

The No Kill Advocate

A No Kill nation is within our reach

Issue #2 2010

The Future of No Kill

In November of last year, the ASPCA—the nation's largest humane society and one of the top 200 wealthiest charities in the U.S.—killed an abused dog named Oreo another non-profit shelter was willing to save. It was not an isolated incident.

For over a hundred years, animal shelters in this country and their allies working at large, national animal protection organizations have argued that the killing of animals in shelters is unavoidable, and that the irresponsible American public is to blame. Without an alternative model to challenge the assumptions upon which these calculations were based—animal shelters were, by default, granted almost unequivocal discretion to kill millions of animals a year, while blaming others for the need to do so.

Not only did this stymie any innovation seeking to reduce the numbers of animals killed, but, having been unchallenged in this course of action for so long, it had the unfortunate side effect of creating the expectation among shelter directors that they should be able to operate without public scrutiny, comment or accountability for their actions and decisions.

In the late 1990's, when the burgeoning No Kill movement proved that many of the assumptions upon which traditional sheltering were based were, in fact, untrue, and that nearly all animals entering shelters



can be saved, traditional sheltering models had by that time become so firmly entrenched—and those championing them so large and influential—that any challenge to their hegemony was met with recrimination and hostility. And since that time, animal advocates throughout the country, working to reform their local shelters by demanding innovation, modernization and greater lifesaving, have almost universally found themselves at cross purposes with not only their local shelters which refuse to reform, but, just as often, the large, national groups, such as the ASPCA, which come to the defense of their local shelter and its archaic, regressive policies which favor killing.

As a result, it is not uncommon for shelters to refuse the assistance of grassroots rescue organizations willing to save the animals they are determined to kill. Time and again, these organizations hold the animals hostage, ignoring the requests of local sanctuaries and rescue groups willing to assume responsibility and liability for their care, even as they then turn

around and kill them, just as the ASPCA did to Oreo.

But these rescue groups are not going away quietly, as the furor over Oreo's killing has proven. Despite the entrenchment of groups like the ASPCA, the widespread success of the No Kill movement has invigorated animal lovers nationwide, and one of the results of that success has been an exponential increase in the number of rescue organizations.

Their efficacy, their dedication, and their willingness to do the lifesaving that shelters and the large national organizations have for so long argued is impossible threaten to expose the lies upon which the historical inaction of shelters and the large national groups is based.

This is perhaps why the ASPCA chose to kill Oreo rather than give her to an organization that was willing to go the extra mile for her, when the ASPCA was not, despite raising over \$100 million dollars last year from an animal loving American public after promising to do just that in such circumstances, and for such animals.

But now rescuers are taking matters in their own hands, by seeking legislation that would make it illegal for a shelter in New York State to kill an animal if a qualified rescue group is willing to save that animal's life.

By seeking to limit what is now the almost unrestrained power to kill animals by shelters, and because it

empowers those who want to save animals from those who are threatening to kill them, Oreo's Law is central to the fight for a No Kill nation.

For far too long, those running our animal shelters – agencies funded by the philanthropic donations and tax dollars of an animal loving American public – have refused to mirror our progressive values. For far too long, they have assumed a power and authority to act independent of public opinion, and the will of the people who have entrusted them to do their jobs with compassion, dedication and integrity.

Sadly, we cannot bring Oreo back... And we will forever remember her killing at the hands of those who were supposed to protect her from further harm. But we can prevent such a betrayal from ever happening again.

In betraying this trust, they have proven that they can't be trusted, and that we must regulate them in the same way we regulate other agencies which hold the power of life and death: by removing the discretion which has for too long allowed them to thwart the

public's will and to kill animals who should be saved. Oreo's Law, thankfully, seeks to do just that.

Sadly, we cannot bring Oreo back and give her the second chance the ASPCA denied her. And we will forever remember her killing at the hands of those who were supposed to protect her from further harm as many things: tragic and heartbreaking, chief among them. Nothing can alter that calculus. But we can lessen the futility of Oreo's death if we learn from it, and alter our society in such a way as to prevent such a betrayal from ever happening again.

