# Louisiana Animal Welfare Commission (LAWC) Assessment Report for Animal Shelter Facilities in Louisiana

Date **June 3, 2011**

Inspectors: **Dr. Gary A. Balsamo, State Public Health Veterinarian; Margaret George, LAWC**

Name of Facility **City of Oakdale Animal Shelter**

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There are several state laws that set minimum legal requirements for animal shelters, impoundment facilities, and quarantine facilities. They include (Title 3, Chapter17, Louisiana R.S. 2431 et seq.)

> La. R.S. 2431 to 2439, Humane society may arrange for care of animals; Arrangement with stable for care of animals; Employment of veterinary; Stable to register animals cared for; Determination whether animal may leave stable; Sale of animal on owner's failure to pay for treatment; Liability of society to stable or veterinary; privilege upon animals; Opportunity to owner to treat animal if proper treatment is given; Court review of humane society's treatment of animal, damages limited to costs
> La. R.S. 2461 to 2465, Authority of parish governing authorities to adopt, Definitions, General shelter standards, Shelter construction, Operating procedures.
> La. R.S. 2471 to 2476 Definitions, Sterilization required, Adoption standards, Confirmation of sterilization, Exceptions, Fees
> La. R.S. Branding of animals impounded
> La. R. S. 1558(3), Continuing education requirements for certified animal euthanasia technicians
> Louisiana Administrative Code, Chapter 51, Part III, The control of rabies and other zoonotic diseases

You should familiarize yourself with these laws and any requirements that may pertain to your facility or its employees.

Many features and practices that enhance facility operations for the animals or the facility staff are not addressed in the above statutes. LAWC considers the recommendations of the American Veterinary Medical Association, the American Animal Control Association, and the Humane Society of the United States in shelter evaluations. The list below should be retained and utilized for self evaluations on a routine basis. This list contains features and practices that strengthen facility operations. Some are required by law (these are labeled as "**MANDATED**") and are reiterated in this supplement as a reinforcement of their requirement.

**LAWC Comments and suggestions are added under each item in the assessment.**

## A. Animal Euthanasia

1. ☐Y ☒N Have staff who perform euthanasia successfully completed a **MANDATED** Louisiana Board of Veterinary Medicine-approved euthanasia training course

within 120 days of initial employment and earned the required 6 hours of continuing education credits annually?
*No one on the staff of the Oakdale shelter is CAET licensed, however no euthanasias are carried out. This may be problematic when the shelter takes in sick or injured animals. Since no CAET licensed euthanasia technician is present, animals may undergo prolonged suffering before being euthanized or gaining access to veterinary care.*

2. ☐Y ☒N Is a written protocol available for the euthanasia of ill or injured animals in the field or before the end of the impoundment period?
*Euthanasia is not carried out at this facility. Animals are transported to the Alexandria Animal shelter for euthanasia.*
3. ☐Y ☐N Is a written protocol available for routine euthanasia?
*See A2.*

*Questions 4-10 are for facilities using injectable euthanasia:*

4. ☐Y ☐N If a written protocol is available, does the protocol require two or more people to be present to perform injectable euthanasia techniques?
*NA*
5. ☒Y ☐N Are the injectable euthanasia standards **MANDATED** in the latest report of the American Veterinary Medical Association on Euthanasia, being met?
*Yes. Approved euthanasia standards are met by those performing euthanasia for this facility at the Alexandria shelter.*
6. ☐Y ☒N Is there a sturdy, sanitizable table in the euthanasia room?
*Enclosed shelter facilities do not exist.*
7. ☐Y ☐N Is the lighting sufficient to allow easy visualization of the injection site?
*NA*
8. ☐Y ☐N Are the controlled drugs stored in a securely locked cabinet?
*Controlled drugs are not held at this facility.*
9. ☐Y ☐N If controlled drugs are used in the field, are they securely locked in the animal control vehicle?
*Controlled drugs are not used in the field.*
10. ☐Y ☒N Are euthanasia drug logs used, kept current, and available for inspection?
*There were no records of euthanasia maintained at the facility.*

