

Date Received: 2023-05-15

To the Washoe County Animal Advisory Board,

I have met most of you worked with you on animal issues over the years. I look forward to, in the near future, meeting those of you I haven't met yet.

I just came across the meeting agenda, in my email, this morning, and have been following the news, regarding the Nevada Humane Society.

I would like to add to the record that I have visited the Humane Society on Longley Lane, over the last several months. When I arrived, there was a huge easel shaped sign, on the sidewalk, leading up to the doors that reads 'Naptime is from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., which I thought was odd. Once in, I went to the front desk to let them know I was going to go visit the cats and dogs (not knowing the current restrictions). I was told the public was no longer allowed to 'just go' visit the animals. I was then handed a binder, with Xeroxed pictures of the available animals, and told I could sit in one of the 2 blue chairs available for the public. At this point, I was really irritated and asked why it was now set up this way? I was then told by one of the girls at front desk, in a snotty tone, that it 'stresses the animal out too much to visit with them'. I then said I thought that this was unacceptable and that people want to visit with the animals, which gives them the best chance of being adopted, not look through a bunch of copied pictures in a binder.

- 1.) Why can't the public visit the animals? If it is because of stress, where is the credible research for that?
- 2.) Why is there a 'nap time' sign? If the public isn't 'allowed' to visit the animals there is no need for nap time. The animals are already doing that! This seems like an excuse, another barrier, to keeping the public away from the animals. In the past, there was always a roped off area (section of building) for animals who weren't ready to meet the public for whatever reason.
- 3.) I have adopted from the Reno Humane Society and donate money from time to time. I have friends who donate money on a monthly basis, who are also not happy with the way it's is currently operating.

People want to see/visit the animals again. It needs to be fully open to the public again!

I look forward to hearing from you soon and thank you for looking into all of these issues!

Rene' Johnson
Puppy Mill Free Reno and Sparks