Helping Stop Abuse

Legislation like "Oreo's Law" would not only save thousands of animal every year which shelters are killing despite a rescue alternative, it will help stop abuse both in and out of the shelter.

Animals killed despite rescue alternative. As noted below ("Shocking NYS Survey") 72% of non-profit organizations—nearly 3 out of 4—are denied the ability to rescue by at least one NYS shelter they are willing to save animals from, and these shelters are in many cases killing these animals instead. In fact, 71% of respondents have had shelters kill animals their group had indicated they were willing to save.

According to [Empty Cages Collective](#), a rescue group in New York City,

While justifications for killing abound, the truth is that shelters all over New York State kill animals who reputable and responsible animal rescue organizations are or would be willing to take, rehabilitate and place in loving homes. Animals are being killed in New York City, Rochester, Buffalo and cities and towns throughout the state because animal control establishments are not working with rescuers at all or will not work with them to the extent they could. Even in New York City, where NYC shelters do a better job working with rescue organizations than almost anywhere else in the state, animals are still killed while hardworking and knowledgeable individuals who run 501(c)3 non-profit animal rescues are denied taking animals destined to die.



Oreo's Law would also reduce cruelty. The statewide survey also found that 43% of respondents who have expressed concerns about inhumane conditions which they have witnessed in New York State shelters said that their non-profit rescue organizations became the subject of retaliation, while over half (52%) who have witnessed it but did not express concerns said they were afraid to complain about inhumane conditions—and simply looked the other way—because they were afraid if they did complain, they would no longer be allowed to rescue, thus allowing those inhumane conditions to continue.

Oreo's Law, thankfully, would not only help stop such neglect and cruelty within a shelter, it has the potential to reduce it outside of it as well. Empty Cages Collective found that New Yorkers are placed in the untenable position of having to allow animals to languish in substandard and even cruel conditions because they fear those animals will be killed, both by

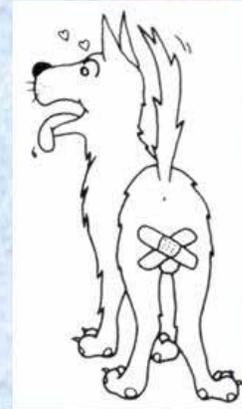
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the ASPCA and shelters in New York City. Describing one such case, they write that,

[S]omeone had abandoned a small brown tabby kitten on [a] porch the night before, leaving nothing more than a box of food. The kitten was confused, terrified, and freezing! There was already several inches of snow on the ground, and more snow was coming. When ECC realized that the kitten had been left outside overnight and was found shaking uncontrollably at daybreak, we knew we had to help. ECC immediately agreed to accept the kitten (now known as Julio) into our adoption program. When asked why [the neighbor] didn't rescue the cat sooner, her] reply was similar to [others]. [She] didn't want to take Julio to Brooklyn's Animal Care & Control,

where he could be unnecessarily killed instead of being merely frightened and cold. "What would be the point of rescuing him just to turn him over to a place that would kill him?" [she] asked.

Much like [other cases], Julio the kitten awaited rescue, suffering simply because the institutions in place to care for companion animals in crisis utilize killing as a method of problem-solving—a method that many members of the general public will not accept. The point is simple and yet profound: the public leaves animals in egregiously cruel, neglectful or unacceptable situations rather than bring those animals to shelters who kill healthy or treatable animals and show no active intention to stop. Animals stay in abusive situations because the institutions that are

designed to help and protect them kill them instead. This ethical inconsistency has forced the public to remain hands off, refraining from reporting cruelty and neglect situations lest they aid and abet the killing of adoptable animals.