*Question 11 is for facilities using carbon monoxide euthanasia:*

11. ☐Y ☐N Does the carbon monoxide chamber meet standards for safe operation and is the machine in good working order?
*NA*

**B. Management:**

1. ☐Y ☒N Has the facility manager successfully completed a Louisiana Animal Control Association-approved Animal Control Officer Basic Training course?
*Although this facility serves as a temporary holding facility, training in animal control would be beneficial to staff and enhance compliance with standards for humane handling, housing, etc.*
2. ☐Y ☒N Is an office available at the facility, or elsewhere, for facility staff and/or animal control officers?
*This is truly an outdoor, holding facility. The jurisdiction provides no dedicated internal facilities.*

3. ☐Y ☒N Is the facility attended by a veterinarian or is there a relationship established with one or more local veterinarians to provide advice, assistance, or treatment to animals?
*Bite cases and rabies observations are performed at a veterinary office, however routine care for sick or injured animals is not provided.*
4. ☐Y ☒N Does this facility employ a full-time veterinarian

5. ☐Y ☒N Are formal **MANDATED** semi-annual inspections conducted by an authorized parish official to ensure compliance with state statutes?
*Louisiana law states that "shelters should be inspected at least once every six months by an authorized representative of the parish to determine compliance with the requirements" set forth in state statutes. Although the supervisory structure of the shelter was thoroughly explained to the auditors, no written record of a formal system of inspection by any parish official was brought forth. LAWC suggests that the parish establish a regular program of inspection and document the results for later examination by OPH auditors. This system of inspection should be recorded in a written policy.*
6. ☐Y ☒N Are standard operation procedures (SOP) written for the facility's operation, including housing, cleaning, animal care, and facility maintenance?
*LAWC recognizes the importance of written policies for procedures at public animal shelters. LAWC recommends that management finalize and publish written policies for storage of food and supplies, shelter hygiene, employee training, isolation of animals, euthanasia, feeding, and shelter oversight. These protocols will assist in training employees and should reduce the chance for inadvertent errors.*
7. ☐Y ☒N Are animals separated by their behavior and age in addition to their state of health, species, sex, and size (separation by health, age (puppies and kittens separated from adults) species, sex (unneutered males separated from females) is **MANDATED** by law)?
*Animals are separated by size, species and health status, but nor by gender. Males and females should be separated for behavioral reasons and also to prevent unwanted reproduction in reclaimed animals.*
8. ☒Y ☐N Does the facility have a sterilization program for its adopted animals (this is **MANDATED** for animal control facilities under La. R.S. 2472)?
*Anyone adopting an animal is required to sign a document stating that the animal will be spayed or neutered within three months.*
9. ☐Y ☒N Have staff been immunized against rabies?
*The Louisiana Office of Public Health recommends that all animal control personnel be vaccinated against rabies, as is recommended by CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. Every two year antibody titers are recommended for all vaccinated animal contact personnel that handle animals from terrestrial rabies endemic areas of the state, which includes this area of the state. Information on acquiring antibody titers is available through the State Public Health Veterinarian (504-219-4593).*
10. ☐Y ☒N Do animal contact staff work with terrestrial wildlife or bats?
*Complaints from the public regarding terrestrial animals and bats are referred to the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.*
11. ☐Y ☒N Are staff rabies vaccinations evidenced by adequate titers (This is only recommended if bats are handled routinely. This is also recommended if

terrestrial wildlife are handled routinely in skunk variant rabies endemic areas of the state)?
*Should a vaccine monitoring program be instituted in the future, every-two-year titers can be provided by:*

*Atlanta Health Associates*
*309 Pirckle Ferry Road, Suite D300*
*Cumming, GA 30040*
*Phone: 770-205-9091 or 800-717-5612*
*Fax: 770-204-9021*
*www.atlantahealth.net (http://www.atlantahealth.net)*

