

Recommendations for Immediate Custody

On November 12, 2019, I, Dr. Rachel Barton, performed a site visit at Journey's End Animal Sanctuary, Inc. located at 1899 Mercers Fernery Road, DeLand, FL. This was my second visit to the site; the first visit was on August 5, 2019. For my full findings, please reference my Forensic Veterinary Statements for each visit.

Upon my review of the animals and facilities on my most recent visit, I had numerous concerns regarding the health and well-being of all the animals at the facility. Several animals in particular need medical and/or behavioral care that is not being provided by the facility which has resulted in prolonged and unnecessary suffering.

Bobby – Senior Neutered Male Pit Bull Brown & White Terrier Mix



Photo DSCN1485

Location - Living Room (Bobby's Room)

Primary Concerns – Inhumane housing

- Lack of behavioral enrichment & treatment plan

This dog was housed in isolation in the living room. As on my first visit, he was desperately soliciting human interaction and was so frantic that he would not sit still long enough to get a focused picture. Staff indicated that the dog was still housed in isolation due to aggression towards other animals. Staff indicated they try to spend time with him every day, if they are not too busy taking care of the other animals. As previously noted, aggression is a dangerous behavioral problem that can have many root causes including fear, territory defense, frustration or even medical problems. Aggression is complex to diagnose and challenging to treat. To properly address "Bobby's" aggression, a veterinarian and professional behaviorist with experience treating canine aggression should be consulted. It is important to note that some cases of aggression cannot be safely treated. Simply locking the dog away and limiting his contact with humans and other dogs does nothing to address his behavioral issues and is likely contributing to a very poor quality of life. In fact, the long-term isolation and limited contact with humans, (which he so desperately wants), is likely worsening his behavioral issues. In addition, the lack of appropriate enrichment in his enclosure can result in boredom and increased frustration. The

conditions in which this dog is being kept are inhumane and are resulting in unnecessary suffering.

Buddy – Adult Neutered Male Grey Tabby Domestic Shorthair



Photo DSCN1718 (cropped)

Location – Inside Cat House

Primary Concern – Untreated medical conditions

- Inhumane housing
- Lack of proper record keeping resulting in unnecessary over-vaccination

A review of medical records from Newman Veterinary Centers of Deland and Healing Paws Veterinary Clinic revealed this cat has a history of chronic skin problems, dental problems and upper respiratory infection. He was seen on 7/26/18 at Newman Veterinary Centers and diagnosed with dermatitis and upper respiratory infection. He was seen on 6/6/19 at Healing Paws Veterinary Clinic and diagnosed with stomatitis (a painful inflammatory condition of the mouth) and was given a steroid injection. It is not clear if this cat is still receiving effective treatment for his dermatitis, as there was no mention of the cat's skin in the exam record on 6/6/19.

He was currently being housed in a wire crate on the floor of the “Cat House” near the door to the outside patio. Staff stated he had a medical condition and needed special treatment, but they could not tell me what the condition was, how long he had been isolated, or how much longer he had in his treatment. This appeared to be the same cat that I saw housed in a wire crate in this same room on my previous visit. On my first visit I was told this cat was permanently housed in this crate because he had allergic skin disease and was feed a special diet.

This type of enclosure is inhumane for long term housing; it violates accepted guidelines for humane housing. Cats must have a place to hide; this enclosure does not. The enclosure must have enough space for the cat to make normal postural adjustments (including stretching and extending the limbs); this enclosure does not. In addition, the animal must be able to sit, sleep and eat away from the area of its enclosure where it defecates and urinates; the food and water are right next to the litterbox and the bed is too close to the litterbox as well. The litterbox must be big enough to comfortably accommodate its entire body; this litter box is too small. The method in which this animal is being housed in causing unnecessary suffering.

It is also important to note that records were provided indicating this cat received a rabies vaccination on 8/1/19 & 9/24/19, both from Healing Paws Veterinary Clinic. The rabies vaccination is given at most once a year. This underscores the lack of accurate individual animal

records and resulted in the cat being unnecessarily over-vaccinated and wasted financial resources by paying for an unnecessarily medical procedure.

