

On 10/13/2009 12:03 PM, eanderson@co.slo.ca.us wrote:

Mr. Jensen,

Your inquiry is very timely as our IT staff and I just had a discussion regarding some of the specific data fields you requested this morning and some direction from you is needed.

First, we record jurisdictions of animal impounds but we do not actually capture a "Location" field. However, we do have a less specific "Area" field (eg. Main St. x Grand Ave. vs. 1234 Grand St.)

Second, because of the way our kennel data is captured, some aspects of the animal information are dynamic and the info provided in the requested report would not necessarily be reflective of the animal's status at the time of impound. That is, information specific to the impound - animal ID, intake date, outcome dates, outcome types, etc. - is captured within the kennel record and is thus static, reflecting the actual conditions / information at the time the record is created or updated. However, information which is retrieved from a record cross referenced by the kennel record would reflect the CURRENT information, rather than the information as it existed at the time of impound. Thus, if information in a cross referenced record was updated after the kennel record was closed and finalized, a report would yield the information as it exists today. This is most relevant with regards to information specific to individual animals.

Example: A 6 month old intact, male, unlicensed dog w/ ID# A123456 is impounded on 1/2/07 and redeemed by its owner on 1/5/07. Prior to release to the owner, they would be required to have the animal licensed but would not be required to have the dog altered. If the owner later had the dog neutered on 12/01/07 and renewed their license for a three year term. Pulling up the report today, this impound would reflect the accurate animal ID and intake / outcome dates and types. However, it would show the dog as being a neutered 2 year old male with a current license.

Of the fields you have requested, the following are most likely to be subject to this complication: SEX, YEARS_OLD, MONTHS_OLD, TAG_NO, and TAG_TYPE. In theory changes to some other animal specific information may be made after a kennel record is closed, but such changes would be likely to occur with any significant frequency. These would include: ANIMAL_TYPE, PRIMARY_COLOR, and PRIMARY_BREED.

Please advise:

- 1) If you would like the "Area" field substituted for "Location"
- 2) If you would still like the other above fields included with the understanding that they are not necessarily reflective of the animal's condition or circumstances at the time of impound or outcome.

I recognize this explanation may be somewhat confusing or convoluted; please call me for further clarification if necessary. Upon your response, I anticipate that we would be able to forward the competed version within the next few days.

Thanks,
E. Anderson

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