

# Burlington Reports

Paws and Claws Society, Inc., Thorofare, NJ



Paws and Claws  
Society, Inc.

Issue 1, April 2011

Partners in Prevention *Not* Destruction, since 1993

Welcome to the first issue of the Paws and Claws Society's newsletter, *Burlington Reports!*

Paws and Claws Society (PACS) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation legally registered with the State and Federal governments.

## What's New at PACS

Here is a peek into some of the happenings at PACS lately. You can always read more details on our web site at [www.pacsnj.org](http://www.pacsnj.org).

- Paws and Claws sponsors the 2011 No-Kill Conference. See our web site for more information.
- **96 cats and dogs killed every day of the year in New Jersey!** We've made progress, but not enough. We're still making progress, but not fast enough. 35,075 cats and dogs were reported killed in New Jersey animal shelters during 2009. Read eye-opening statistics on our web site, both by state and by county.
- Paws and Claws Society, Inc., is donating a copy of each of these books to the libraries of all New Jersey high schools: *Redemption: The Myth of Pet Overpopulation and the No Kill Revolution in America*, and *Irreconcilable Differences: The Battle for the Heart & Soul of America's Animal Shelters*, both by Nathan J. Winograd. Follow the links from our web site to read more about these books. (Also see the review of *Irreconcilable Differences* on page 2.)
- PACS introduces its Viral Video Challenge! Create an under 3 minute video depicting **positive** aspects of animal sheltering. Then enter on or after May 1, 2011 for a chance to win a Flip-Ultra HD-Video-Camera or a \$200. Amazon

Gift Certificate **and** the opportunity to designate which one of several eligible animal shelters will receive a \$5,000.00 grant to their spay/neuter program

- Be inspired by the new page on our web site, "Compassion Central, Gems of Wisdom and Pearls of Knowledge: Humane Messages".
- We are again offering our *Circle Of Compassion For Animals Senior Scholarship Award* for 2011! Graduating seniors in four southern New Jersey counties are invited to submit their animal shelter adoption ideas to the Circle of Compassion Annual Senior Scholarship Award Contest by May 1. Paws and Claws Society is offering 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place awards in each county, in the amounts of \$500, \$750, and \$1,000, for the best **original** and **practical** ways to increase the adoption of shelter pets. There will be a \$1,500 scholarship award for the student with the best idea from the four counties. Ideas can apply to an entire shelter or to specific types of adoptions like senior pets, special needs pets, feral cats or big dogs. See our web site for more details.

I am the voice of the voiceless:  
Through me, the dumb shall speak;  
Till the deaf world's ear be made to hear  
The cry of the wordless weak.  
From street, from cage and from kennel,  
From jungle, and stall, the wail  
Of my tortured kin proclaims the sin  
Of the mighty against the frail

-- Ella Wheeler Wilcox (1850-1919)

## Did You Know?



**Fascinating bits of info found around the Internet:**

- While a dog's brain is only one-tenth the size of a human brain, the part that controls smell is 40 times larger than in human's. A dog's sense of smell is about 1,000 to 10,000,000 times more sensitive than a human's (depending on the breed). — [www.dogbreedinfo.com](http://www.dogbreedinfo.com)
- Cats can be right-pawed or left-pawed. — [www.xmission.com](http://www.xmission.com)
- Contrary to popular belief, dogs do not sweat by salivating. They sweat through the pads of their feet. — [www.familyvetcare.com](http://www.familyvetcare.com)
- Cats lose almost as much fluid in the saliva while grooming themselves as they do through urination. — [www.xmission.com](http://www.xmission.com)
- A dog's whiskers are touch-sensitive hairs called vibrissae. They are found on the muzzle, above the eyes and below the jaws, and can actually sense tiny changes in airflow. - [www.familyvetcare.com](http://www.familyvetcare.com)
- A cat has a total of 24 whiskers, 4 rows of whiskers on each side. The upper two rows can move independently of the bottom two rows. A cat uses its whiskers for measuring distances. - [www.familyvetcare.com](http://www.familyvetcare.com)

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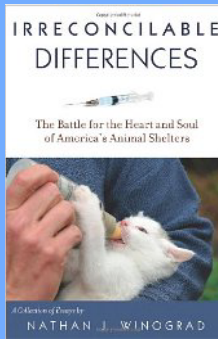


Paws and Claws Society, Inc.

