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March 2, 2002

ATLANTA HUMANE SOCIETY FILES GAG ORDER
Mills to Fight Attempt to Cover Up "Secrets"

The Atlanta Humane Society Friday filed a confidentiality request to keep documents produced in their lawsuit against Kathi Mills hidden from public scrutiny.

"The humane society is desperate to hide its operations from the public," Mills said. "In the gag order, they themselves said that making these documents public would expose organizational secrets that would embarrass them.

"I intend to find out what these secrets are so I can prove my case in court and show my statements are true," Mills continued.

Mills has requested a large number of documents that she alleges will show the truth of her statements about the humane society, which receives more than \$2 million per year from Fulton County for animal control services.

In a private Internet e-mail group in November, Mills referred to executive director Bill Garrett as "Mr. Kill" and criticized the humane society for failing to spay or neuter pets before adoption, not performing cruelty investigations, and refusing to allow no-kill groups to rescue pets that were scheduled to be killed.

The humane society sued Mills in early January for \$75,000, claiming her statements were defamatory. Mills has argued that they are opinions that are protected by the First Amendment.

Mills' attorney Brian Oxman said, "Gag orders are reserved for cases where there has been sensational and embarrassing conduct by the party requesting the order. It is obvious the humane society has much to hide. If they wanted to hide their embarrassing secrets, they never should have filed this lawsuit."

The confidentiality request has been submitted to Gwinnett Superior Court Judge James Oxendine. A hearing on the request is not yet scheduled.

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