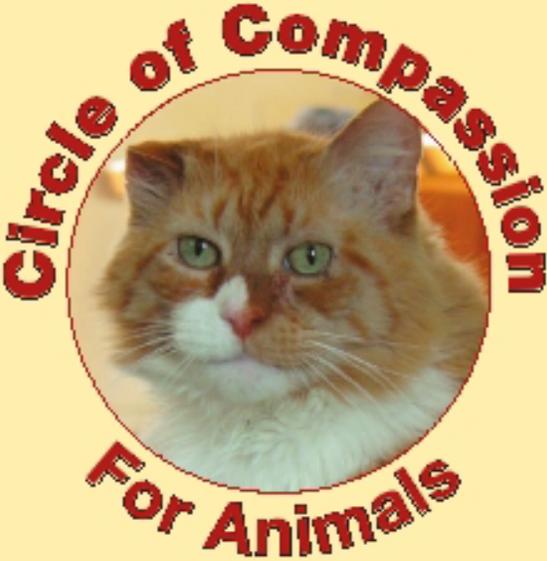
By ensuring that these animals are saved when there is a rescue alternative, Oreo's Law will help stop the continuation of neglect and abuse both in and out of the shelter. Rescuers will no longer fear that if they report inhumane conditions in a shelter, they will be retaliated against because they will have a legal right to the animals. And everyday animal lovers will not be forced to allow neglect to continue because they will have increased faith that a "rescue" doesn't mean killing—"a schizophrenic paradigm where killing poses as love, the animal control establishment force the public to compromise the welfare of animals by asking them to do

something they won't do: participate in a system that pulls animals from abusers only to unjustly end their lives—lives these animals value and struggle to keep intact."

The Need for Oreo's Law

In order to achieve a No Kill nation, we must move past a system where the lives of animals are subject to the discretion and whims of shelter leaders or health department bureaucrats. Currently, No Kill is succeeding in those communities with individual shelter leaders who are committed to achieving it and to running shelters consistent with the programs and services which make it possible. Unfortunately, such leaders are still few and far between.

Traditional sheltering, by contrast, is institutionalized. In a shelter reliant on killing, directors can come and go and the shelter keeps killing, local



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government keeps ignoring that failure, and the public believes “there is no other way.” By contrast, the success of an organization’s No Kill policies depends on the commitment and vision of its leader. When that leader leaves the organization, the vision can quickly be doomed. It is why an SPCA can be progressive one day, and moving in the opposite direction the next.

For No Kill success to be widespread and long lasting, we must move past the personalities and focus on institutionalizing No Kill by giving shelter animals the rights and protections afforded by law. Every successful social movement results in legal protections that codify expected conduct and provide protection against future conduct that violates normative values. We need to regulate shelters in the same way we regulate hospitals and other agencies which hold the power over life and death.

The answer lies in passing and enforcing shelter reform legislation which mandates how a shelter must operate. The ideal animal law would ban the killing of dogs and cats, and would prohibit the impounding of feral cats except for purposes of spay/neuter and release. Given that local governments may not pass such sweeping laws at this time in history, legislation like Oreo’s Law is important to provide animals with maximum opportunities for lifesaving.

In this way, shelter leadership is forced to operate their shelters in a more progressive, life-affirming way, removing the discretion which has for too long allowed shelter leaders to ignore what is in the best interests of the animals and kill them needlessly.

What You Can Do:

Oreo’s Law may be pending only in New York State, but animal advocates from all over the U.S. should use it as a model for reform in their own communities.

Visit www.YESonOreosLaw.com for more information, including the text of Oreo’s Law. (Please note that this website is not affiliated with the No Kill Advocacy Center and we are not responsible for its content.)

Go beyond Oreo’s Law. Visit our website and click on the “Companion Animal Protection Act” for more comprehensive shelter reform legislation.

Remember, the power to change the status quo is in your hands. If you want to make a difference, do the following:

- Get informed
- Be thorough
- Be successful
- Don’t settle
- Require accountability

Learn more at:

www.nokilladvocacycenter.org



Shocking NYS Survey

Pending in the New York State Legislature is Assembly Bill Number A09449, commonly known as "Oreo's Law." Oreo's Law was introduced following the decision by the ASPCA, a non-profit organization in the State, to kill an abused dog for whom another non-profit organization was willing to offer lifetime care. The bill would make it illegal for shelters to kill animals when a qualified non-profit organization is willing to save that animal's life.

