

[http://www.pe.com/localnews/corona/stories/PE\\_News\\_Local\\_cward19.e228.html](http://www.pe.com/localnews/corona/stories/PE_News_Local_cward19.e228.html)

## Dog rescue shelter OK'd

**NORCO: The facility gets the permit needed to operate on Pedley Avenue.**

12:08 AM PST on Thursday, February 19, 2004

By NICOLE BUZZARD / The Press-Enterprise

NORCO - Burt and Tracy Ward's seven-year battle ended Wednesday, when the City Council granted the couple permission to run their local dog rescue operation.

The council voted 4-1 to support the Wards' request for a conditional-use permit to allow the rescue to be operated at their 4.6-acre property on Pedley Avenue. The permit came with conditions set last month by the Planning Commission, requiring an enclosed trash bin, adequate drainage and random checks by Norco Animal Control.

With the permit, the Wards are allowed to keep a maximum of 55 animals at their shelter. Residents without a permit are limited to four dogs on their property.

"I just want to live and let live," Burt Ward said to the council. "I don't want to disturb anyone. I just want to save animals." The shelter, Gentle Giants Rescue and Adoptions Inc., specializes in taking care of large dogs like Great Danes and mastiffs. On average, about 50 dogs a month are housed there, city officials said. The Wards have been operating the rescue since 1994 without a permit. Neighbors began speaking out against it in 1997, complaining about loud barking, offensive smells and traffic.

Ten speakers addressed the council before the final vote. About half spoke against the rescue, mentioning possible council member conflict of interest because of campaign contributions from the Wards and the dislike of a shelter running out of a home.

"We don't mind what Mr. Ward is doing, but it shouldn't be in a residential neighborhood," said Bonnie Fogle, a neighbor of the Wards. Reach Nicole Buzzard at (909) 893-2107 or [nbuzzard@pe.com](mailto:nbuzzard@pe.com)