

Kayleen Ungar
Bakersfield, CA

October 13, 2026

Kern County Board of Supervisors
1115 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Dear Board:

Enclosed is a copy of a social media post from last week, which represents a multitude of similar posts every week here in Kern County. Kern County must do better for the animals in its community. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Kayleen J. Ungar

BY ORDER OF THE BD/SUPV

Referred To _____

Copies Furnished each Supervisor
CAO, Animal Services

Date 10-19-26

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

By Michelle Fagan, Deputy

LETTER SUBMITTED TO KC BOARD OF
SUPERVISORS - PLEASE FEEL FREE TO
SHARE OR EMAIL.

6:30 AM. October 8, 2026: I was out feeding
on a stretch of road I call "Death Row" when I
came across a male German Shepherd lying
twisted in the dirt on the side of the road. At
first, I thought I was about to scan another
dead dog.

But then he lifted his head, looked directly at
me, and sighed.

I fell to my knees in tears.

I named him Diesel.

In that moment, he wasn't just another stray.
He was a living, breathing soul who was
suffering, who had been abandoned to fend
for himself, and who deserved so much more
than the cruel fate that awaited him.

KC Animal Control was contacted, and an
officer responded to take him. Diesel had
suffered a broken back. His injuries were
catastrophic, and he was humanely

catastrophic, and he was humanely euthanized.

Diesel's suffering is over. But the crisis that put him on that road is not.

DIESEL IS GONE. BUT DIESEL IS ONLY ONE.

ONE of countless abandoned, injured, neglected, and unwanted animals we encounter while out feeding three times a week.

ONE of the many innocent lives that will never make the headlines.

ONE more victim of a crisis that continues without meaningful, lasting much needed solutions.

How many more must suffer before enough is finally enough?

How many more dogs must be dumped, starved, injured, or left to die before YOU recognize the urgency of this crisis?

How many more Diesels must lie broken on the side of a road before YOU decide to uphold the law?

I am tired of excuses.

I am tired of excuses.

I am tired of empty promises.

I am tired of sympathy without action.

Our animals don't need another speech about "how much we care". They need policies that work, responsible leadership, enforcement, accountability, and measurable results.

ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS.

The Kern County Board of Supervisors has an opportunity to confront this crisis with the urgency it demands and to demonstrate what meaningful leadership on animal welfare should look like; not just for Kern County, but as an example for communities across California.

Because this is not just about stray dogs. It's about suffering that could be prevented. It's about responsibility. It's about the value we place on innocent lives that have no voice in the decisions that determine their fate. And it's about taxpayers who deserve to see their resources put toward meaningful, measurable solutions.

Diesel deserved better.
Every abandoned animal deserves better.
And the people of Kern County deserve
leadership that treats this crisis as the serious
public concern it is.

I cannot erase what happened to Diesel.
I cannot give him the life he should have had.
But I can tell his story.
I can make sure his suffering is not reduced to
another statistic, another case number,
another dog forgotten on the side of a road.

His name was Diesel. He was alive when I
found him. He looked at me. And I will not
forget him.

Rest easy, sweet Diesel. YOU WERE NOT
JUST ANOTHER STRAY. YOU WERE DIESEL.



#hisnamewasdiesel
#StopDumpingDogs
#stopanimalcruelty
#stopanimalabbuse



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