

Friday, May 6, 2011 2:32 PM

From: "Luhn, Kathy (County Judge's Office)" <Kathy.Luhn@cjo.hctx.net>

To:

RE: Animal abuse at Harris County Animal Shelter

Dear Ms. :

Thank you for contacting Judge Emmett regarding the FOX report on the Harris County Veterinary Public Health Division. Certainly, I can appreciate your concern, however, I have spoken to the Director of Public Health and have been assured Dr. Blackmar is caring for the animals in an appropriate humane manner.

The FOX report focused on a single basset hound. It is my understanding this dog arrived at the shelter with a chronic injury to the leg. The veterinarian on duty treated the wound topically and gave the animal medication to relieve the pain. After observing the dog for several days, it was determined the wound would not heal. After thorough medical evaluation it was determined that Hope would need to have the leg amputated and several skin grafts with no guarantee that the dog would survive. Thus euthanasia was recommended.

Each animal is examined for medical issues upon its arrival. The shelter's policy is to hold the animals for three days so that legitimate owners will have the opportunity to claim their pets. Information is posted on the shelter's website to facilitate the owners finding their pets. After three days, the shelter sends emails to some of the rescue groups they work with, to further inform of particular breeds and adoptability. Those groups may place a hold on the animal until one of their volunteers can arrange to pick up the animal.

Sincerely,

Kathy Luhn
Chief of Staff