

Dear WCRAS Advisory Board:

This letter is to give you my thoughts about things going on at the Nevada Humane Society.

I consider myself to be a major donor to the Humane Society and have a vested interest in the organization. When I was a Big Sister, my little and I volunteered often at the shelter and at off site events. I also volunteered by sewing cat carrier covers, embroidered Adopt Me vests for the dogs, TNR trap covers, neckerchiefs for the animals at events and anything else that was needed.

On 3/4/21 I gave the Humane Society McDonalds stock worth \$17,451 which, I believe, was sold for the cash and a check for \$13,549 to total \$30,000 for the clinic remodel.

I got involved as a financial donor prior to this donation after hearing about plans for a dog park at the shelter. I was interested in donating for a water feature or something else that interested me. I called and left messages for Greg about my interest in donating to this project. I called several times and he never returned my call. I finally had to call his assistant or whomever she was and threaten to give my money to another organization if he was not interested in talking to me. He did return my call after that and I met with him and Lisa DeCelles, Development Assistant, at the time to discuss various projects including the clinic remodel. During those meetings I agreed to donate \$30,000 to NHS for the project.

After the clinic remodel was finished in late 2021 there was a small get together with staff and refreshments after a tour of the clinic. Present were: Rebecca Goff, Clinic Manager, Dr. Jessica Slatin, Veterinary Director, Lisa Feder, Chief Operating Officer, Kristen Saibini, Development Director, Megan Barrenchea, Human Resources Director, Greg Hall, CEO and Lisa DeCelles along with myself.

I understand that several administrative staff members have left NHS since then which include Rebecca Goff, Dr. Slatin, Lisa Feder, Kristen Saibini and Megan Barrenchea. I know for sure that Rebecca, Dr. Slatin and Kristen have left and I am assuming the others at that get together are no longer there as on the NHS website the only administrative staff mentioned are: Greg Hall, CEO, Phil Neff, CFO, the cat Care Manager, the Maintenance Manager and the Carson City Manager. The new Development Director, Trent is not even mentioned nor is any clinic manager.

The issue which affects me the most was the outbreak in October of 2022 of Panleukopenia, a disease the cats would have been protected from had they been properly vaccinated. Standard sheltering best practice is to vaccinate all dogs and cats (except underage tiny kittens and puppies – who need to go immediately into foster care to protect them from disease) within minutes of arrival at the shelter with basic vaccines, including for cats, the one that provides protection from this deadly disease. Also, your animal database tracks when dogs and cats are due boosters, so kittens and adults that are in the shelter for longer periods are revaccinated – just as a pet owner would – when the vaccines boosters are due.

I heard that NHS had 170 unvaccinated cats and had to borrow vaccines from other shelters once the outbreak started.

Cats **DIED**, others **suffered** with the illness, and they had to shut down cat intake for a week, which means cats who needed shelter/help could not get it.

Clearly Greg should not personally vaccinate animals, but it is his job to hire and retain qualified people who WILL make sure they are cared for properly. He has gone through 3 qualified COOs in his 4 year tenure – Art Westbrook, Lisa Feder and Rory Adams. And to have the necessary supplies on hand to properly run the shelter.

THIS DISEASE OUTBREAK SHOULD NEVER HAVE HAPPENED!!! This is not the way a shelter in a major city like Reno should be run. To not vaccinate the felines in their care to be protected against disease and to not **EVEN HAVE ENOUGH VACCINE ON SITE IF NEEDED** is a travesty.

I have limited my donations to NHS because of these things going on that concern me. Plus when I called Greg to talk to him about my concerns, he never returned my call even when I said I was going to stop my donations. I did not make all my other donations plus \$30,000 plus all the sewing I did and all the time my little and I spent volunteering at the shelter and events to support the care that seems to be happening at the shelter at this time. When I talked to Trent Bingham (new development director) he seemed to care about the proper running of a shelter and keeping donors.

Is anyone paying attention to the care and welfare of the animals in the shelter? I hope so, but, perhaps not.

Please look into these allegations and make the necessary changes. For the welfare of the animals. That is your job.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Gloria Derby