

**From:** [Kathy Long](#)  
**To:** [ClerkoftheBoard](#)  
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Dear Board Members: Having served on the VCBOS for 20 years, I had lots of engagement with prior VCASA Directors, staff, volunteers and issues related, some very challenging and most very rewarding. Animals pull our heart strings, no question. Providing safe, humane, transparent and accessible shelters has many strings tied to the taxpayers' wishes, wants, and realities, for those who manage these facilities. My interaction with the shelter over the past years, having adopted two dogs, has been very positive.

Director Jackie Rose is a caring, experienced and engaging leader for her staff, volunteers and community. She warrants your full support!

When we moved to the goals for a no-kill shelter, the data rolled out the timeline and challenges to succeed. No one interpreted that to mean 100% all animals would be housed until their natural death. Rescues versus shelters, they are not the same. We knew that animals would come in with various aggressive behaviors that can't be turned around; and some with numerous health issues that can't be medically fixed.

One of our best tools was to promote that all our contract cities adopt "Spay and Neuter" programs, to address the population issues and build on behaviors for better owners. I'd encourage the Board and the VCAS Commission to re-activate this goal and provide educational opportunities in the communities for pet ownership, to reach 100% Spay and Neuter.

Finally, the Volunteer program in place with the Director/staff is outstanding, best we ever had. Communications are valuable to continue to support the volunteers, but they need your support and encouragement to grow more dedicated supporters. The pictures tell 1000 words! No question there are factions of disagreement, all passionate and maybe the loudest. But the success of the models for no-kill and socially conscious shelters speak for themselves and should be the decision points to resolution.

I wish you the very best in your deliberations.

Kathy Long  
RET VC BOS