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## News

### Take an up-close look at a "drop box"

By Joe Johnson  
[jjohnson@HanfordSentinel.com](mailto:jjohnson@HanfordSentinel.com)

At the request of online bloggers on this Web site, this reporter traveled out to Kings County Animal Control to inspect the animal "drop boxes" that are causing lots of local controversy.

The phrase "drop box" is itself a bit of a misnomer, as it conjures up images of a mail box or library book return, where a drawer is opened, something is inserted, then when closed, the parcel descends down a ramp. This is not what you find at Animal Control.

Instead, the boxes are a series of large, metal lockers set into an archway in the side of the building, between the parking lot and the kennels. Standing roughly 6 feet high and maybe 4 feet across, there are eight containers available, each with accompanying chain and padlock to secure the animal(s) once inside.

Above the boxes is a wood sign featuring a smiling, cartoon dog, which reads, "Please do not put cats in the big boxes unless all other boxes are full. Large boxes are for large dogs. Thanks! Animal Control." The two larger boxes are on the bottom and are roughly the same size as one and a half of the regular boxes above, both in terms of width and height.

Each box has a rectangular opening cut into the front and back so the animal can receive light and air flow, though there doesn't appear to be anything regularly circulating cool air through the enclosure. The interior is also covered with a coarse material that prevents the animal from sitting on hot metal and is, presumably, easier to clean off at a later date.



Here's a look at the Animal Control drop boxes. (Joe Johnson/The Sentinel)

It doesn't appear that there is food or water available to the animal once inside, however, these could be placed in the boxes when Animal Control personnel leave for the weekend. When the Sentinel visited the location, it was only 3 p.m. on a weekday.

Next to the drop boxes is another sign that reads, "Animals turned into this shelter may be used for research purposes or to supply blood, tissue or other biological products."

So now you know.

The reporter can be reached at 583-2425.

(April 4, 2008)

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At the request of online bloggers on this Web site, reporter Joe Johnson traveled out to Kings County Animal Control to inspect the animal "drop boxes" that are causing lots of local controversy. He took photos and we posted them on our Web site under More Local News. The phrase "drop box" is itself a bit [...]

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