



April 6, 2009

Dear 

The AHS Board of Directors has received your letter of concern about the St Anthony cats surrendered in conjunction with the St. Anthony Police Department investigation of an animal hoarding case.

We have heard and are aware of your concerns about the handling of the situation, which resulted ultimately in the euthanasia of the cats. Like you, our entire organization is saddened that this was the final outcome.

The Board has been fully apprised of the situation and the circumstances that led to the decision. Due to a variety of illnesses within this population, AHS considered this a significant public health issue that had the potential to negatively impact other animals at AHS and in the community at large. As an organization, we have a responsibility to do what we can to protect the health of animals in our community and the final decision in this case, while difficult, fulfilled that responsibility.

As a Board, we continue to work closely with our shelter staff to ensure that our primary goal is met: provide humane care to animals in need, while ensuring that the health of our shelter animals, staff and overall community is not compromised.

Our organization has a long record of working in partnership with other organizations in an effort to place animals and reduce euthanasia. Annually, nearly 3,000 animals slated for euthanasia at other organizations are taken in by AHS for placement. We are working to further develop these partnerships to have an even bigger impact on the lives of animals. We remain committed to reducing the number of animals that are euthanized annually.

Thank you for your compassion and concern for animals.

Sincerely,



Nic Pifer
AHS Board Chair