

January 12, 2018

Dear Oregon Coast Humane Society Members,

Thank you for your membership. Over the past several months, the Board of Directors has been working to determine the extent of members' rights in the organization. A group of members brought to the attention of the current Board their concern that members have a right to elect the Board of Directors. In practice, the Board of Directors was not elected by members for many years. Following that practice, the current Board of Directors also was not elected by members, but was appointed by the Board.

The issue of members' rights was referred to the Oregon Department of Justice this past fall. In order to analyze the issue, the Department of Justice requested corporate records of Oregon Coast Humane Society. In November, the Board produced over 3,000 pages in response to the request. After review, the Department of Justice determined that the Oregon Coast Humane Society was established as a membership organization. Therefore, its members have a right to elect the Board of Directors.

The Department of Justice has requested the Board develop a plan to transition the organization back to membership elections, whereby members will elect the Board of Directors. The plan must be approved by the Department of Justice.

During this interim time, the Board of Directors will cease holding monthly public meetings. The Board informed the Department of its plan and the Department did not object. We will, instead, focus our efforts on transitioning the organization. Once a plan for membership elections has been approved by the Department of Justice, we will provide that information to you. We hope to have this information to you soon.

It continues to be a privilege to serve this organization. We thank you for your patience during this time of transition and for your continued support of our mission to rescue, care for, and find responsible, loving, permanent homes for homeless and at-risk dogs and cats; to advance the goal of a no-kill community; to promote the principal of a lifetime commitment to our pets; and to provide spay-neuter and education programs to the public.

Sincerely,

Oregon Coast Humane Society Board of Directors