

**BOS Agenda for May 15, 2007**  
**Agenda Item #45**

**Discussion Points for Consideration of Comic Relief Proposal:**

For over 20 years, the mission of Comic Relief, Inc., a 501 (c)(3), has been to unite the comedy community behind some of society's most relevant causes and pressing needs. With its new initiative, **Comic Relief WILD**, the organization will assist in the ongoing effort to foster animals abandoned during Hurricane Katrina and help support animal rescue operations in times of natural and man made disasters worldwide. Comic Relief desires to establish a relationship with El Dorado County in order to assist Comic Relief in meeting its goals. In order to accomplish this, Comic Relief and the County will enter into an agreement outlining the mutually agreed upon details of the relationship, which will include much of which is outlined below.

Regarding the Katrina animals, Comic Relief proposes to arrange and pay for the transport of cats and dogs from a shelter in New Orleans (TBD) to the El Dorado County Animal Shelter (SLT Shelter), located in Meyers, California. Only animals suitable for adoption will be transferred to Meyers. Only one animal at a time would be sent to the SLT Shelter. Comic Relief will cover the expense of spaying, micro chipping, and medical evaluation by a veterinarian in New Orleans before the animal is transported. Once in Tahoe, if the animal is deemed unadoptable or unacceptable by SLT Shelter staff, it will be sent back to the shelter in New Orleans at Comic Relief's expense. A formalized agreement between the designated New Orleans shelter and/or Comic Relief and El Dorado County will be entered into regarding the transferring of animals to the SLT Animal Shelter. Agreement will include but not be limited to the following: agreed upon process for transferring of animals, agreed upon condition of the animal prior to transfer, process for sending an unadoptable or unacceptable animal back.

So as not to disturb the day-to-day workings of the SLT Shelter, Comic Relief proposes to house only one Katrina animal at the Shelter at any given time. Only after an animal has been placed in an appropriate home will another be brought in. The County proposes that all animals designated to be transferred shall have prior approval of the SLT Shelter supervisor. Under no circumstances should a Katrina animal be euthanized, unless Comic Relief agrees in writing that it is in the best interests of the animal. Comic Relief would cover all expenses associated with the medical care of the animal incurred in transit and at the SLT Shelter. Katrina animals would be adopted out thru the normal adoption process employed by the SLT Shelter; the County will impose and retain all associated and appropriate adoption fees. The animals housing and care, adoption process and associated fees will be outlined and clarified in the agreement.

Comic Relief will place a volunteer to work out of a designated office at the SLT Shelter to help coordinate the adoption process, which will also include utilizing Comic Relief's high profile public image to interface with local and national media bringing attention to the continual plight of the Katrina animals. Such awareness will also benefit animals already housed at El Dorado County Animal Shelters, as the campaign will attract the public to come in and view all the animals housed in the facilities. The Comic Relief volunteer will also be developing fundraising ideas to help support animal rescue operations in times of natural and man made disasters worldwide.

RECEIVED  
MAY 14 PM

Comic Relief will defer to the Shelter's expertise relative to the Katrina animals whenever possible. County proposes that Comic Relief notify the County about any significant Comic Relief mention of the shelter or press event to be held at the SLT Shelter. An agreement would clarify that El Dorado County will not be liable for actions by the volunteer who will remain an employee of Comic Relief. The agreement would also clarify the day to day working relationship between the SLT Shelter and the Comic Relief volunteer. Comic Relief would be requested to indemnify the County for its actions relative to the scope of the agreement.

Comic Relief's staff would be housed in a designated office located in a converted garage at the Shelter complex. At Comic Relief's expense the area will be converted into a workable office, with the basic amenities necessary for its function: telephone and fax lines, internet access, electrical outlets, heating, private entrance with signage, mail drop, etc. It will be Comic Relief's responsibility to provide telephone, fax machine, computer, copy machine, desk and chairs, file cabinets, etc. Access to a bathroom will be available during normal business hours. No animals would be kept or held in the office space. The agreement with Comic Relief will include clarification of the lease arrangement plus County insurance requirements. The County proposes providing this space for Comic Relief's volunteer for a commitment of three years with the possibility of a mutually agreed upon two year extension if it is felt that the relationship continues to benefit both parties. After that time, Comic Relief and the Shelter can discuss future arrangements.

Comic Relief's Executive Director will be discussing with the Comic Relief Board of Directors on May 17, 2007 a donation of either \$118,532 (low end upgrades) or \$154,466 (high end upgrades) to be made to the Shelter, to be used specifically to update its kennel for the arrival of these most welcomed Louisiana guests, as well as its local animal inhabitants. The funds will be primarily used to remove a large concrete block in the interior of the facility that sits under the kennel area and to fully rebuild the kennels to a more efficient design and layout than in the current plans. The current funding for the project does not include this work only a remodeling of the existing kennels.

Together, Comic Relief and El Dorado County will be an excellent example of how a unit of local government and a non-profit agency can join forces to help out the animal victims of Hurricane Katrina. Comic Relief is thrilled to be a part of this innovative project and is looking forward to developing an ongoing relationship with El Dorado County and its SLT Animal Shelter, especially in the area of future disaster response.