

Dear [Insert name of Public Officials]:

My name is INSERT YOUR NAME and I am a resident of INSERT NAME OF YOUR BOROUGH or MUNICIPALITY.

I am writing to you today to express my concern about our animal control contract and the manner in which animals and citizens are treated by **Berger Blanc inc.**

An animal shelter, or Municipal animal care and control facility should be a safe haven for animals in need and a resource for people in the community. Furthermore, it should not benefit from or contribute to the overpopulation of companion animals.

I am concerned that **Berger Blanc inc.**

- does not work with a licensed veterinarian on a daily basis; consequently animals do not receive urgent medical care nor are they seen by a veterinarian regardless of their medical condition;
- does not take all appropriate action to ensure that animals brought to the shelter are checked for all currently acceptable methods of identification and does not make every reasonable attempt to reunite the animal with its owner: complaints from individuals indicate that Berger Blanc inc. does not systematically verify the presence of ID tags or other identification on the animals that it collects or receives nor do they use a scanner for microchips on all animals upon arrival;
- does not work with rescue groups or other shelters and does not take all necessary steps to ensure there are no other reasonable alternatives for placing an animal before euthanizing them;
- performs euthanasia by way of injection and the staff performing mass euthanasia receive little or no training on animal health, handling or behavior;
- provides no accountability regarding the fate of the animals which are entrusted to them and has no mechanism to trace the fate of each individual animal that it collects or receives nor does it openly share statistics regarding euthanasia rate, number of adoptions, reclamations and transfers etc;
- is not within a reasonable distance from our community nor are they accessible by reasonable means of public transportation; consequently traveling there and back by public transport can take up to 4 (four) hours or more;
- sells dogs and cats without spaying or neutering them, therefore contributing to the overpopulation problem by permitting owners to

choose to reproduce their pets and also assures for continued business for themselves.

As a tax paying citizen whose tax dollars go towards the Municipal animal control contract I am asking that the Municipality terminate the contract with **Berger Blanc Inc.** and entrust the contract to an organization that values both services to residents and the welfare of animals, and places those above commercial profits.

I am asking that my tax dollars be used to provide effective animal care and control services in my community. In particular, I ask that you ensure that our animal control contract requires, as a minimum, that the supplier of animal control services in our community:

- Works with a licensed veterinarian on a daily basis and ensures that animals receive urgent medical care as needed;
- Euthanizes all animals exclusively by lethal injection of sodium pentobarbital in the most humane and least stressful manner possible by personnel trained in animal health and euthanasia techniques;
- Takes a proactive approach to reuniting lost or stray animals with their owners and upon reception of any animal, verifies without delay the presence of any identification and uses all means available to locate and contact the owner of any animal identified and publishes images of stray animals within 24 hours of arrival;
- Keeps records regarding intake, euthanasia, adoption, reclamation and transfer rates of animals and ensures the fate of each individual animal is traceable and reports this information regularly to the borough/municipality as well as to the public;
- Takes all reasonable steps to attempt to find homes for adoptable animals and prioritizes adoption by working with other reputable shelters or non-profit rescue groups;
- Sells, adopts or gives animals solely as COMPANION animals, maintains flat and reasonable adoption fees/ sale prices for all animals available for adoption and sterilizes all cats and dogs before or upon adoption and publishes images of animals available for adoption online;
- Provides appropriate protocols of sale, adoption or disposition of animals, showing that every reasonable effort has been made to prevent any form of exploitation of any animal it collects or receives;
- Is open outside of normal business hours for the public to interact with animals and maximize their chance of adoption;
- Is accessible by public transportation within a reasonable amount of time from the **municipality** and its services;

- Is proactive about companion animal overpopulation, does not benefit from a continued surplus of animals.

The end goal of all these basic demands is to change a system in which animals are eliminated for no reason and endure great suffering paid for by our tax dollars!

I ask that you use my tax dollars to proactively and effectively deal with animal issues and **(1)** end the **municipality's** current animal control contract with **Berger Blanc Inc.** **(2)** form an advisory committee to review the issue of animal control **(3)** revising the animal control contract to include the criteria described above and **(4)** refuse to contract out animal care and control services to for-profit organizations that recklessly kills animals and does not sterilize animals before adoption/sale **(5)** prohibit the sale of animals in pet stores in **municipality** to stop the vicious cycle of impulse purchasing of animals and overpopulation

I trust you will look into this matter and await your response.

Sincerely,
[**Your Name**]