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Subject: Agenda item 62, presentation by Jackie Rose
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In regards to agenda item 62, presentation by Director Rose, at the BOS meeting on September 12:

The decision of euthanasia is made by people who don't know the dog and seemingly are missing important context. There is no consultations, feedback, or discussion with volunteers who actually work with and/or are the champions for these animals, even though these are the people who work with these animals on a very regular basis. While it has been stated that volunteer notes are read and carefully analyzed before every decision, when the notice of euthanasia comes out, the language used is very different than the experiences noted by the volunteers (this is also been noted in the case of a dog named Dillan, whose adopters used very clear and specific language, and the language used on his euthanasia notice was in direct opposition to what the adopters had said.)

Dogs are being deemed a "threat to society" due to single, not well investigated events, while the general stay and interactions of the dog at the shelter are generally positive. There is no behavioral team at the shelter at this time, although there are two behavioralists on staff. A plan has been enacted to add certain, well trained volunteers to the behavioral team. There is a certain irony of having volunteers on a behavioral team without taking into account the volunteers experience with the animal.

It has been noticed that rescues tend to pull animals who have a firm euthanasia date, although rescues tend to pull animals more frequently who have a firm out date.

VCAS euthanizes animals less than 24 hours after the euthanasia notice went out typically, and have ignored representatives from rescues who are on grounds until after the dog has passed.

It has been noted many times by Director Jackie Rose that the Foundation uses funds to help animals stay in their homes. Dogs who are adopted and returned in the first thirty days do not even meet with the retention officer, let alone receive any offers of assistance from the Foundation. The retention officer schedules meetings a month out approximately, and typically does not offer any assistance from the Foundation. This inaction of the shelter causes many dogs to be labeled "behavioral" and euthanized, without attempt to assist the animal with trainable issues.

A group of volunteers recently submitted a document to both the Board and the Commission. Euthanasia is becoming an urgent issue at VCAS. The more animals that die, the more the volunteers and fosters become disheartened.

A review of the process is necessary. There are animals who have been sent to rescue or are still available for adoption at VCAS with similar or worse

behavioral issues than dogs who have been euthanized (multiple dog fights, multiple bites to humans). We beg the Board to consider ensuring designated, qualified behavioralist on staff who will actually begin working with the animals on a regular basis in an effort to minimize the euthanasias for behavioral issues?