



ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF ANIMAL WELFARE
CLOSES INVESTIGATION OF ACCUSATIONS AGAINST
HAPPY TAILS HUMANE SOCIETY
FINDING NO VIOLATIONS OF ANIMAL WELFARE ACT

*Department of Agriculture inspector Ron Settles
finds all animals to be “healthy and happy” and
finds the facility to be in good sanitary condition.*

Happy Tails Humane Society Board of Directors

Illinois Department of Agriculture’s Bureau of Animal Welfare conducted an inspection of Happy Tails Humane Society on October 21, 2015. This inspection followed allegations raised by an employee or employees of Advanced Animal Health Center, a local veterinary clinic which formerly provided services to the shelter. A Docket Findings Report was completed November 4, 2015, containing details of the inspection completed by Ron Settles.

Settles identified four concerns raised by the complainant: (1) that dogs were entering the facility from out of state without required health certificates; (2) that a dog named Mona may have gone longer without veterinarian care than was appropriate; (3) that sanitation in the facility was below standard; and (4) that animals were being adopted out of the shelter without being “screened for possible bad habits.”

As to the fourth allegation, Inspector Settles noted that while screening and testing “might be good practices,” such practices were not required by any regulation of the Bureau of Animal Welfare.

According to the Docket Findings Report, Settles’ inspection revealed the shelter was in good sanitary condition. He found that “Cat rooms are free of excess hair, litter trays were cleaned and rooms are in good repair. Dog kennels are clean, well constructed and odor free. Outside play areas are picked up and free of feces. Fences are well built with no holes or patch work. Dogs and cats have access to feed and water. Animals appear healthy and happy. I did not see any eye or nasal discharge, scratching, coughing, or any other signs of sick animals.”

Settles reported that a “review of the records reveal animals coming from out of state do have health certificates.”

The Docket Findings Report also details Settles’ findings regarding Mona, the dog mentioned specifically by the complainant:

“Director stated Mona came in from out of state on 7-19-15. Mona was observed to be depressed with

no appetite. Director stated dogs coming into a new environment often display this behavior. With time they adjust and learn to fit in. Ten days went by without Mona improving. Mona was then seen by the facility's veterinarian. That veterinarian had Mona in care for over a week. Happy Tails director tells me that veterinarian refused to reveal Mona's condition to him. The director took Mona out of that veterinarian's clinic with a police escort, Mona was then taken to another veterinarian where she was diagnosed with a collapsed lung an hour later. I saw Mona at the Happy Tails Facility this day. She was running and playing with facility volunteer members.”

The Docket Findings Report closes with the observation that no violations of the Animal Welfare Act were found.

Happy Tails Humane Society follows Guidelines for Standards of Care in Animal Shelters from The Association of Shelter Veterinarians. This group's standards are among the highest in shelter care. The shelter also follows guidelines from The Humane Society of the United States and the ASPCA. Happy Tails' business standards have been developed in part from its membership with The Society of Animal Welfare Administrators (SAWA). The Humane Society of the United States has visited Happy Tails Humane Society and remarked that we are a model shelter.

Happy Tails Humane Society welcomes the public to visit the shelter. Any of the shelter's 70 volunteers would be excited to share their amazing work with the animals with any interested visitor.