

DATE 9/23/25 BY Ch

**Response to Grand Jury Report Form**

Report Title: Animal Services in Sonoma County: Separate and Not Equal – The Costs and Consequences of Decentralization.

Report Date: June 13, 2025

Response by: Gerard Giudice Title: Mayor

Agency/Department Name: City of Rohnert Park

**FINDINGS:**

[F1, F3-F10]

I (we) agree with the findings numbered: F1, F3-F10

I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the findings numbered: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Attach a statement specifying any portions of the findings that are disputed with an explanation of the reasons.)

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

[R1-R2; R4-R5]

- Recommendations numbered: \_\_\_\_\_ have been implemented.  
(Attach a summary describing the implemented actions.)
- Recommendations numbered: R2; and R4 have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.  
(Attach a timeframe for the implementation.)
- Recommendations numbered: \_\_\_\_\_ require(s) further analysis.  
(Attach an explanation and the scope and parameters of an analysis or study, and a timeframe for the matter to be prepared for discussion by the officer or director of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed, including the governing body of the public agency when applicable. ***This timeframe shall not exceed six months from the date of publication of the Grand Jury report.***)
- Recommendations numbered: R1 and R5 will not be implemented because they are not warranted or are not reasonable.  
(Attach an explanation.)

Date: 9/9/2025

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_



Number of pages attached: 1

(See attached PC Civil Grand Jury Response Requirements)

## **Response to Grand Jury on Animal Services in Sonoma County**

### City of Rohnert Park Response Summary of Responses

**Recommendations R1 – By November 1, 2025, the Board of Supervisors will direct DHS to establish an Animal Services Task Force comprising county, city, and shelter representatives to revisit the 2012 DHS Animal Services Report and recommend a governance structure for animal services that will: 1) provide county-wide oversight to ensure compliance with State Law; 2) standardize fees and engage a common licensing vendor to enhance public health and safety, licensing rates and revenue, and; 3) achieve economic efficiencies through shared resources.**

While the City of Rohnert Park agrees with the recommendation for the Board of Supervisors to direct DHS to establish an Animal Services Task Force, the responsibility to do so is not applicable to the City of Rohnert Park. If the Board of Supervisors follows through with this task, Rohnert Park will fully participate as recommended.

**Recommendation R2 – By January 1, 2026, each of Sonoma County's 9 cities will delegate one or more representatives to participate in the county-wide Animal Services Task Force convened by DHS.**

Upon the creation of an Animal Services Task Force, the City of Rohnert Park will delegate at least one representative to participate no later than January 1, 2026.

**Recommendation R4 – By May 1, 2026, the Board of Supervisors will direct DHS to launch a county-wide public information campaign in cooperation with the cities to explain the legal imperative and benefits of licensing pets. The campaign will commence no later than July 1, 2026.**

The City of Rohnert Park will work together with DHS to share and/or create informational campaigns regarding the importance and laws of pet licensing no later than July 1, 2026.

**Recommendation R5 - By November 1, 2025, each city contracting with North Bay Animal Services will inspect and evaluate the shelter condition, and evaluate the shelter operation and animal control services, to determine whether NBAS is complying with legal mandates and other terms of its contract.**

The City of Rohnert Park does not contract with North Bay Animal Services. Therefore, this recommendation does not apply to the City.