street.
8. Animals don't receive names or bios leaving the adopter guessing about the animal.
9. Unfriendly staff "greet" you at the door in typical animal control outfits – very militaristic looking!
10. They have an \$18 adoption fee + \$9.95 charge for the microchip (microchip is through AKC). Do adopters understand the financial responsibility that comes along with owning an animal if they are only asked to pay \$18 + \$9.95?

I've been working on this issue for well over a month now. Me and about 20 other concerned HC citizens met with a reporter from the Hendricks County Flyer (the local newspaper) and they are supposed to be running a story on this issue, but the interview was about a month ago and we have yet to see the story. I've also tried to contact some of the major Indianapolis news stations, but they all want to see video or picture evidence but we don't have anything like that. There is an animal control officer that follows you the entire time that you're at the shelter, making this task very difficult.

I did meet with the Chief Animal Control Officer (she runs the shelter), her Secretary, and the County Commissioners Secretary last Thursday, and they flat out admitted that these things were true. I had a note taker with me and I also recorded the meeting. I have never been given a timeline of when things would be fixed or how they would be fixed, but based on the last 10 or so years that the shelter has been operating like this, I don't think that change is going to come quickly or easily. Truth be told, they really don't want to community involved with the shelter. I've been working on making the HC Commissioners aware of the issues at the shelter but it's obvious that they could really care less.

The animals in Hendricks County need your help, so if you can do anything at all, it would be greatly appreciated!

Here's a link to the Facebook page that I created to make more people aware of the problem at HCAS:

<http://www.facebook.com/notes/citizens-exposing-problems-at-hendricks-county-animal-care-control/help-stop-the-abuses-at-hendricks-county-animal-control-shelter/263570026843>

Thank you,

Aaron