## Partners in Prevention *Not* Destruction, since 1993

### Book Review

*Irreconcilable Differences: A Battle for the Heart and Soul of America's Animal Shelters*, by Nathan J. Winograd, ©2009



As I began reading this book, having only limited prior knowledge of Nathan J. Winograd, I was initially impressed by his depth of research and his passion for animals and the implementing of No Kill communities everywhere.

I appreciated the time and work that went into his research and his presentation of timelines, statistics, and the history of animal sheltering from 1866, when Henry Bergh incorporated the nation's first SPCA, to present day.

I was stunned to learn that the routine killing of sheltered animals, healthy or not, adoptable or not, was and still is, in most areas, the rule rather than the exception, condoned and explained away by a deeply ingrained and unquestioned belief that there simply aren't enough homes available to take in these animals. I went on to find hope in Winograd's retelling of how shelters in both urban and rural areas, in many diverse communities, have brought the numbers of healthy dogs and cats killed to zero (from tens of thousands), and dismay at the reactions of shelter managers and national leaders of organizations supposedly dedicated to saving animals.

I was appalled, not only at the refusal of these groups to even acknowledge the astounding results of the No-Kill philosophy put into action, but by their continued attempts to discredit those

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### Introducing Burlington the Cat



Well, hello. Burlington here. That's what my humans call me. The human who is known as "Mom" said I deserved a distinguished and dignified-sounding name, considering all the indignity I endured before they found me. She's right. Life on the streets is no piece of cake, that's for sure.

But I'm getting ahead of myself.

I am a cat. I live with a family of humans. Life is good, now, but it wasn't always that way.

When I was a very small kitten, I was given away by the humans who owned my mother and my brothers and sisters, and I went to live with a couple across town. The man gave me to his wife as a surprise gift, but it turned out she was allergic to cats and I made her sneeze. I tried not to. I bathed often, and avoided rubbing my cheeks up against her even though I wanted to, but still she sneezed. One day, she took me for a ride in the car. I was afraid of the noise and movement, but I trusted her.

She stopped in an alley behind a shopping center and opened the door.

"There are other cats here," she said, "You'll be ok."

The next thing I knew, she'd put me on the ground outside the car and driven away. I never saw her again. I mewed and tried to follow her car, but she was gone.

"I didn't mean to make you sneeze," I said as I sat down, a tear leaving a wet trail on the fur below my eye.

Eventually, I adjusted to life on the streets, as much as one can adjust to something so difficult. I got to know the other cats who lived behind the shopping center. It took a long time for them to accept me. Some are feral, which means they have never known a human up close and it would be extremely difficult for them to ever be able to trust one. Some, like me, have known humans but were put out into the streets for one reason or another. We are called "strays". Many of the cats on the street were born there, some to feral parents and some to stray parents.

As you can easily understand, most of the cats on the street do not see humans in a positive light. Running from people is a way of life out there, as is feeding on scraps discarded by people, and sleeping with one ear always listening for sounds of danger. One must constantly fight for territory, and huddle for safety and warmth wherever possible in harsh weather conditions. Most don't know that life can be different, of course, but they all know it is a hard life, nonetheless.

One day, when I was about nine months old, I was on my regular "rounds", inspecting dumpsters and garbage cans in the alley behind the shopping center. That particular shopping center was home to three (yes, folks, three!) different types of restaurants, making it prime territory for a street cat. As I jumped to the ground from the edge of the

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### Burlington the Cat (from page 2)

Second dumpster on my rounds, the back door of one of the shops opened and a little girl appeared. The door led into the back of a small used-book store. They don't serve food there, and therefore they never throw any away, so I and the other members of my colony had never really paid any attention to that door before.

"Hi, Kitty," the little girl whispered.

I froze in my tracks and stared, braced and ready to run if I needed to.

