

Hi Naomi --

I was very glad to hear that Greg Hall resigned as CEO of NHS, however I am very concerned about the NHS Board of Directors after reading the statement they put out to the NHS staff. The following are all things mentioned in their statement:

An interim CEO or COO was not mentioned and I am very concerned that leadership will NOT be given to either David or Amber who were mentioned in various complaints as having issues with compassion towards the animals, such as drugging the dogs to keep them mellow, not providing any enrichment activities, leaving them in their kennels for all of each 24 hour day except for 1 hour of time outside their kennel, inappropriate euthanasia of dogs they did not "like" and who knows what else non welfare behavior was committed.

Supposedly, the board conducted an INTERNAL inquiry to determine the facilities processes and determined that all processes were conducted in accordance to National Humane Society standards. To my knowledge there is not a National Humane Society. There is a Humane Society of the United States which is not, I believe, the same thing. And who exactly conducted the INTERNAL inquiry?

Also, according to the tax returns filed and available on Charity Navigator, the number of animals which found homes (a lifesaving rate) has dropped over the past few years and I would guess that the lifesaving rate is no longer 95% I think I should alert Charity Navigator to that discrepancy.

A third party investigation has been scheduled for May 22 to determine if NHS operates within full compliance of ANIMAL HUSBANDRY (breeding) ethics and standards. Again, no mention of which third party will be doing the investigation and their qualifications. And NHS supposedly does spay/neuter not breeding. Does the board even know what they are talking about?

On May 9, 2023 the board voted to initiate an investigation with a third party expert to evaluate management processes within the organization so they may identify operational breakdowns and improve processes. Again, no mention who the third party is and their qualifications.

The board is searching for a third party method for fielding anonymous reports should any staff member or volunteer have concerns about ethics or compliances within NHS. In the past board members were given reports about these concerns and did NOTHING about them.

The board also approved a bylaw committee that will review the existing bylaws to determine if updates should be made. Any bylaw updates need to be made available to the public so there is transparency about the processes at the facility and the board.

The statement goes on to say that concerns need to be made directly to the board in lieu of NHS leadership. This has happened in the past, and to reiterate, NOTHING was done.

As a final comment, in one letter, the writer told about a cat that died overnight in its cage because it could not get out of the vomit and diarrhea built up in its cage and the clinic staff did not euthanize the poor animal as they were supposed to because they "wanted to go home for the night". That is a horrible end of life situation for ANY animal and breaks my heart that a kitty had to suffer like that.

It is mentioned on the NHS website that spay/neuter services are not currently offered at the clinic. That is only one violation of the agreement between NHS and WCRAS. How many more are there?

The current board has members who were on the board during the time of Greg Hall's tenure and did nothing to stop his practice of running the facility into the ground. Why should we expect better now?

The whole situation is a disaster and I believe the animals are suffering because of it. Any changes you can make for the better would be greatly appreciated.

Gloria Derby