

Visalia Times Delta
Letter to the Editor
October 7, 1999

Feel free to title this letter:
"THE EMPEROR HAS NO CLOTHES"

Thank you for your Editorial in Monday's (10/4/99) newspaper regarding Grand Jury charges against Lindsay Animal Shelter. The Grand Jury did reveal that there seemed to be a "defined stonewalling by certain members or departments within the system" (Page 6-1999 Grand Jury Report) that attempted to prevent said Grand Jury from performing their obligations efficiently and factually.

LAS reports they that have a new improved self to unveil on Oct. 16. However, LAS can NEVER be brought up to acceptable standards under current management. People who operate a shelter should love animals, be delighted to place them into homes and happy to nurse the sick and injured back to health. The officials running LAS at this time have repeatedly proven that that they are motivated by something unrelated to the welfare of animals. Almost five years ago another Grand Jury found problems at LAS. Now, the new Grand Jury finds that not only do the SAME conditions exist, the mismanagement and cruelty have escalated. For example, LAS is still killing dogs with the heart shot while the animal is held in a stanchion. Some dogs choke to death or break their necks during the "procedure." The "heart shot" is particularly difficult to administer and a missed shot, which can go into the lung, is very painful to the animal. The standard humane method is to sedate the animal with a tranquilizer in a vein in the leg. After that has taken effect, then give the lethal shot into the same vein. Common decency dictates that humane euthanasia should be used on these animals. Of course, LAS officials will argue that cruelty is cheaper. Or they say they just need more money. Well, they're not fooling anybody. "The emperor has no clothes."

Chief Bert Garzelli and City Manager Bill Drennen have gone so far as to say that LAS is an Animal Control *facility* not a *humane shelter*, as if that is a valid excuse for not treating animals humanely and within the standards of the law. I'm sure that many excellent animal control facilities are offended by Garzelli's comments implying that all animal control facilities are as heinous and substandard as the one he runs.

Let's set the record straight! Garzelli, Saucedo and the Lindsay City Council DID NOT invite the shelter experts in to review LAS! Jeff Scheer, DVM, on behalf of himself and eight other veterinarians first contacted these people. These experts then contacted the city and offered their help. The "Good F.O.L.K.s" in the town of Lindsay contacted the humane organization "Political Animals" and brought them in.

The saga of the Lindsay Animal Shelter is in truth a war between good and evil. The intervention of Attorney General Bill Lockyer is the miracle we have been hoping for. He is committed to seeking justice for the powerless. Our gratitude to Attorney General Lockyer runs deep.