Cookie – Adult Spayed Female Calico Domestic Shorthair



Photo DSCN1398

Location – Sassy’s Room

Primary Concerns – Lack of appropriate hygiene
- Lack of appropriate medical treatment (multiple untreated medical issues)

No medical records were available for this cat. An invoice for rabies vaccines from Healing Paws Veterinary Clinic included the name “Cookie”, but no description of the animal was included on the invoice, so it is not clear if it was for this cat. On my previous visit this cat was severely dirty with secondary skin inflammation. On this visit, she was less dirty, but still had feces matted on her feet and irritated skin (dermatitis) from chronic exposure to feces and urine. She was also very itchy and was chewing at her skin and pulling out her fur during this visit. Staff indicated they bathed her every few days and that she was not due for a bath yet. The feces on her fur suggests she may be suffering from chronic diarrhea. Diarrhea can be caused by many different things including contagious illness (parasites, bacteria, virus, etc.) or internal diseases such as inflammatory bowel disease, liver or kidney problems, food allergies, or even cancer. Chronic untreated diarrhea can cause significant discomfort, poor weight, and result in poor hygiene. This cat is certainly suffering due to untreated medical problems and poor hygiene. At a minimum she needs additional diagnostics to determine the cause of her diarrhea and an appropriate treatment plan to address her skin problems, and her diarrhea.

Daisy – Adult Spayed Female Brindle Pit Bull Terrier



Photo DSCN1284_Moment (taken 8-5-19)

Location – Game Room

Primary Concerns – Lack of appropriate housing, hygiene and medical care.

A review of her medical history from Newman Veterinary Centers of Deltona, Newman Veterinary Centers of Deland, and Healing Paws Veterinary Clinic indicates this dog is paralyzed in both hindlimbs and has on-going issues with recurrent infected pressure sores and recurrent urinary tract infections. On 7/11/18 there was a note in the record from Healing Paws Veterinary Clinic that the dog was seen at the University of Florida Veterinary Hospital and they stated the pressure sore wounds “will never heal”. The dog was kept from my view during this visit; my technician and veterinary student extern both observed the dog as she was carried away from us and they noted severe ulceration on the skin of her hind end. While I cannot speak to the intent of the facility, the behavior of the staff was such that I suspect they did not want me to see the dog on this visit. Due to the documented medical history, the observations of my team and the apparent attempt to keep me from observing Daisy on my visit, I strongly suspect that she is continuing to suffer with severe sores. These sores develop from a combination of inappropriate housing (being housed in hard tile floor), lack of proper hygiene (chronic exposure of the skin to urine and/or feces) and the method in which she moves which causes excessive force on the skin of her paralyzed legs and hind end.

Ebenezer/Ebinezer – Senior Neutered Male White & Tan Hound Mix *multiple spellings noted in medical records



Photo DSCN1446

Location - Office

Primary Concerns -Lack appropriate medical care
- Lack of appropriate behavior care and enrichment

A review of the medical records from Healing Paws Veterinary Clinic indicates this dog has a history of ear infections and had a mass removed from the right ear canal on 6/4/18. No records of follow-up veterinary care were provided after the date of surgery on 6/4/18. This dog should be under veterinary monitoring to ensure the mass and/or ear infections are not recurring. In addition, the staff indicated that this dog is “grumpy and doesn’t like to get up” so he spends all his time laying in his bed. This is not normal behavior for a healthy dog and suggests he may be painful or suffering from another medical condition. When asked if this dog was under treatment, staff stated they were not sure as the person in charge of medications was unavailable to ask. Senior dogs often suffer from arthritis which can have a negative impact on their quality of life

without proper treatment. This dog is likely suffering from an undiagnosed medical issue and at a minimum should be evaluated by a veterinarian to determine an appropriate treatment plan.

Fuzzy Lumpkin – Senior Spayed Female Black Domestic Long Hair



Photo DSCN1356

Location – Game Room/Tub Room

Primary Concerns – Lack of appropriate medical care
- Failure to follow veterinary recommendations.

A review of the medical records from Newman Veterinary Centers of Deltona indicated on 3/15/18 this cat had severe dental disease with a loose infected molar on the upper left side, and they were concerned there might also be cancer in the mouth. A dental cleaning with extractions was recommended which would also allow further evaluation of the mouth to see if there was a cancerous lesion as the cat would be under general anesthesia. There was no indication that this care was ever provided. Infected teeth are exceptionally painful, and untreated, can result in the infection spreading through the blood stream to other organs in the body including the heart, liver and kidneys. On 12/24/18 bloodwork was performed at Healthy Paws Veterinary Clinic; there was no accompanying medical record, only a lab report for bloodwork. The bloodwork suggested there may be early kidney disease and additional bloodwork was warranted to fully evaluate the function of the kidneys and create a treatment plan. During my recent visit the cat was noted to be underweight with a body condition score of 4/9, and staff indicated the cat was not receiving any treatment. Renal disease is a progressive, yet manageable disease. Without follow up veterinary evaluation and treatment, this cat will continue to suffer unnecessarily.