She slowly and quietly took one step toward me, then another. My heart felt as if it would pound right out of my chest. I sniffed at the air to analyze her scent. (Many humans would be amazed to find out how much knowledge we cats can gather from one's scent.)

*She's young, my nose told me, and she is healthy.* She'd had a strawberry ice cream cone within the last few hours. I knew that, not only because she smelled of strawberry, but also because she had a few pink spots on her shirt. She smiled. Her scent told me she was happy and gentle. I chose not to run. I took a step toward her, in fact. She scrunched herself down so that she was sitting on her feet and continued to hold her hand out to me.



Tentatively, I sniffed her fingers. *Oh, yes. Most definitely strawberry ice cream.*

That's it," she said, her voice still a whisper, "Nice Kitty."

And then, for the first time since I

was a baby, a human touched me.

It was nice. She stroked my head and I purred. I'd forgotten how hypnotic the sensation was.

I was startled when her mother came to the door, and I ran, but in the weeks that followed, I came to visit the little girl many times. One by one, I met the other members of her family, as they all either worked at the book store or stopped in during the day.

Finally, one morning, the woman I now know as "Mom" put a bowl of the most heavenly smelling fish called "tuna" inside a large wire enclosure I later learned was called a "cage" and beckoned me to go inside. My stomach growled. My hunger and my temptation to trust this family battled against my fear and the distrust I'd learned I must have, for self-protection. I thought of the warnings the other members of my colony had issued when we'd spoken of this family. They all told me I would be taking a foolish risk to trust any humans. Still, I thought, they can't *all* be bad. Can they?

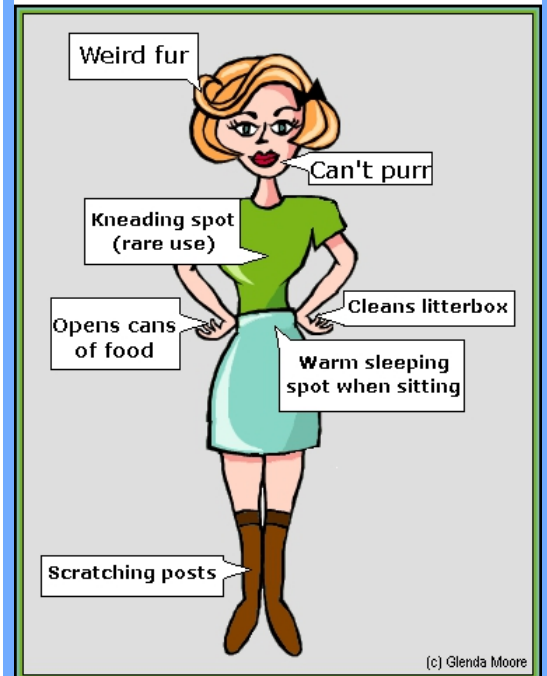
"No one will hurt you," Mom said, "We're going to take you to the vet for a checkup and have you neutered, so we can take you home."

I didn't know what any of those words meant, but I was dizzy from the enveloping scent coming from that bowl, and I stepped into the cage. I barely noticed when the cage door was closed as I indulged in the delicacy. When I felt the

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### Humor

#### The Mapping of a Human Body (According to a Cat)



Used with permission from Glenda Moore.  
See her web site at  
<http://www.xmission.com/~emailbox/catstuff.htm>

#### DOG PROPERTY LAWS Author Unknown (but apparently Author is a dog)

1. If I like it, it's mine.
2. If it's in my mouth, it's mine.
3. If I can take it from you, it's mine.
4. If I had it a little while ago, it's mine.
5. If it's mine, it must never appear to be yours in any way.
6. If I'm chewing something up, all the pieces are mine.
7. If it just looks like mine, it's mine.
8. If I saw it first, it's mine.
9. If you are playing with something and you put it down, it automatically becomes mine.
10. If it's broken, it's yours.



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### Burlington (from page 3)

movement of the cage being lifted and transported, I was nervous, revisited by a long buried memory of going for the ride in the car that led me to that place, but I trusted my instincts that these people would not harm me.