The bill makes exceptions for animals who are dangerous, irremediably suffering, or have rabies, and it prevents groups with volunteers, staff, or leadership charged with animal neglect or cruelty related offenses from participating. It is based on a successful California law, passed in 1998, which is credited with saving thousands of animals every year, a fact that even Ed Sayres, current head of the ASPCA and an opponent of Oreo's Law cannot deny. In 1999, as then head of the San Francisco SPCA, his own analysis of the California Law showed that the law was not only responsible for a reduction in shelter killing rates, but also saved \$486,480 in taxpayer funds in San Francisco alone.

To maintain control over smaller non-profits, however, the larger New York State non-profit organizations, such as the ASPCA, are trying to derail Oreo's Law. In order to do so, they are employing various misleading claims; including fear mongering that Oreo's Law would put the public at risk by

forcing the release of dangerous dogs and animals in harm's way by placing them with animal abusers. But an analysis of California law, where similar claims were made in 1998, shows these to be false.

As a result, the ASPCA—which does not want the public reminded of its killing of an abused dog for which the law is named—has changed tactics and is arguing that the law is not needed, claiming non-profit organizations that rescue animals already have access to animals on death row in all New York State shelters.

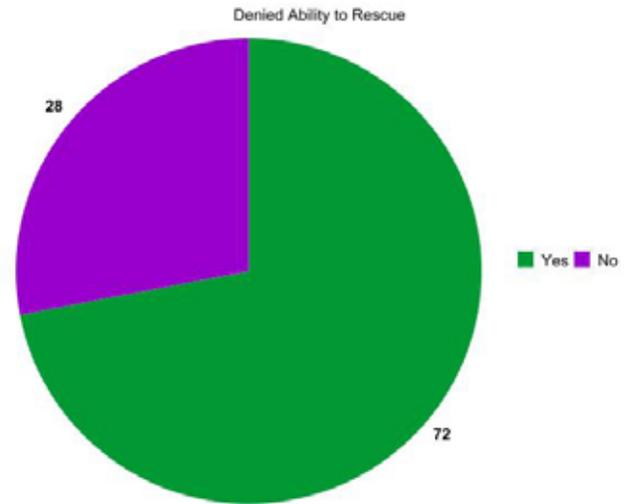
Because this is highly unlikely given the contrary reality throughout the country, and because non-profit organizations that rescue animals in New York State have long complained of being denied access to animals being killed, the No Kill Advocacy Center conducted a state-wide survey to determine the status of rescue access for New York State's non-profit organizations.

This survey revealed that animals are being needlessly killed in New York State, for which taxpayers are footing the unnecessary expense. The survey also showed that non-profit organizations that rescue animals are being prevented from fulfilling their mandates by government agencies and larger non-profit organizations such as the ASPCA that not only want to maintain control over these smaller non-profits, but also maintain their almost unlimited discretion to kill animals.

