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> DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS Solid Waste / Recycling / Hazardous Waste JEROME WYCHE Solid Waste / Recycling Coordinator

Caboodle Ranch Inspection

December 6, 2010

On the day of December the 6th 2010 I visited Craig Grant at his cat sanctuary located at 711 Benchmark Drive in Lee Florida otherwise known as Caboodle Ranch. I was there to conduct a routine inspection of the grounds and adjacent facilities that harbored most of the cats. My first impressions of the grounds were that they were neat and clean and had been freshly raked. There was fresh running water for the cats to drink and fresh food in the bowls for the cats to eat. I announced my arrival to Grant who immediately led me to the new construction that was going on behind the infirmary. There was a new building going up that would serve as the leukemia positive cat shelter. It was donated and built by a gentleman from Texas. The construction was about 45% complete on the building. Grant also showed me a couple of invoices for two more buildings one for an infirmary, and one for an office/living space for the cats. These would replace the older buildings that were serving this function.

Craig then took me into the infirmary. The first thing I noticed was the smell of bleach. He mentioned that the infirmary had recently been cleaned and scrubbed. I also noted the ventilation was adequate and he had good heating for the sick cats. I noticed about 20-25 cats in the sick ward. Some were obviously sick and others seemed healthy.

We next visited the office area. It was well heated and contained about 30+ sleeping cats. I noticed the fact that all of these cats were cohabitating peacefully together with no visible signs of fighting or aggression. There was some debris on the floor but this was mainly due to the abundance of food bowls as well as kitty litter trays that were scattered around the office. The area was sufficiently clean given the number of cats in the space.

Next we visited the trailer in the back of the property. It is one that will be replaced with the new building project. Craig opened the door and I noticed it was well heated and there was about 10-15 cats lounging in this trailer. Some seemed afraid when he opened the door but the majority was calm and relaxed. I also observed some extra holding cages for new arrivals being stored in the trailer.

Craig then led me to the very back of the property where the outside kennels are. This is where the new arrivals are contained when they first arrive so they can be introduced to the area slowly with the hopes they will not run off when turned loose into general population. I immediately noticed large containers full of fresh drinking water that was dripping from water lines and spigots. Craig has also provided heat for the kennels and has used tarps to insulate the facility. Food was also in abundance. The paths and trails all seemed to have been raked and cleaned throughout the sanctuary. I didn't see any litter, trash or debris anywhere on the property.

Next I concluded my inspection with a look at the large litter boxes that were constructed about a year and a half ago. They looked clean and freshly raked and there was no odor coming from them. I then told Craig that I appreciated his cooperation and I look forward to the next visit. He walked me to the front gate and we parted ways.

Conclusion

I feel confident that having inspected this operation and seeing with my own eyes the amount of work and dedication Craig has put in for the well being of his animals that he is complying in everyway to make his sanctuary a legitimate haven for these animals. There were no enforceable violations going. On the contrary, I feel that Craig is giving his animals an excellent level of care and concern for their well being and comfort. Of the 200-250 cats that I saw I only noticed a small percentage (about 10% or 20-25 cats) that were physically showing signs of sickness (sneezing, coughing, skinny, runny eyes etc.) the rest of the cats were fat and seemed healthy. This is certainly an improvement from previous visits. It was also brought to my attention that Dr. Lewis is providing treatment and vaccinations to those sick cats as well as prevention for the rest of the herd.

My findings did notice some areas for improvement:

- Better quarantine for sick cats so that they cannot spread sickness to the healthy cats. This situation will be better remedied when construction on the new sick ward is completed.
- 2) More man power to keep up with the growing number of animals that are being taken in. Craig did mention that he was going to put some people on the pay roll so as to have reliable and steady help.
- 3) The temporary halting of taking in more cats until reliable steady help can be obtained. It would be the advice from this Department for Craig to take care of the cats he already has and not take on anymore until he has more help.

It should be noted that this was a scheduled meeting. Due to the busy nature of caring for so many animals Craig's time is valuable and all considerations for his time was taken into account. Craig was pleasant and understanding and eager to show off his hard work. I left feeling confident that Craig was doing all he could with what he has to the best of his abilities.

Jamie Willoughby

Madison County Animal Control

December 7, 2010