

Okaloosa County News Release

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PAWS Audit Topic of July 31 Workshop

A staff workshop is scheduled for July 31, 2008, at 6:00 p.m., to discuss recent audit findings concerning the animal control contract with the Panhandle Animal Welfare Society (PAWS). The workshop will be held in the Commission Conference room (3rd floor), at 1804 Lewis Turner Boulevard in Ft. Walton Beach. The public is invited to attend.

PAWS is audited annually by a certified accountant firm which provides a copy of that audit to the county. The County Clerk of Court's office recently began a thorough internal audit of PAWS' operations and processes, including the handling of fines and fees, to insure that all laws and statutes are followed. Suggestions for improved processes will likely be a result of this audit as well.

In 1994 the County contracted with PAWS to provide animal control. PAWS has a board of directors that oversees and guides the staff members at PAWS. This board includes three officers and nine other professionals from local businesses and organizations. In addition to their oversight and direction, the County's Assistant County Administrator and staff respond to questions, concerns and issues related to the animal control contract and the Animal Services Division's handling of that contract.

For more information, visit www.okaloosaf.com or call 850-651-7105 or 689-5007. PAWS may be contacted at 243-1525.

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