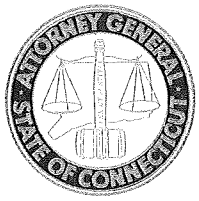
State of Connecticut

GEORGE C. JEPSEN
ATTORNEY GENERAL



Hartford

July 11, 2011

Gordon G. Willard, Executive Director
Connecticut Humane Society
701 Russell Road
Newington, Connecticut 06111

RE: Connecticut Humane Society -- Investigation

Dear Mr. Willard:

As you are aware, my office conducted an investigation into the handling of charitable funds by the Connecticut Humane Society ("CHS"). The investigation was spurred by complaints concerning the handling of charitable funds by CHS and the quality of care being given to the animals at CHS.

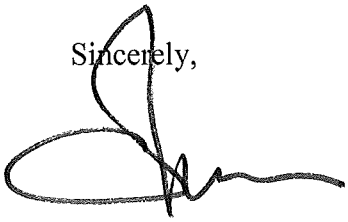
My office has now closed the investigation and will take no further action at this time. We found that all transactions between CHS and affiliates of its Board members were done at or below market value. And there was no evidence that CHS entered into any specific financial transaction that was not related to the accomplishment of its charitable purpose.

We are pleased with the changes that have been made by CHS and have a strong belief that those changes will continue to positively affect CHS's ability to fulfill its charitable mission in the future. More specifically, CHS has changed its bylaws, separating the roles of Executive Director and the Chairman of the Board of Directors and establishing term limits for Board members. Also, the implementation of a more robust conflict of interest policy (seeking competitive bids for any work or services for which a Board member seeks to provide work of services) will help CHS avoid any appearance of impropriety.

In addition, the creation of multi-person teams in each district to approve any euthanasia requests involving behavior issues and the hiring of an animal rescue coordinator and behavior department managers show CHS's renewed commitment to fulfilling its charitable goal of promoting humanity and kindness and preventing cruelty to man and animals.

Thank you for your cooperation with the investigation. Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact Assistant Attorney General Gary W. Hawes at (860) 808-5020 or at gary.hawes@ct.gov.

Sincerely,



GEORGE JEPSEN

GJ/pas