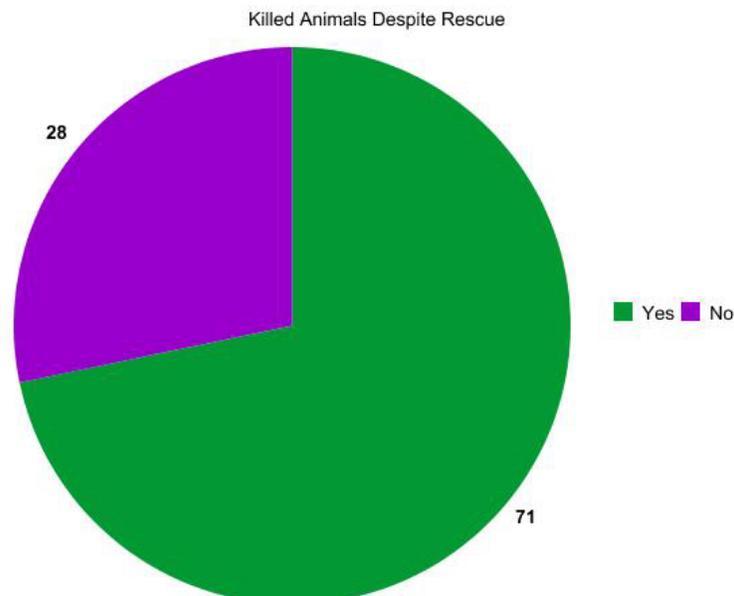
Survey Results

Seventy-two percent of non-profit organizations—nearly 3 out of 4—are denied the ability to rescue by *at least one NYS shelter* they are willing to save animals from, and these shelters are in many cases killing these animals instead. Less than one third—only 28%—said that “all shelters allow us to save animals.”

Of those who have been denied the ability to save animals a New York shelter has scheduled to be killed, 18% of those shelters have a firm policy of not working with other shelters or non-profit organizations, 33% have some staff members hostile to working with non-profit organizations that rescue animals, and 48% said it varied. The most common responses included variations of the following: “It depends on who is working” and “Hostility of shelter director.” As a result, some have stopped rescuing within the State and others employ a variety of other strategies, all of which add expense, inefficiency, and lost opportunities to save lives.



Almost all non-profit organizations that have tried to rescue from more than one shelter (92%) said that shelters have different rescue policies, and that the criteria is largely arbitrary. The vast majority (88%) said that the rescue policy of many state shelters “depends on the whims of director/staff” and “if staff likes you, you can rescue” whereas “if they do not like you, you can’t rescue.” To try and overcome this, 70% of respondents say they only try to save lives if certain staff is on duty at these



shelters. These practices and attitudes are costing animals their lives: 71% of respondents have had shelters kill animals their group had indicated they were willing to save. (28% said this had not occurred, while 1% were unaware.)

In fact, 43% of respondents who have expressed concerns about inhumane conditions which they have witnessed in New York State shelters said that their non-profit rescue organizations became the subject of retaliation, while over half (52%) who have witnessed it but did not express concerns said they were afraid to complain about inhumane conditions—*and simply looked the other way*—because they were afraid if they did complain, they would no longer be allowed to rescue, thus allowing those inhumane conditions to continue.

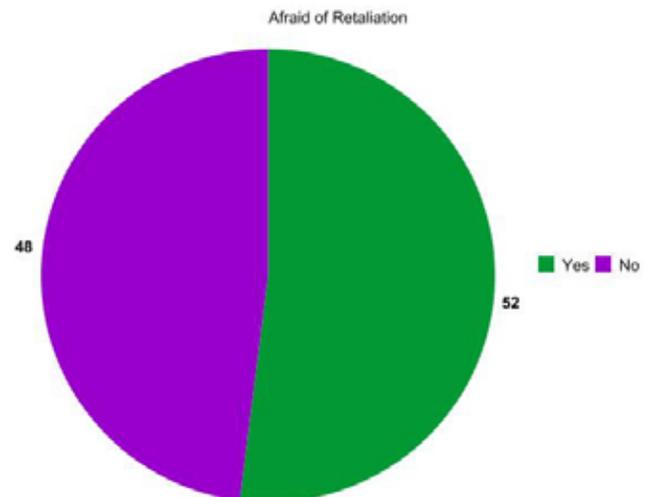
One non-profit organization summed up the frustration of many groups by saying they have tried to work with shelters in New York State to save more lives but have encountered bureaucratic resistance: “They do what they can to wear you down mentally, financially, and emotionally.”

It is not surprising then that the vast majority of respondents believed Oreo’s Law would attenuate these problems. If Oreo’s Law were passed, the overwhelming majority (88%) said their organizations would either return to rescuing animals in New York State or increase rescuing animals from state shelters, as it would eliminate these bureaucratic and arbitrary hurdles.

In addition, the survey showed that Oreo’s Law would also improve oversight of groups which perform

rescue. While the vast majority of organizations (78%) are already recognized under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3) as not-for-profit public benefit organizations, the survey revealed that 70% of those organizations performing animal rescue which have not yet obtained this status would do so if the pending legislation were to become law. This would require them to file articles of incorporation, to recruit a Board of Directors, and to subject themselves to other state and federal mandates.

