



# Mendocino County Health and Human Services Agency

*Healthy People, Healthy Communities*

## Press Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
EXCLUSIVE TO THE FORT BRAGG ADVOCATE**

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### Update on Animal Care and Control Services

On January 27, 2009 an update was given to the Board of Supervisors by Carmel Angelo, Health and Human Service Agency Director, on the status of animal control services for Mendocino County. The two primary topics covered in this report were shelter services at the Fort Bragg shelter and the transfer of animal control services to the Mendocino County Sheriffs Office. In July 2008, the Community Health Services branch of the Health & Human Services Agency released a Request for Proposal, seeking a contract for animal shelter services at the facility in Fort Bragg. There was only one eligible responder with whom a mutual agreement was not able to be reached. The Agency is committed to ensuring the shelter remains open, but due to the economic crisis, operational changes must be made.

The Fort Bragg shelter will maintain its two current full-time employees, it will be open four days a week to the public, there will be no shelter upgrades, no computer upgrades, and animals will be held for only the stray period for owner redemptions. Under this structure, the animals can be cared for appropriately with the two staff allocated. Holding animals during the stray period will allow the coastal communities to retrieve their animals locally and request adoption of non-redeemed animals. At the end of the stray period, animals will be available to rescue organizations or will be transported to the Ukiah shelter for adoption.

The Enforcement Division of Animal Care and Control is transferring to the Mendocino County Sheriffs Office (MCSO) in February. All four allocated positions will be transferred to the MCSO with the funding to cover the positions, primarily General Fund dollars. Shelter services will remain in the Health &



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Human Services Agency. The transfer of the animal control officer positions to the MCSO will provide a career ladder for prospective employees within the Sheriff's Office. Hopefully, vacant positions will be more easily filled with this new structure and career ladder. Additionally, coverage for Animal Control officers will be greatly improved as a division of the MCSO. The transfer of the enforcement services to the MCSO is expected to be an easy and smooth transition for the staff and the public. Further information and new contact numbers will be provided to the public as they develop.

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