

More comments on animal shelter

Mayor McCoy,
I have watched the media coverage and the proceedings from the city council meetings regarding the animal shelter with horror. I am appalled that Forrest City has gotten national attention and regional media coverage regarding the deplorable conditions of the shelter and the inhumane treatment of the animals there. How embarrassing and sad. Forrest City has a lot to offer and yet what they receive attention for is the inhumane treatment of animals. Proper management of the shelter should not be difficult. A competent person should easily be able to do this job. I the person currently in charge is not doing the job which he obviously is not then there are 2 options 1. Get rid of him or 2. Reassign him to something he is capable of doing.

The building is in disrepair and being overtaken by rats, animals who were to be adopted are being euthanized, they are not being fed properly, they are being forced to sleep on wet bedding because whoever cleans it is too lazy to take up the bedding before spraying it with water. Water this time of year is very cold.

I am incredibly disappointed in the leadership you have shown in this area. We supported you with our money and our votes. Our tax dollars still go to support Forrest City and we are a big part of the Community Foundation there. We deserve better than this and certainly God's creatures deserve better.

You are the Mayor and I hold you personally responsible for this deplorable situation. If the City is not capable of running the shelter then maybe other options should be considered such as working with the county to operate a county shelter or something. One thing is certain the current situation is totally unacceptable.

The citizens of Forrest City deserve better from the Mayor they elected to lead their city.

I implore you and the City Council to stand up and do your job before more ani-

mals suffer and Forrest City endures more humiliation and embarrassment.

Since all of the City Council Members do not have posted email addresses please see that they all receive this correspondence. You are ALL Responsible for this problem. Poor management of the animal shelter has been going on for months and the voters and business leaders in Forrest City expect results immediately.

Cathy Flanagan

• • • • •

Dear Editor:

By now I'm assuming you've gotten other letters regarding the situation at the Forrest City Animal Control Department. Thanks to the The Forrest City Area Humane Society, word of these accusations of questionable activities has reached people around the United States, and possibly other countries.

Below is a copy of the email I sent to the city, county and state offices. I also used the on line contact forms for the senators and congressman that I Cc'd in my email to share my concerns. And I am contacting you in the hopes that you can assist the FC Humane Society with seeing that accusations are investigated and proper actions are taken.

Here is some additional information that was posted online today:

On Wednesday, I was at the shelter when the ACO Director was instructing his 2 officers to euthanize 6 additional dogs because we asked to have one puppy euthanized for illness. He didn't want to send just 1 dog. This took place on Wednesday Nov. 25. The arrival dates of the six other dogs that the ACO Director instructed his officers to euthanize are: 11/15 Xena, 11/18 Comet, 11/20 Rocker, 11/20 Midgett (going to a rescue on 11/27), 11/24 Zena (marked aggressive), 11/24 Mark, and of course the 3 wk old puppy. Euthanizing several of those dogs would have violated not only our city ordinance and Arkansas state law, but the federal law. I called the mayor and he stopped it, this time. The

mayor instructed the men to take the puppy to the vet, they did and returned quickly with the puppy saying the ACO Director had called them and told them that we (Humane Society members) would have to treat the dog or take it to the vet ourselves. He didn't want to waste the city's money if it might have pneumonia. I called the mayor again and he told the officers to take the puppy for euthanasia. The ACO Director during all of this informed us (H.S.) that all dogs in the shelter on Monday were going to be euthanized if we didn't get them out. By the way the shelter has 25 kennels, and maybe seven are occupied.

So here we are, Alyssa has fostered the mom dog and the puppies. We certainly can't save all of the dogs, but surely given this latest behavior by the ACO Director people will open their eyes and realize our situation here.

I don't know how Monday will go, but any messages you want to convey to our mayor and city council members would be appreciated, they have a meeting this Tuesday. The council members instead of working on an city ordinance addressing the protocol for the management of the shelter are drafting instead a very complicated 20 something page City Ordinance regarding misc. animal violations, that require quite a bit of knowledge and expertise that this ACO department does not have. By the way the ACO Director is hired, fired, and managed by our Mayor.

After the 1st video was released and the cameras hit town, there was improvement out there. The department has been sliding back for a couple of weeks. If you have gone to www.fcahumane.org you will see the City has filed a lawsuit against our Humane Society.

Our town is small and we only have a few members, but we are determined.

Thank you in advance for your time attention.

Sincerely,

Kelly M. Moravek