

August 7, 2015

Dear Oversight Committee Members:

We would like to thank Susan for proposing a meeting time with Dr. Nadler of August 18 to engage dog volunteers as full partners in the process of implementing the AHA report recommendations

We can see positive changes happening as a result of the AHA report, such as feeding from Kongs as an enrichment activity for the dogs. This simple change, along with other “quick fixes” already being implemented from the AHA task list, result in better conditions for the dogs. We look forward to helping address some of the concerns in the report, and are ready and willing to help apply other, positive, quick fixes.

However, we are also observing the implementation of task list items from Section 4.1 relating to much more complex issues. These appear to have already been implemented with no discussion by the Oversight Committee. As one example, recently several dogs who in the past would have been considered adoptable, were rejected at intake based upon treatable medical conditions. The decision to change standards of adoptability is an appropriate “needs discussion” topic by the committee. This is also why it is vital for us to have representation on the committee before these policies are implemented.

Again, we thank you for our continuing dialogue with the Oversight Committee and we look forward to having a representative on the committee as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Santa Barbara Shelter Dog Volunteers