The ASPCA is allegedly conducting its own survey, but it appears that only carefully selected non-profit organizations, approved by killing shelters, will be allowed to participate, resulting in the predetermined conclusion that Oreo’s Law is not needed. Unfortunately, if this point of view is accepted by the Legislature and Oreo’s Law is defeated, shelters will continue killing without restraint, at great cost in animal lives, at great waste of taxpayer funds, while thwarting the mission of hundreds of non-profits that exist throughout the State.



NKAC News & Campaigns



When animals are harmed, the No Kill Advocacy Center is there...

When shelters and their large, national allies act in ways that harm animals, the No Kill Advocacy Center has the courage and conviction to take them on.

Read our letter to the Mayor and City Council of Austin, TX calling for an end to suffering at the hands of the ASPCA-backed city pound at:
<http://www.nokilladvocacycenter.org/documents/TLAC.cats.pdf>

Read about our legal challenge to a court ruling that has condemned feral cats in Los Angeles to death at:
<http://www.nokilladvocacycenter.org/whatsnew.html>

For our other projects and campaigns, go to:
<http://www.nokilladvocacycenter.org/campaigns/index.html>

From model legislation, to model policies, to ground-breaking studies, to support for activists, to conferences and seminars, to direct assistance, to legal action, the No Kill Advocacy Center is the only national non-profit public benefit organization working *exclusively* to end the systematic killing of animals in U.S. shelters. But we cannot do it without your support.

Winning the Gold & Bronze



Our director's most recent book *Irreconcilable Differences* is the winner of an Indie gold medal, Best Book (Animals/Pets) and a bronze medal, Best Book (Animals/Pets) from the *Independent Publishers Association*.



The Bark magazine calls it "Clear and rigorously reasoned," "excellent reading," offering "keen insights" across a wide range of issues including the achievement of a No Kill nation, adoptions, feral cats, animal rights, and more. Animal Wise Radio calls it "The perfect follow-up to Winograd's outstanding first book *Redemption*." And *Midwest Book Review* says "*Irreconcilable Differences* is a must read."

You can get signed and dedicated copies through the No Kill Advocacy Center, with proceeds benefiting our lifesaving work. To learn more, go to nokill.org and click on "What's New."

No Kill Takes on the World

A message from Nathan J. Winograd, our director.

At their annual animal shelter conference, I sat listening to the welcome address by the President of the nation's largest humane organization. He said that ending the killing of savable animals was within reach across the country, called upon all shelters to commit themselves to doing so, and he gave them the prescription to do it: the programs and services of the No Kill Equation.

"Our first step," he said, "must be a commitment and an acceptance of the philosophy that saving lives is totally achievable. With that in place, the second step is to implement an infrastructure with each and every individual SPCA to achieve just that... The infrastructure involves ten initiatives, and the ultimate success of the program depends on the implementation of each and every of missions contained therein... by resolve and the rigorous implementation of the full program."

He called it "Saving Lives," a campaign to achieve a No Kill nation. He didn't use the term "No Kill," that wasn't their language, but what did it matter. The underlying philosophy was the same: "Every life is precious" he said and for the animals, it was the job of the humane movement "to promote and protect their right to life and happiness."

I heard him dismiss the different excuses: "Ringworm is not a reason to kill animals," respiratory infection "is not a reason to kill cats," claims of lacking space "should never be an excuse." He described these as "cases where extra effort is made to save their lives whereas in the past death would have been the easier choice."

He called upon shelters to "steadfastly ensure that the ingredients of the Saving Lives philosophy are embraced and executed in their entirety in the honest belief that 'we can do it!'" He was unapologetic, emphatic, and without ambiguity: "We can adopt our way out of killing," he stated. And "we will."

He then presented different shelter managers who had embraced this effort so that they could speak about their experiences: Like the one who came into an open admission facility with a 65% rate of killing and reduced it to under 4% in one year. And another who took over a shelter once described as "hopelessly overcrowded" but now has a 97% save rate. And still another that has seen enforcement decline 70% after going from a punitive philosophy to one that makes it easy for people to do the right thing, through a series of community based incentives such as free and low-cost spay/neuter. It was like a dream.