That all seems long ago, now, and I still don't know exactly what "neutered" means, but I do know that since it happened I no longer have to fight or feel so territorial. Life is great, in a home with a family. I feel safe, and I can sleep soundly without fear.

Now, my goal in life is to tell others about this thing called a Forever Home. I hold meetings, through the screen surrounding the back patio, late at night when my family is



asleep. I encourage other cats to allow humans to love them, and I tell them about the mystical magic of spaying and neutering. I write a newsletter called *Burlington Reports*, to make more humans aware of what it is like out there for street cats, and how they can help.

A Forever Home and the love of a good human (or human family) will change your life, I'm here to tell you.



### Book Review (from page 2)

results with a series of flimsy arguments that have been proven invalid time and time again, in many areas of the country.

Yes, I was impressed, indeed, with Winograd's presentation of the No-Kill philosophy and his examples and evidence that it works. And then, I learned that Winograd has not simply researched and presented this information to us; *he is one of the people* who has *personally* proven that a No-Kill community can become a reality, not just a concept, and with great success!

Writing in plain language, Winograd presents this information in a very human way without the need to rely on hyperbole for the sake of an emotional reaction. This book reaches into the hearts of animal lovers and causes us to ask *Why?* Why have we allowed the often-repeated rhetoric to represent truth in our minds? Why have we turned a blind eye to the needless killing of animals, while shaking our heads and tsk-tsking, still acquiescing to the belief that there is no other choice?

*Irreconcilable Differences* is a collection of essays, prefaced by a "To The Reader" section that spells out the history referenced above and presents national data that proves wrong the myth that there are too many animals and not enough homes.

This book is eye-opening and educational, and having read it, I highly recommend it to others. I believe that reading this book will change you, as it has me.

Nathan J. Winograd is currently the Executive Director of the No Kill Advocacy Center. You may learn more about him and his work at [nokilladvocacycenter.org](http://nokilladvocacycenter.org) or follow his blog at [nathanwinograd.com](http://nathanwinograd.com).

- AAA (Anonymous Animal Advocate)

### Featured Pet For Adoption



Chiffon was an abused cat who deserves to have a loving home.

From her petfinders bio: "I was rescued from an abandoned house in Philadelphia with my surviving kittens. I experienced abuse at the hands of cruel people who also took the lives of several of my kittens. I have come a long way since then. I am still a bit shy and am looking for a home with someone who has a lot of patience and understanding for what I have experienced. I sure would like a chance to snuggle with you! Please give me that chance!!!"

Visit our web site for more information or see Chiffon's profile on [petfinders.com](http://petfinders.com). Will you be the person who adopts her and gives her the loving forever-home she deserves?



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Visit us online at [www.pacsnj.org](http://www.pacsnj.org)

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## Remember Pets As You Spruce Up For Spring

Here, in the Northeast US, the buds are on the trees and the vivid yellow bursts of Forsythia tell us that Spring is almost here! This is the time of year when folks begin home improvement projects and work to spruce up lawns and gardens.

Here are some resources to help you to ensure your pets' safety while you spruce up!

An article in the Marlton Sun warns of dangers, to both pets and humans, from chemicals in household paint. They say to look for a zero-VOC (volatile organic compounds) interior paint. "VOCs are groups of chemicals often found in conventional paints and other building and decorating materials," the article explains, "Exposure to them can pose health risks."

A visit to [www.pesticidewatch.org/get-information/reports](http://www.pesticidewatch.org/get-information/reports) leads to a list of links that includes "The Truth About Cats, Dogs, and Lawn Chemicals".

The blog at [raiseagreendog.com](http://raiseagreendog.com) says that "...there is hope for a beautiful, safe lawn for you and your dog. And having an organic lawn is really a lot easier and inexpensive than you may think."

Their top tips to keep a healthy, organic lawn:

- Adjust the your soil pH through amendments (like acidifiers, lime, or kelp, that are organic, natural and safe for your dog)
- Utilize an organic fertilizer
- Overseed and mow high to choke out weeds