Gabe/Gabriel – Senior Neutered Male Brown & White Walker Hound



Photo DSCN1567

Location – Gabe’s Room

Primary Concerns – Lack of appropriate treatment for Hypothyroidism
- Inhumane housing
- Lack of behavior enrichment or treatment plan
- History of dog bite wounds

A review of the medical records from Newman Veterinary Centers of Deland, Healing Paws Veterinary Clinic and Affiliated Veterinary Specialists revealed the dog has a history of hypothyroidism, a chronic medical condition requiring daily medication and frequent veterinary monitoring to ensure treatment is working. His last recheck was with Healing Paws Veterinary Clinic on 4/4/19. The medical records also revealed this dog had been in at least one dog fight while in the care of the facility, suggesting they are not able to appropriately house and care for a dog with his behavior challenges.

Staff stated the dog was aggressive to other animals and humans. Aggression is a dangerous behavioral problem that can have many root causes including fear, territory defense, frustration or even medical problems. Aggression is complex to diagnose and challenging to treat. To properly address “Gabe’s” aggression, a veterinarian and professional behaviorist with experience treating canine aggression should be consulted. It is important to note that some cases of aggression cannot be safely treated. Simply locking the dog away and limiting his contact with other animals or humans does nothing to address his behavioral issues and is likely contributing to a very poor quality of life. In fact, the long-term isolation may be worsening his behavioral issues. In addition, the lack of appropriate enrichment in his enclosure can result in boredom and increased frustration. The conditions in which this dog is being kept are inhumane and are resulting in unnecessary suffering.

Journey – Adult Neutered Male Tan Pit Bull Terrier Mix



Photo DSCN1289 cropped (taken 8-5-19)

Location - –Building C “Journey’s Room”

Primary Concerns - Inhumane housing
- Lack of behavioral enrichment & treatment plan

Aside from a single rabies vaccination certificate, no medical records were provided for Journey. Staff indicated that this dog was housed in isolation due to aggression. Aggression is a dangerous behavioral problem that can have many root causes including fear, territory defense, frustration or even medical problems. Aggression is complex to diagnose and challenging to treat. To properly address “Journey’s” aggression, a veterinarian and professional behaviorist with experience treating canine aggression should be consulted. It is important to note that some cases of aggression cannot be safely treated. Simply locking the dog away and limiting his contact with humans does nothing to address his behavioral issues and is likely contributing to a very poor quality of life. In fact, the long-term isolation may be worsening his behavioral issues. In addition, the lack of appropriate enrichment in his enclosure can result in boredom and increased frustration. The conditions in which this dog is being kept are inhumane and are resulting in unnecessary suffering.

Junior – Senior Neutered Male Tri-Color Hound Mix



Photo DSCN1501 (cropped)

Location – “Junior’s Room”

Primary Concerns – Inhumane Housing
- Lack of behavioral enrichment & treatment plan
- Failure to follow veterinary recommendations

A review of the medical records from Healing Paws Veterinary Clinic indicated this dog was seen on 5/29/19 for surgical removal of multiple masses. An x-ray of the abdomen was also taken and revealed a possible mass on the heart and the doctor was concerned it might be hemangiosarcoma (cancer). He recommended a follow-up x-ray in 2 months. There is no record of any follow-up care. It is not clear if the lack of follow-up is due to an active decision to disregard the veterinarian's recommendation, or due to lack of accurate individual records at the facility resulting in a lack of follow-through. Regardless, failing to follow veterinary recommendations, especially in an animal that may have cancer, is likely to result in unnecessary suffering.

