



ATTORNEY GENERAL GEORGE JEPSEN

ATTORNEY GENERAL CLOSES INVESTIGATION INTO CONNECTICUT HUMANE SOCIETY

For immediate release

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HARTFORD – Attorney General George Jepsen has closed an investigation into the handling of charitable funds by the Connecticut Humane Society and will take no further action at this time against the Society.

“We found that all transactions between CHS and affiliates of its Board members were done at or below market value. And there was no evidence that CHS entered into any specific financial transaction that was not related to the accomplishment of its charitable purpose,” Jepsen wrote Monday in a letter to Gordon G. Willard, executive director of the society, based in Newington.

The investigation, began in February, 2009, was prompted by complaints concerning the Society’s handling of charitable funds and the quality of care being given to the animals in its facilities. An interim report about the investigation was issued in March, 2010.

“We are pleased with the changes that have been made by CHS and have strong belief that those changes will continue to positively affect CHS’s ability to fulfill its charitable mission in the future,” Jepsen wrote. He thanked the Society for cooperating with the investigation.

Among those changes were new bylaws that separate the roles of executive director and chairman of the board of directors; establish term limits for board members and include a stricter conflict of interest policy, requiring competitive bids for any work or services that a board member seeks to provide.

CHS has also hired an animal rescue coordinator and department managers to provide better oversight of animal behavior concerns. It has also created multi-person teams in each of the Society’s districts to review any euthanasia requests because of animal behavior.

Assistant Attorney General Gary W. Hawes handled the investigation for the Office of the Attorney General.

View the entire letter to the [Connecticut Humane Society](#) – (PDF-137KB)

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