

July 9, 2009

2309 Sutter Trail
S. Lake Tahoe, CA 96150
530-542-2715 (h)/ 530-318-4756 (cell)
stenseemann@yahoo.com

Jim Wassner
Sr. Code Enforcement Officer
Code Enforcement Unit
Development Services Department
2850 Fairlane Court
Placerville, CA 95667

Dear Mr. Wassner:

I am writing to request either dismissal of the Notice to Correct RE: C#192902 or an administrative hearing regarding this notice. I do not feel I am in violation of County Ordinances 17.14.060 and 17.56.020 (H) as these ordinances do not specifically mention domestic fowl and an inspection of my property on June 4, 2009 found that I do not have a stable.

My family has enjoyed keeping pet chickens, teaching local children about them at our home and at visits to schools, being a small part of the greening of our society and sharing our recognition of El Dorado County's agricultural heritage as an important producer of the food we consume. We live on a small parcel of the formerly 2200 acre Trimmer Ranch which was a significant part of our country's agricultural expanse before it was rezoned and converted to residential use in the 1970's and 1980's. We believe that small areas of land do not need to be exclusively used for maintaining groomed lawns and are well suited to growing food and raising chickens. We are encouraged that an ever increasing number of cities are permitting and encouraging the raising of chickens in small backyard coops and are particularly pleased that Carson City, NV has become one of the most recent cities to join this forward thinking and environmentally beneficial group. As in Carson City, we would like to be able to celebrate our respectable activity being given official approval.

We eagerly await your response to our request.

Sincerely,



Sten Seemann
Project Manager, Yonker Construction Co.
Volunteer and Team Leader, El Dorado Sheriff Search and Rescue

RECEIVED

JUL 13 2009

**EL DORADO COUNTY
BUILDING DEPARTMENT**

Livestock coming out of closet in Carson City

BY SANDI HOOVER

NEVADA APPEAL

Small livestock all over Carson City are coming out of the closet after officials put the final stamp of approval this week on an updated animal ordinance.

"Oh, I'm so happy," said Anne Macquarie, who keeps one Araucana chicken on a residential lot in northwest Carson City. "She's really just a pet now because she doesn't lay eggs anymore, and I was worried, because there was no doubt in my mind that Snowball was against the law."

On Thursday, the Carson City Board of Supervisors passed a second reading of amendments to city code that allow residents to keep up to two pot-bellied pigs and four female chickens or ducks.

After the revised ordinance passed unanimously — with Mayor Bob Crowell abstaining — Supervisor Shelly Aldean called out, "Welcome home, Arnold!"

Crowell came under fire during his mayoral campaign last year after Animal Services received a complaint that he was harboring an illegal pig.

The political hopeful was compelled to find a new home for his aging pot-bellied pig, Arnold, which now resides with an undisclosed animal rescue group.

Animal Services Director Pat Wiggins had said the previous ordinance was not aggressively enforced unless someone called in with a specific complaint.

Macquarie said that despite her illicit hen, she is not a known scofflaw.

"I might go over the speed limit occasionally, but that's the only thing illegal I do," she said.

She believes the change is a step in the right

direction toward getting people to eat more organically and that it will also help children to gain a better understanding of their agricultural heritage.

"So many of our kids have no idea where food comes from, and throughout the world, people use eggs as a cheap, high-quality protein," she said.

Another resident, lawyer Joan Wright, confessed her crime to the board of supervisors Thursday after addressing them on a planning issue. As she was leaving the podium, she turned and thanked them for making her pot-bellied pig legal.

Wright, who also lives on the west side of Carson, said after the meeting that "Little Richard" is a member of the family. They got him when he was 6 weeks old and he is now 17.

"I had thought throughout all this that it would be nice if he could live long enough to be legal. It would have broken my husband's heart to lose him," Wright said.

The ordinance also updates a number of other key issues such as the leash law; vaccinations for dogs and cats; tags, permits and fees; restraining animals; animal sanitation; dogs running at large; female dogs or cats running at large while in heat; conditions for release of impounded cats and dogs; changes for ferret permits; keeping animals possessing vicious or dangerous tendencies; setting rabies control authority; and poisoning animals, butchering, harming or inhumane killing of animals.

A copy of the revised ordinance is available at the city's Web site: www.carson-city.nv.us under Board of Supervisors and Agenda with Supporting Materials, Item 12.