In addition to the failure to follow veterinary recommendations, this animal was housed in inhumane conditions. Staff indicated that the dog was still housed in isolation due to aggression toward other animals and humans. Aggression is a dangerous behavioral problem that can have many root causes including fear, territory defense, frustration or even medical problems. Aggression is complex to diagnose and challenging to treat. To properly address "Junior's" aggression, a veterinarian and professional behaviorist with experience treating canine aggression should be consulted. It is important to note that some cases of aggression cannot be safely treated. Simply locking the dog away and limiting his contact with other animals or humans does nothing to address his behavioral issues and is likely contributing to a very poor quality of life. In fact, the long-term isolation may be worsening his behavioral issues. In addition, the lack of appropriate enrichment in his enclosure can result in boredom and increased frustration. The conditions in which this dog is being kept are inhumane and are resulting in unnecessary suffering.

Louie – Geriatric Neutered Male tan long haired Chihuahua



Photo DSCN1628

Location – Pee Wee Room

Primary Concerns – Lack of follow-up for multiple medical conditions

- Inhumane housing
- Lack of behavioral enrichment or treatment plan

A review of the medical records from Healing Paws Veterinary Clinic and Animal Eye Associates indicated this dog has a heart problem and an eye problem. He was seen at Animal Eye Associates on 5/7/18 and diagnosed with immature cataracts with secondary lens induced uveitis (inflammation of the iris inside the eye). Treatment was started and a recheck examination was recommended. No records were provided to indicate the recheck occurred. He

was also seen at Healing Paws Veterinary Clinic on 7/16/18 and diagnosed with a heart murmur and started on multiple heart medications. No records were provided to indicate any follow-up regarding the heart condition occurred or if he continued to receive the heart medications prescribed. On my previous visit staff stated he had a heart condition and was on medication for his heart. During this visit, the staff was not sure if he was on medications.

On my previous visit he was found hiding under furniture in the corner of the room. On this visit he was also found hiding under the furniture. This dog is not well socialized with other dogs or humans and exhibited fearful avoidant behavior. Staff indicated he was not receiving any behavioral enrichment or modification to attempt to reduce his fear. To properly address “Louie’s” fear, a veterinarian and professional behaviorist with experience treating canine fear should be consulted. It is important to note that some cases of fear can result in aggression that cannot be safely treated. Simply locking the dog away and limiting his contact with other animals or humans does nothing to address his behavioral issues and is likely contributing to a very poor quality of life. In fact, the long-term isolation may be worsening his behavioral issues. In addition, the lack of appropriate enrichment in his enclosure can result in boredom and increased frustration. The conditions in which this dog is being kept are inhumane and are resulting in unnecessary suffering.

Natasha – Senior Spayed Female Black & White Retriever Mix



Photo DSCN1527

Location – Four Season Porch

Primary Concerns – Untreated and/or inappropriately treated painful medical conditions

A review of the medical records from Newman Veterinary Centers of Deland and Healing Paws Veterinary Clinic indicate that this dog has a history of urinary incontinence with possible urinary tract infections, joint problems of both knees, and possibly a back problem as well. No treatment was noted in either set of records for the arthritis or the incontinence, and no follow-up was noted for the potential bladder infections. During my visit I noted she had difficulty getting up from

laying down and had significant muscle wasting in her hindlimbs. She also walked with a very stiff and hunched posture, suggesting she was painful and may have arthritis. Staff stated she was receiving laser treatment but was not on any medications. However, when reviewing the dry erase board in this room, it indicated she was supposed to be receiving a pain medication, a joint supplement and a medication for urinary incontinence. This discrepancy was concerning; either the dog was not receiving needed medications, or the staff accompanying us on our tour was providing inaccurate information. Regardless, this dog's current treatment plan is not appropriately addressing her pain and she is unnecessarily suffering.

No Name (Unsocialized/Feral Kitten in Dining Room) - ~4 month-old Female Black Domestic Shorthair



Photo DSCN1481

Location – Dining Room

Primary Concerns – Inhumane housing conditions
- Inappropriate and inhumane attempt to socialize

While this kitten had no apparent medical conditions, she was housed in isolation in a wire crate on the dining room table. Staff stated she was not socialized with humans, so they were housing her in isolation to socialize her. This enclosure is inhumane for long term housing; it violates accepted guidelines for humane housing of cats. Cats must have a place to hide; this enclosure does not. The enclosure must have enough space for the cat to make normal postural adjustments (including stretching and extending the limbs); this enclosure does not. In addition, the animal must be able to sit, sleep and eat away from the area of its enclosure where it defecates and urinates; the bed is right next to the litterbox and the food is too close to the litterbox as well. The litterbox must be big enough to comfortably accommodate its entire body; this litter box is too small. Staff indicated this was a feral kitten that they were attempting to socialize by keeping isolated in this kennel in the center of the room. Keeping animals in isolation is inhumane and will not “socialize” them. Socialization is best done in a home setting where the animal can have routine interaction with humans and/or other animals. The method in which this animal is being housed is causing unnecessary suffering.