*Kansas State University*
*1800 Denison Avenue*
*Manhattan, KS 66506-5600*
*Phone: 785-532-4483*
*www.vet.ksu.edu/depts/dmp/service/rabies/index.htm*
*(http://www.vet.ksu.edu/depts/dmp/service/rabies/index.htm)*

12. ☐Y ☒N Does this shelter restrict or ban adoptions of pit bulls?
*The shelter has no official policy banning adoption of pit bulls. All pit bulls are handled on a case by case basis, however there is no written policy.*

13. ☒Y ☐N Does this shelter restrict or ban adoptions of any other breed or type animal?
*Aggressive animals are never offered for adoption.*

14. ☐Y ☒N Does this shelter sell or donate live animals for education or research?

15. ☐Y ☒N Was this shelter a plaintiff or defendant in any civil or criminal court case in the past year?

16. ☐Y ☒N Are shelter standards included in city or parish ordinances?
*Although the Oakdale Shelter abides by ordinances in issues related to stray animals, holding periods for impoundment, redemption of animals, vicious dogs, and rabies control; shelter standards, such as those specified in the Louisiana Revised Statutes, are not included in the ordinance. Local government officials are strongly urged to include shelter standards in local ordinances.*

17. ☐Y ☒N Are hours and emergency telephone prominently displayed on building exterior as **MANDATED** by La. R.S. 2463?
*The public often transports animals to the shelter during off hours. Providing contact information and hours of operation may prevent abandonment of animals outside the shelter, as often occurs.*

18. ☐Y ☒N Does the shelter have a receiving area for the public to bring in or adopt animals?
*There is no structure located at the shelter location.*

19. ☐Y ☒N Does the shelter have an area for the public to acquaint themselves with adoptable animals?
*See B18.*

**C. Records:**

1. ☐Y ☒N Are records computerized?

2. ☐Y ☒N Do the animal records include accurate descriptions of the animals? Suggested information includes: impounding officer's name, date and time of capture, location of capture, tag and/or collar identification, breed, sex, age, size (height and weight), coat color and pattern, ear and tail types, description of markings and unusual findings (scars, tattoos, microchips), and the condition of the animal.
   *Records only consist of summary data on intake and euthanasia. The standards for shelters stipulated in Louisiana's revised statutes states, "A record shall be prepared on every animal that enters the shelter and shall include a description of the animal; veterinary treatment; length of time held; fees collected; and date euthanized, died, reclaimed or adopted." Use of digital photographs and inexpensive printers could be used to address the deficiencies in record keeping. LAWC has been introduced to several shelter management software packages. Some of these packages may be available to Louisiana shelters at no cost. LAWC encourages the use of shelter management software packages in Louisiana shelters. Please contact LAWC if interested in learning more about these programs and other methods of enhanced record keeping.*
3. ☐Y ☒N Do the animals' records document daily observation?
   *Although animals are observed at least once daily, no daily record of observation exists.*
4. ☐Y ☒N Are incoming animals scanned for microchips and/or identification tattoos?
   *This shelter does not possess a scanner. Most veterinarians now recommend that dogs and cats be implanted with a microchip to aid in identification of the animal, should the animal be lost or stolen. The Oakdale municipal shelter has no means of identification of these animals due to the shelter's failure to employ the use of a scanner. Electronic scanners can be purchased for between $200 and $400. LAWC highly recommends that such a scanner be purchased and deployed as soon as possible. If funds are not available, grants may be available from many of the state's humane organizations.*

**D. General Structure:**

1. ☐Y ☒N Is a secured area used to safely unload and load animals to prevent their escape?
   *The area for offloading animals upon arrival at the facility is open. The opportunity for animals to escape is a risk.*
2. ☐Y ☒N Is the facility built in such a way that it prevents access by unauthorized persons?
   *The facility is padlocked but the fences are not intact and are not high enough to discourage break-ins.*
3. ☐Y ☒N Is a secure area for storing vehicles available?
   *See B 18.*
4. ☐Y ☒N Is a secure area for storing outdoor equipment available?
   *See B 18.*
5. ☒Y ☐N Are drains covered with grates to prevent animals from stepping into them?
6. ☒Y ☐N Are drains covered with grates to prevent people from stepping into them?