Up is Down, Down is Up

But it was not Wayne Pacelle of the Humane Society of the United States at the podium. It was not Ed Sayres of the ASPCA. The shelters with better than 90% save rates were

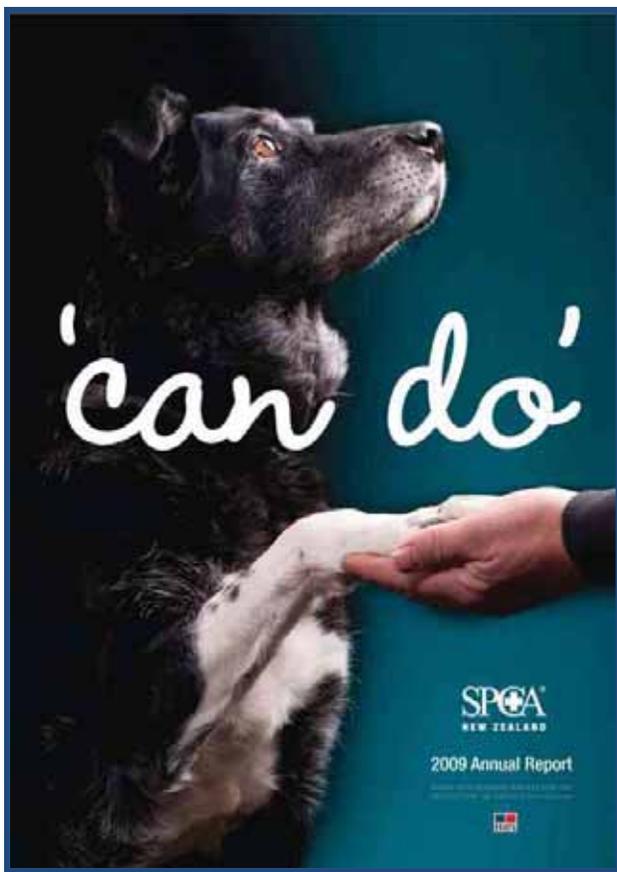
not in cities with names like Charlottesville, Reno, or Tompkins County. Instead, they were in cities called Wellington, Waiheke, and Waihi. I was over 6,000 miles from the U.S., in New Zealand. The speaker was Bob Kerridge representing the Royal New Zealand SPCA, the national organization that oversees all SPCAs in the country. And he was providing that which Pacelle and Sayres, staunch proponents of shelter killing in this country, have proven themselves incapable of: *leadership*.

We think of New Zealand as being in the bottom of the planet, but in space there is no up or down. The map of the world in places like New Zealand is the opposite of what ours looks like. There, New Zealand is on top and the U.S. is on the bottom. And when it comes to how the large national animal protection organizations in those countries behave today, that is more appropriate.

One of the things I enjoy most about traveling is the education I get. Traveling promotes perspective, not just for the place you are visiting, but for home as well, by allowing you to see, and often appreciate, those things to which familiarity has made you blind. And that is what my most recent trip to the national conference in Rotorua, New Zealand did for me. For those who continue to parrot the idea that “HSUS is changing” or “HSUS has changed,” take note. By contrast to the bold path launched by the RNZSPCA, Pacelle’s begrudging and feeble efforts to appease his critics, or Ed Sayres’ cynical and disingenuous “No Kill” plan, Mission: Orange, pale in comparison.

Imagine for a second if what occurred at the national conference in Rotorua, New Zealand occurred in Nashville, TN at this year’s HSUS conference. Imagine Wayne Pacelle himself telling





the assembled shelter workers, managers and animal control officers that the days of killing are finished, that shelters must save lives, that they can and should adopt their way out of killing, and that HSUS was ready to help, with resources and with expertise. Imagine HSUS providing a handbook on how to do it, as the RNZSPCA did at their national conference.