Prince – Adult Neutered Male Black Domestic Shorthair



Photo DSCN1373

Location – Sassy’s Room

Primary Concerns – Lack of appropriate hygiene

- Failure to follow veterinary recommendations
- Lack of proper record keeping resulting in unnecessary over-vaccination

A review of the medical records from Newman Veterinary Centers of Deltona indicate the cat was seen on 7/26/19 due to welfare concerns raised by Volusia County Animal Services. No previous medical records were provided for my review. The records from Newman Veterinary Centers of Deltona stated that the cat had been seen at “Affiliated Veterinary Specialists 3/2019” and diagnosed with a spinal cord problem which was unlikely to improve and home management with easy access to food/water, low litter boxes and attention to sanitation was recommended. During the visit at Newman Veterinary Centers of Deltona on 7/26/19 they noted the cat had urine-soaked fur on the hindlimbs and recommended bathing the cat one to two times a day for proper hygiene. They also noted exudative otitis externa (an ear infection with pus) and ear mite infestation (a highly contagious parasitic condition which results in excruciatingly itchy ears and, if untreated, and result in secondary bacterial infections). During both of my visits the fur on the back legs, tail and perineum (back end around the penis and vulva) was urine-soaked and the skin appeared irritated. Staff indicated the cat was bathed when necessary but could not tell me when he was last bathed. This cat is suffering unnecessarily due to the lack of appropriate hygiene.

It is also important to note that records were provided indicating this cat received a rabies vaccination on 7/26/19 at Newman Veterinary Centers of Deltona and on 9/24/19 at Healing Paws Veterinary Clinic. The rabies vaccination is given at most once a year. This underscores the lack of accurate individual animal records and resulted in the cat being unnecessarily over-vaccinated and wasted financial resources by paying for an unnecessarily medical procedure.

Pumpkin – Adult Neutered Male Orange & White Domestic Longhair



Photo DSCN1736

Location – Inside Cat House

Primary Concern – Untreated medical issues
- Inhumane housing

A review of the medical records from Healing Paws Veterinary Clinic and Animal Eye Associates indicated the cat had a history of weight loss, upper respiratory infection and a severe eye infection. He was seen at Animal Eye Clinic on 9/11/19 for keratoconjunctivitis (severe infection of the cornea and soft tissues surrounding the eye). Medications were started but no recheck examination was documented. Staff indicated this cat had recently had surgery to remove his left eye; no medical records were provided regarding the surgery. Staff were unsure when the surgery had been performed or which veterinarian had performed the surgery, but they said the cat was “really doing good”. Staff indicated he was only receiving an antibiotic. During my visit there was marked swelling and redness around the surgery site, and there was a large amount of bloody pus discharging from the incision. This is not a part of the normal healing process; it was a severe infection in the surgical site. There is also bloody pus discharge dried and matted into the fur on his left front limb. This suggests he has been rubbing at his face and the surgical site with the leg, either due to the pain and discomfort caused by the infection or in an attempt to clean the bloody pus off of his face (or both). Eye removal surgery is painful; this pain is compounded if there is a complication such as an infection of the surgical site. The cat was not receiving any pain medication, nor did the staff feel he needed any. He was suffering unnecessarily. Immediate follow-up with a veterinarian was recommended to the staff during the visit.

This cat was housed inside a wire crate on top of a table inside the “Cat House.” Staff indicated the cat was being housed here in the crate for the duration of his healing from surgery. This space is inhumane for long-term housing; it violates accepted guidelines for humane housing. Cats must have a place to hide; this enclosure does not. The enclosure must have enough space for the cat to make normal postural adjustments (including stretching and extending the limbs); this enclosure does not. In addition, the animal must be able to sit, sleep and eat away from the area of its enclosure where it defecates and urinates; the bed is right next to the litterbox and the food is too close to the litterbox as well. The litterbox must be big enough to comfortably accommodate its entire body; this litter box is too small. The method in which this animal is being housed is causing unnecessary suffering.