7. ☐Y ☒N Are there problems apparent with drainage or moisture at this facility?

**E. Water and Electric Power:**

1. ☐Y ☒N Are an adequate number of water faucets available?
   *There is no hot water supply. Although the shelter is small and the corresponding number of spigots may be adequate to supply copious amounts of water for cleaning, the absence of hot water is a major deficiency in disinfection efforts.*
2. ☒Y ☐N Are the water hoses strong and in good repair?
3. ☒Y ☐N Are adequate hose bibs and hoses available?
4. ☐Y ☒N Are hoses kept off the floor when not in use?
   *Inspectors observed the one hose for the facility on the ground. LAWC recommends that devices that retract hoses or other devices for storage be utilized to secure hoses off of the ground.*
5. ☐Y ☒N Is hot water available?
   *See E1.*
6. ☐Y ☒N Is a backup generator available to provide electricity during power outages?
   *Portable generators are a valuable asset, however at present no electrical devices or the corresponding electrical wiring is present at the facility.*
7. ☐Y ☒N In the animal areas, are the electrical outlets mounted at least 3-4 feet above the floor?
   *NA*
8. ☐Y ☒N In the animal areas, do the electrical outlets have protective coverings?
   *NA*
9. ☐Y ☒N Are the electrical outlets, in areas of water use, Ground Fault Interrupt (GFI) protected?
   *NA*
10. ☐Y ☒N Are there adequate sinks to wash food and water bowls and other equipment?
    *There are none. The absence of sinks limits the capacity of kennel workers to appropriately disinfect equipment and bowls. Addition of sinks or "slop" sinks would greatly enhance the ability of workers to sanitize portable items.*
11. ☐Y ☒N If a bathtub or large sink is used to bathe animals or wash equipment, is there adequate toe space under it to allow staff to work comfortably?
    *Bathing facilities are not available.*
12. ☐Y ☒N Is there a restroom for staff use?
    *There is no structure, only caging or dog runs are present.*

**F. Waste Disposal:**

1. ☐Y ☒N Is there a holding area for carcasses awaiting final disposal?
   *Euthanasia is not performed at Oakdale, so there is a reduced need for carcass disposal.*
2. ☐Y ☒N Is there a freezer or refrigerator to store animal carcasses until final disposal?
   *The lack of electricity makes this impossible.*
3. ☒Y ☐N Do the dog pen floors slope ¼-½ inch per foot toward drains and gutters?

4. ☒Y ☐N Is animal waste washed into a sewer or septic system?

5. ☐Y ☒N Does this shelter employ special practices for handling medical or potentially infectious waste?
*Veterinary medical procedures are not conducted at this shleter.*

**G. Storage:**

1. ☐Y ☒N Is adequate space available for facility supplies?
*There is no storage area for food or cleaning supplies. The food is stored in a plastic garbage can, however the can was not sealed when observed, and therefore provided no barrier to entry of vermin.*
2. ☐Y ☒N Are cleaning chemicals stored in a separate area, room, or cabinet?
*Inspectors did not observe cleaning supplies on the shelter grounds. Upon inquiry, parish officials related that supplies are transported to the facility on an ad hoc basis. Should funding become available, secure storage facilities for cleaning supplies would serve a useful purpose at the site in which these supplies would be utilized.*
3. ☒Y ☐N Is adequate space available to store the current quantity of animal food?
*Space is available, however the food containers are not secured. See G1.*
4. ☒Y ☐N Is the food storage area clean and free of spilled food?

5. ☒Y ☐N Is there a procedure to use older food first?

