

**11-040-COM**

**TITLE: ANIMAL OWNERSHIP SUPPORT**

**PROPOSED BY: El Paso De Robles Grange #555**

**WHEREAS:** Existing law allows humane shelters, animal controls, rescues and other animal agencies working on the behalf of law enforcement to impose fees and liens to cover the cost of animal seizure and care before any formal accusation or judicial proceedings, including the laying of actual charges, are begun; and

**WHEREAS:** Existing and current law allows animal owners to be threatened with tremendous debt and property withheld until the payment of all costs associated with any animal action are paid; and

**WHEREAS:** We hold this action-reaction to be the same as extortion; therefore be it

**RESOLVED:** The California State Grange seeks laws or regulations that require all humane shelters, animal control agencies, rescue agencies and other animal agencies working on the behalf of law enforcement to bear their own expenses. Only once proven guilty should costs be charged to the guilty party; if found innocent, the acting agency shall bear all expenses. Only under judicial approval shall costs then be recovered through liens, charges, and compensation for their actual expenses in the action; and be it further

**RESOLVED:** That the California State Grange requires that in the interests of constitutional justice regarding the taking of property without compensation and the enforcement of regulations and laws [e.g. SB 917 (Animal Abuse, Lieu, 2011) and AB 1117 (Animal Abuse: penalties, Smyth, 2011)], no animal ownership title shall change hands until the lawful proceedings of justice are complete; and be it further

**RESOLVED:** That the California State Grange urges that costs incurred by the actions undertaken by agencies in the enforcement of animal abuse statutes shall be the responsibility of the acting agency; and be it further

**RESOLVED:** That the CSG will undertake to amend or repeal laws and bills which fail to require animal agency accountability [e.g. SB 917 (Animal Abuse, Lieu, 2011) and AB 1117 (Animal Abuse: penalties, Smyth, 2011)].