

Dear Board of Supervisors,

I am writing in regards to outstanding invoices for animal control services which The Grace Foundation provided to El Dorado County. At the request of El Dorado County, Grace entered a contract to provide services for all their large animal needs. The Grace Foundation took on the burden of the animal's care after the stray hold period and during the times of prosecution to ensure that no animal was euthanized. This was not only thousands of dollars in savings to El Dorado County, but it also saved animals lives. The contract apparently expired in January 2011, at which time Grace continued the care of the animals that had been brought to the premises during the actual contract period. During this time, Grace was not informed by anyone from El Dorado County or animal control that we wouldn't be paid for continuing services on said animals. In good faith, Grace continued services for those animals as there was no question that the services would not be paid for. Had there been a question about payment, animal control had an obligation not only to inform Grace that payment for services would be terminated, but to remove the animals from the property of Grace. Instead, Grace continued care for the animals as they remained on The Grace Foundation property.

In June 2011, Grace took possession of these animals, as they had always done before, when no other option for the animal was found. For over a year, we had been working with animal control and the accounting department to get paid for these services. NOT ONCE during this time did any of the parties that we spoke to indicate that we would not receive payment. In fact it was quite the opposite. While we continued to receive different excuses for the delay, we were always told that we would receive payment since there was no question that the services requested by animal control were provided. In September of 2012, we again worked with your accounting department and were again assured on numerous occasions that they were working on getting the payment to us. For months we have explained to both the county and to animal control how dire our situation is, as we are currently in litigation with Wells Fargo and Bank of America, and how desperately we need the money to be able to continue to care for the more than 250 animals we have at the ranch.

We were told in late 2012 that El Dorado County would not be able to pay this until after the new year and although we are in desperate need of the money, we waited until after the 1st of January to request it again. In February 2013, we informed Henry Razinski and Lori Walker that we simply could not wait any longer. We were told then that the earliest we could get on the agenda for the board meeting was March 26th, 2013 and they would be able to process the check immediately after that, which we were relying on for feed and vet care. On March 26th and 27th I left numerous messages to see when we could pick up the check and did not receive any return calls from Lori Walker. After not receiving any information, I finally contacted Don Ashton and was informed that it was not on the agenda for the March 26th meeting but that he would be able to put it on the April 2, 2013 agenda. He also was extremely helpful and stated he would be able to expedite the payment once the board signed off. On Friday March 29th, we received word that after two years of waiting for payment, someone in accounting is stating that we are not entitled to this money because it is after the contract expired.

We value our relationship with El Dorado County and while It was not our decision to end our contract, we trusted the word of your El Dorado County employees that we would be taken care of. We have waited more than 2 years and have been more than patient in an effort to keep the relationship in tact, but we can be patient no more, We currently have approximately 35 El Dorado County horses that we took possession of during the time in contract and now we are in jeopardy of not being able to feed these animals and hte more than 200 that reside at Grace. If in fact these services were not going to be paid for at contract expiration, It was the responsibility of animal control to then remove the animals from The Grace Foundation property. This never happened, nor was there any communication stating that services were no longer required, therefore Grace continued to care for the animals. We are counting on receiving our check for services provided on Wednesday April 3. 2013. If this is not able to take place, then unfortunately further action will be necessary on our part in order to care for the animals that we currently have. We hope this clears up any miscommunication and we are looking forward to an immediate resolution.

Sincerely,

Beth DeCaprio