6. ☐Y ☒N Are storage shelves and racks at least 12 inches off the floor and at least 4 inches from walls to permit adequate air circulation around food products?
*Food is only stored in cans as described above. There are no shelves and racks.*
7. ☐Y ☒N Are food storage containers adequately sealed against infestation by insects or other vermin?
*Containers were not sealed.*

**H. Primary Enclosures:**

1. ☐Y ☒N Is one dog housed per pen?
*There is no existing written standard concerning maximum numbers of animals per cage.*
2. ☐Y ☐N Do cat cages offer a minimum of 4 square feet per cat?
*NA. This facility does not house cats.*
3. ☐Y ☒N Are the dog pen side walls solid to at least 4 –5 feet in height between animals?
*Cages do not feature solid side panels of sufficient height to minimize contact between animals. This deficiency may present problems with injury, stress and/or containment of contagious diseases.*
4. ☒Y ☐N Do the pens have tops on them?
*The ceiling of the pens is the tin roof that protects the animals from sunlight exposure and rain. The condition of the roof is not optimum. Also protection from direct sunlight is inadequate due to the open nature of the sides of the cages.*
5. ☒Y ☐N If the pens have tops, do the tops offer at least a 7-foot clearance?

6. ☒Y ☐N Does the chain-link fencing of the dog pens appear to be at least 9-gauge wire (heavier than typical fences)?

7. ☐Y ☒N Is the dog-pen fencing securely attached to the frames and gates?
*Caging is damaged in several locations.*
8. ☒Y ☐N Do the dog pens offer indoor and outdoor access?
*All cages are, in essence, outdoor.*
9. ☐Y ☒N Are guillotine doors present between the indoor and outdoor runs?
*No system of outdoor/indoor runs exists.*
10. ☐Y ☐N If guillotine doors are present, can these doors be operated by staff outside the pen?
*NA.*
11. ☒Y ☐N Do the gates on the cages and pens latch securely?

12. ☐Y ☒N Is there a way to prevent the general public from entering the animal containment area without the knowledge of facility staff?
*Although the facility is locked, it appears that the shelter could be accessed easily by those intent to do so. The absence of offices or personnel areas onsite exacerbates this situation.*
13. ☐Y ☒N Are primary enclosures constructed of materials that are easily sanitized?
*Although most primary enclosures are constructed of easily sanitized materials, some of the wooden fencing and wooden housing is unpainted and damaged, which may render the surfaces porous and could permite the accumulation of potentially dangerous organic debris. Damage to wooden structures is severe.*
14. ☐Y ☒N Are primary enclosures well maintained and in good repair?
*Damage to fencing and wooden protective structures is extensive.*

**I. Feeding/ Watering:**
1. ☐Y ☒N Is a work table that can be easily sanitized available in the food preparation area?
*A elevated sanitizable work surface is recommended for woker safety and ease of cleaning.*
2. ☐Y ☒N Are water bowls secured in the cages to prevent tipping?
*It is imperative to make every effort to prevent tipping of water bowls, especially in a shelter where staff are not regularly on hand.*
3. ☒Y ☐N Are food and water bowls washed and sanitized daily?

4. ☐Y ☒N Are shelves or racks present to store food and water containers that are drying?
*As stated previously there are no storage facilities.*

**J. Pest Control:**
1. ☐Y ☒N Is the premise maintained so that the potential for rodents and insect pests are kept to a minimum?
*The open nature of the facility and the relative insecurity of food products contributes to the facility's vulnerability.*
2. ☐Y ☒N Does the facility have a program to remove external parasites from animals as they enter the facility?
*In order for the shelter to optimize conditions for animals that may be reclaimed, dogs and cats entering any shelter facility should be screened for external*

*parasites and, if possible, should be treated with some type of internal or external paraciticide prior to entering the general population. Insecticidal shampoos, sprays and dips are available. Internal medication may also be used.*

3. ☐Y ☐N If a program exists, does the product's label include the target species?
   *NA*
4. ☐Y ☐N If a program exists, are personal protective equipment and training offered to staff who use parasiticides?
   *NA*

