Written Comments for

Regular Public Comment Section

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CEO_BoardFeedback

From: Alain Tesserot <at040y@protonmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 9, 2025 10:11 AM
To: CEO_BoardFeedback
Subject: Obstruction of justice and tempering with the legal process 04-09-2025

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of San Mateo County. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, do not click links, open attachments or reply.

My name is Alain Tesserot phone 305-794-1767. A false battery complaint was filed against me and now there is an attempt to get me to leave town.

Criminal lawyers I contact (Dean Johnson, Marc Pelta, Christopher Morales) are being contacted in what looks like an attempt to remove legal representation. The court ordered me to fill in a request for government paid legal services while my attorney was not present even though I had an attorney (Dennis Edgemon) on record.

I contacted the DA's office bureau of investigations (https://www.smcgov.org/da/bureau-investigation) by phone and was told they would not take a complaint and that my attorney needed to file it for me. My Attorney Dennis Edgemon is refusing any contact with me either via email or the phone.

CEO_BoardFeedback

From: Sukhmani Purewal
Sent: Monday, April 21, 2025 9:34 AM
To: CEO_BoardFeedback
Subject: FW: Domestic Rabbit Overpopulation Crisis

Dear Mr PUrewal and Ms Golestan

I am contacting you on Easter Sunday–a day with a focus on the triumph of good over evil and the promise of new life–and I want you to please keep these two aspects in mind as you read this letter.

I am writing to you about an issue that will definitely not be top of your mind, and while I do not think it is the most important issue to Californians, it is an issue that can be improved upon quickly and without negative consequences: **the Welfare of Domestic Rabbits**.

Altogether, the result of humans **breeding and abandoning pet rabbits has cost taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars** in costs to shelters to spay and neuter, then to care for these rabbits until they are adopted. Actions, like passing AB 485 in 2017, were a reprieve that was hugely helpful. However, due to the negative actions of Bay Area residents since 2020, again shelters and rescues are at a breaking point.

The only way to prevent domestic rabbit overpopulation in the Bay Area is to spay and neuter rabbits with urgency. The main Bay Area shelters–San Francisco, Alameda, Peninsula Humane, San Jose–and all rescues require that rabbits be spayed or neutered prior to adoption.

There is a major gap that results in rabbits at shelters still giving birth to litters: There is a hold period of 5 days at these no-kill shelters during which rabbits are treated for illnesses but are not spayed or neutered in case an owner reclaims them. Given the fast gestation period for rabbits, that would result in at least 1 in 6 pregnant rabbits giving birth in the shelter. Each rabbit born will require shelter resources until adoption and to be spayed or neutered, again at cost to the taxpayer.

I propose two solutions that I would like to discuss with you:

1. **Provide emergency spays to pregnant rabbits within the 5 day hold period**. An emergency spay is an abortion that protects the life of that pregnant rabbit which would otherwise have to give birth in a shelter. Emergency spays are a humane practice that is not taken lightly by vets, but is necessary.
2. **Allow rescue organizations and individual citizens who catch feral rabbits to turn over rabbits to the shelter after they have undergone an emergency spay** (and paid for that procedure out of their own pocket!). Currently, the act of performing an emergency spay legally means that the person who caught a feral rabbit is the owner and would be abandoning that animal to the shelter instead of finding it as a stray. Over time, shelters will refuse rabbits coming from volunteers who catch feral rabbits because the shelter system will indicate that they are repeatedly abandoning animals.

Additionally, a holistic review of all Bay Area shelters' requirements for spaying/neutering rabbits should be conducted to get a better understanding of how the issue of rabbit overpopulation is affecting each county and jurisdiction. Acquiring statistics on stray rabbits that are reclaimed by owners within 5 days would also be valuable to understand whether the option of emergency spaying during that hold period is likely to impact an owner.

The welfare of domestic rabbits in the Bay Area is both a humanitarian and environmental issue, and I care deeply about both. The facts are:

1. Rabbits have been domesticated for over 1400 years. The domestic pet rabbit comes from the European Cottontail.

2. Rabbits that live as pets inside a home can live 10-12 years while rabbits that live as pets outside have a lifespan of 3-5 years.
3. **Domestic rabbits that are feral (not being cared for by humans) live 1-2 years. Many babies born to feral rabbits do not make it to 1 year old.**
4. 95% of rabbits purchased as Easter gifts do not make it to 1 year old.
5. A single pair of rabbits gives birth to 5-6 rabbits every 28-31 days. Rabbits get pregnant immediately after giving birth so in a year a single pair will produce around 60 babies per year.
6. Female rabbits reach reproductive maturity by 4 months. Rabbits are obviously known for breeding (like rabbits), and **the number of rabbits from a single pair increases exponentially.**
7. Feral domestic rabbits, similar to cats and dogs, do not have any wild counterparts they can interbreed with. They will remain as a distinct population.
8. Feral domestic rabbits compete for resources with wild rabbits and hares, including the black-tailed Jackrabbit and the brush rabbit.
9. Feral domestic rabbits dig deep burrows which damage people's yards–this is due to their European Cottontail lineage. Wild rabbits and hares native to the Bay Area do not dig burrows–they live in shrubs and dig small depressions to rest and hide in.
10. There are numerous disease considerations that put wild populations at risk. RHDV, a rabbit ebola-type disease, is the most consequential.

Since 2020, the rabbit population in Bay Area shelters and rescues has exploded due to COVID-era restrictions on spaying and neutering and due to people abandoning the pets that they adopted when they were working from home. At the same time, the feral rabbit population has also exploded from illegal rabbit dumping. Local news, including Mercury News and ABC7 have reports on this issue. Unlike feral dogs, rabbits do not endanger humans. Unlike feral cats, trap neuter release programs do not exist for rabbits and would not be applicable to feral rabbits that cannot survive in the wild.

I believe in our system of laws. As a California representative, you have the power to make a difference and be a force for good. You will give new life to feral rabbits that would otherwise be left to suffer and die. Please contact me for more information on this issue. I want to work with you to make meaningful change.

Sincerely,
Katherine Walker

Bay Area Resident of 11 years
865 567 8093
kwalker110@gmail.com