Tinkerbelle – Geriatric Spayed Female Tortoiseshell Domestic Shorthair



Photo DSCN1731

Location – Inside Cat House

Primary Concern – Untreated medical conditions
- Inhumane housing

No medical records were provided for this cat beyond an invoice for a rabies vaccination for an animal with the same name. There was no description of the animal on the invoice, so it is unclear if it is for this cat. This cat was being housed in a wire crate on a table in the “Cat House”. Staff stated she had been treated for an upper respiratory infection, was subsequently “cleared by the vet as healthy” and was no longer on medication. Staff stated she liked being in the kennel and so they were continuing to keep her confined. This cat had a body condition score of 2/9 and appeared lethargic. There was diarrhea in her litterbox and dried diarrhea sprayed on the wall behind her kennel. Diarrhea can be caused by many different things including contagious illness (parasites, bacteria, virus, etc.) or internal disease such as inflammatory bowel disease, liver or kidney problems, food allergies, or even cancer. Chronic untreated diarrhea can cause significant discomfort, poor weight, and result in poor hygiene. This cat is certainly suffering and needs additional diagnostics to determine the cause of her diarrhea and an appropriate treatment plan to address her skin problems, and her diarrhea.

This type of enclosure is inhumane for long term housing; it violates accepted guidelines for humane housing. Cats must have a place to hide; this enclosure does not. The enclosure must have enough space for the cat to make normal postural adjustments (including stretching and extending the limbs); this enclosure does not. In addition, the animal must be able to sit, sleep and eat away from the area of its enclosure where it defecates and urinates; the food and water are right next to the litterbox and the bed is too close to the litterbox as well. The litterbox must be big enough to comfortably accommodate its entire body; this litter box is too small. The method in which this animal is being housed is causing unnecessary suffering.

All Cats Housed in Building A



Photo DSCN1794 (cropped) – Black & White DSH



Photo DSCN1805 – Brown Tabby with White DSH



Phot DSCN1813 – Black DSH & Siamese DSH



Photo DSCN1798 Siamese Mix DSH

Location – Building A, referred to as “Mary’s Motel” by the staff

Primary Concerns – Widespread disease, no evidence of treatment
- Unsanitary and unsafe living conditions

This building housed 5 cats in poor health. All five cats were notably underweight, two had head tilts (suggesting disease within the ear or the brain) and one with a severe itchy skin condition. There was also widespread evidence of diarrhea and vomiting. As no staff member accompanied us into this room, I was unable to obtain names of the cats or determine if any treatment was being provided to these cats. The room was filthy with dried diarrhea and vomitus on many surfaces, including the cat towers and cat beds. There was only one litterbox for all the cats to use, which certainly contributed to the spread of the diarrhea. One litterbox is inadequate for five cats. Experts recommend having one more litterbox available than there are cats; in this case, there should be six litterboxes available for these five cats. Diarrhea can be a sign of serious illness. It can also be caused by parasitism, poor nutrition, poor sanitation, overcrowding and stress. There were also numerous exposed electrical wires and cords that were a hazard. This unsanitary and unsafe living condition is unacceptable. Not only does it contribute to the spread of disease, it also increases the stress level of the cats and results in unnecessary suffering.

Remaining Animals

The above list should not be interpreted to suggest that the remaining animals at the facility are in good care. All animals at the facility are receiving substandard care as detailed in my forensic veterinary

reports. It is important to note that the organization's website states their mission is "to provide lifetime care and sheltering of animals who, while still able to lead a quality life, are unable to find homes due to old age, chronic illness, handicaps, temperament issues or other factors." The mission as written on the website is broad and vague and has resulted in a lack of consistency in the type of animals in their care. On my initial visit, there were numerous animals on the property that were not old, "handicapped" or suffering from chronic medical or temperament issues that would prevent them from finding a home. Since my first visit, the facility has taken in more animals that do not meet their stated mission. Among these new arrivals are two juvenile sheep with no apparent medical issues, a mother cat with three kittens that appeared to be around 3 months of age, and an approximately 4-month-old kitten. All these animals are highly adoptable and are not in need of long-term sheltering. They should be placed into permanent homes where they would receive the care, attention and love they deserve. To leave any of the animals in the care of the facility is placing them at risk of prolonged and unnecessary neglect and suffering.

To a reasonable degree of scientific certainty, the above statement is an accurate statement of my findings. I retain the right to edit, amend, or alter this report based on any additional information provided to me about this investigation.

Rachel C. Barton, DVM MS