**K. Rabies Quarantine**

1. ☐Y ☒N Does the facility quarantine animals for rabies observation? *If "no," skip the remainder of this section.*
   *Dogs are referred to a local veterinarian for rabies quarantine.*
2. ☐Y ☐N Is it easy to distinguish which animals are quarantined for rabies observation and which animals are housed in quarantine pens due to "overflow"?
   *NA*
3. ☒Y ☐N Is public access prohibited from the quarantine area by a secure door or gate?
   *NA*
4. ☐Y ☐N If a secure door or gate is not available, is there a barrier to exclude the public from the quarantine area?
   *NA*
5. ☒Y ☐N Are there guillotine doors to confine rabies-suspect dogs in one part of the pen during cleaning or inclement weather?
   *NA*
6. ☒Y ☐N If guillotine doors are available, can these doors be operated by staff outside the pen?
   *NA*
7. ☒Y ☐N Should testing of animal brains be required, would this shelter submit the sample to the OPH laboratory for analysis?
   *The local veterinarian does submit to the LA OPH laboratories when human bites are invovled.*
8. ☒Y ☐N Does this shelter participate in the OPH rabies testing and surveillance program?

**L. Disease: regarding the following diseases, please rate the severity of the problem with these diseases over the past year.**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | ☐Major | ☐Minor | ☒No problem | Intestinal parasites |
| 2. | ☐Major | ☒Minor | ☐No problem | Scabies (mange) |
| 3. | ☐Major | ☐Minor | ☒No problem | Ringworm (dermatophytes) |
| 4. | ☐Major | ☐Minor | ☒No problem | Parvovirus |
| 5. | ☐Major | ☐Minor | ☒No problem | Canine distemper |
| 6. | ☐Major | ☐Minor | ☒No problem | Canine cough |
| 7. | ☐Major | ☐Minor | ☐No problem | Feline upper respiratory disease |
| 8. | ☐Major | ☐Minor | ☐No problem | Feline diarrhea |
| 9. | ☒Major | ☐Minor | ☐No problem | Canine heartworm disease |

10. ☐Major ☐Minor ☐No problem Feline leukemia

**M. Infection Control**

1. ☐Y ☒N Are all animals isolated on intake to this facility and screened in a separate area for disease and temperament before being placed in the general population?
*The compact nature of the shelter precludes the establishment of a dedicated area for isolation. Shelter management could, however, specify certain cages for new intake isolation.*

2. ☐Y ☒N Are all animals vaccinated (Dogs: distemper, adenovirus, parainfluenza, parvovirus, leptospirosis, bordetella. Cats: rhinotracheitis, calicivirus, chlamydia, panleukopenia, feline leukemia) upon intake to the facility?

3. ☐Y ☒N Are all animals vaccinated after being determined to be adoptable?

4. ☐Y ☒N Are incoming animals checked for heartworms?

a. ☐Y ☒N (only adoptable are checked for heartworms)

5. ☐Y ☒N Are incoming animals dewormed for intestinal parasites?
*Consideration of implementation of parasite control on ALL incoming animals should be considered. Lack of intestinal parasite control may prove to result in greater rates of transmission to animals that will eventually be adopted or reclaimed.*

a. ☐Y ☒N (only adoptable are dewormed for intestinal parasites)

6. ☐Y ☒N Are rabies vaccines administered at this facility?

7. ☐Y ☒N Are rabies vaccines required after pets are adopted out of the facility?
*The Louisiana State Sanitary Code (Title 51, Part III, Chapter 1 of the Louisiana Administrative Code) states, "No person shall own, keep or have in his custody a dog, cat, or ferret over three months of age that has not been vaccinated against rabies by a licensed veterinarian. Every owner of a dog, cat, or ferret shall cause said animal to be vaccinated initially with a series of two vaccinations, the first to be administered at three months of age, the second to be administered one year after the initial vaccination. Dogs, cats, or ferrets initially vaccinated later than three months of age shall also be administered a series of two vaccines, the second vaccine to be given one year after the initial vaccination. Subsequent booster vaccines shall be administered one year after the administration of a vaccine that confers one year of immunity and three years after the administration of a vaccine that confers three years of immunity. Approved vaccines and durations of immunity are listed in the most recent Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control prepared by the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians, Inc." The Oakdale Animal shelter does nothing to ensure that adopted or reclaimed animals are vaccinated for rabies. It is nearly a universal policy of all public shelters to ensure compliance with rabies laws. Most shelters originally came into existence as part of a nationwide initiative to decrease the number of incident cases of rabies virus infection in humans. In fact, animal control and pet vaccine requirements have been successful in reducing the incidence of human*

*rabies in the United States to an average of one or two cases per year, although nothing about the epidemiology of the disease in nature has changed. Terrestrial and bat variants of rabies virus circulate within Allen Parish and surrounding areas and pose a danger to all warm blooded animals in the area, including pets and humans. The presence of a rabid dog, cat, or ferret in populated areas is considered a public health emergency. Studies have demonstrated that compliance with vaccine requirements for pets in some areas of Louisiana is woefully inadequate. A primary part of the mission of any animal control shelter is rabies control and prevention. Louisiana OPH implores shelters in the state to ensure vaccine compliance in adopted pets. Several methods are employed by shelters to ensure rabies vaccination compliance in adopted animals. LAWC and OPH are available for consultation to suggest accepted methods.*

**N. Population Control**

1. ☐Y ☒N Are all animals determined to be adoptable spayed or neutered prior to adoption?

2. ☐Y ☒N Are only some animals spayed or neutered prior to adoption?

3. ☒Y ☐N Are intact animals that are adopted required to be spayed or neutered after adoption?

**Additional comments:**

The Oakdale shelter represents a noble effort by a small community to effectively carry out animal control without the benefits of a large revenue stream. Many of the aforementioned deficiencies in the shelter can be addressed with a minimum of labor and capital outlay, however some of the suggested corrections do involve an increased commitment on the part of the local community.

The physical facility cannot be compared with self contained animal shelters that include areas for staffing, storage and public animal services. Like shelters in many small communities, this facility is quite austere, however does serve a useful service to the people of the community.

Several deficiencies have been pointed out in the inspection document and the following additional deficiencies, in the opinion of LAWC, need to be addressed.

- The major deficiencies with the physical structure include inadequate maintenance and a grievous lack of protection for animals against the elements. The existence of a single tarp on one side of the facility is wholly inadequate to protect resident animals against the elements. State law

requires that animals not be exposed to "overheating or discomfort" and should be protected from the "direct rays of the sun." Animals in shelters should "remain dry during rain or snow." The revised statutes also provide the following stipulation regarding shelter from cold weather: "Shelter shall be provided for all dogs and cats kept outdoors when the ambient temperature falls below fifty degrees Fahrenheit. Sufficient clean bedding material or other means of protection from the weather elements shall be provided when the ambient temperature falls below the temperature to which a dog or cat is acclimated." Although inspectors did not observe the animals in winter, the condition of the structure and the lack of storage area implies that conditions are relatively similar in winter.

- On-site storage would be helpful, as well as the presence of more easily sanitized housing.

Inspectors were impressed with the following:

- The twice per day cleaning regimen
- The clearly enunciated five day holding period prior to transport for euthanasia or rescue
- The policy requiring spay/neuter by people that reclaim or adopt resident animals.

Realizing the deficiencies in staffing and funding, as well as the current economic situation in our state, LAWC understands the problems facing this shelter. LAWC may serve as a source of the following means of generating more assets for use in shelter business:

- Ideas on a licensing program to generate funds
- Suggestions for public/private partnerships, such as partnerships between local communities and humane organizations to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of shelters and the programs pursuant to shelters
- Information on prison programs that can serve to supplement or replace local shelters.

**RATING:**

☐ **Generally exceeds standards**

☐ **Meets standards**

☒ **Needs significant improvements to meet standard**

Brian Melius, DVM Date: 8-15-11
Chairman, Shelter Inspection Subcommittee
LAWC