As I write in *Irreconcilable Differences*,

The only thing standing between today's system of mass killing and the No Kill nation we can immediately achieve is the leaders of the large national organizations who refuse to seize the opportunity. Instead, they are determined to fail—to ensure that

the paradigm they have championed for so long is not upended—by blocking reform efforts that challenge their hegemony; by protecting and defending both draconian shelter practices and uncaring shelter directors; and by squandering the potential represented by the great love people have for companion animals...

Only time will tell how long allegiance to their kill-oriented colleagues, to their antiquated philosophies, and to their failed models, will hold them back from the success they and this movement can achieve the moment they decide to embrace it.

Up is down, down is up.

My Turn at the Podium

I was in New Zealand as a guest of the Royal New Zealand SPCA. I was there to deliver the keynote at their national conference, and to hold day long workshops in shelters across the country. With hundreds of people from shelters across New Zealand, I did not stand before them waving the American flag. I shared with them our successes, our failures, our hopes, our dreams, the path we are forging in spite of HSUS, the battle not with the many but with the few: the ASPCAs and SPCAs intent on killing despite rescue alternatives, the obfuscation of groups that claim to support No Kill but are willing to sacrifice animals to retain positions of power or in deference to their killing cronies. And then, on a tour prearranged by the RNZSPCA, I spent the week flying throughout the country: to Auckland,

Wellington, and Christchurch, meeting with shelter leaders and staff, holding day long workshops on adoptions, saving shelter dogs, reforming BSL, embracing TNR, overcoming the claims of Invasion Biologists who want to scapegoat free roaming cats for the habitat destruction and wildlife decline as a result of one species and one species alone—*humans*.

The U.S. is still ahead of the pack, the movement that was born here is still very much a U.S.-led effort now spreading around the globe—to Australia and New Zealand. And while our pioneering spirit has shown the way, the likelihood of the U.S. being first to cross the goal line is in doubt, despite our 15 year head start. The reason comes down to leadership.

The RNZSPCA is providing it. The ASPCA is not. The American Humane Association is an irrelevancy. Other groups which claim to do so are long on rhetoric and short on substance. HSUS, the closest equivalent to the RNZSPCA, says we aren't killing animals, says they can't stand No Kill, and has been one of the primary roadblocks to the achievement of a No Kill nation in the United States. Time and time again, progressive activists in communities across the nation working to reform their cruel and antiquated shelters must overcome the national organizations which are working against them.

By contrast, the RNZSPCA says the goal can be reached and, in their 2009 annual report, wrote that:

SPCAs that have already applied many of the principles and practices of Saving Lives (as presented in outline form at last year's annual conference) are experiencing unprecedented success in all aspects of caring for and rehoming the animals that are brought to them. Saving Lives is our way to a revolution for unwanted and homeless animals in New Zealand. Properly applied, it will enable us to save thousands more animals each year...

It is a cliché but it bears repeating: these are insecure times and many people feel nervous. Change is a bit scary for some, even under the best of circumstances. And too often, those in positions of power exploit these fears to maintain the status quo. The status quo is the known. It is comfortable, even if indefensible ethically. But our adaptability, our ability to change is a hallmark of our species. And most people will change; institutions can be reformed, when someone shows us a better and kinder way. But that takes leadership. The most important element of the No Kill Equation. That is what is being provided in New Zealand. And that will make all the difference in the world.

Will it be a seamless transition? Will it be without roadblocks? Of course not. Even while I was there, I read in the local paper that the local pound in Rotorua took in about 450 dogs so far this year, killing half. But after 176 were reclaimed by owners, they found homes for only 32. The animal control officers don't take responsibility for that meager result, they blame the public. Clearly that has to change.



In many ways, New Zealand is further behind us. Legally, all Pit Bull-type dogs are considered “dangerous,” a law that is screaming for repeal. Animal Control officers end the lives of animals by shooting, and some shelters are still gassing. Cats identified as “feral” can be killed on impound. Some pounds are regressive and won’t work with SPCAs, content to pass the blame to others, to fear monger about dogs and put them to death. Some SPCAs won’t work with the pounds despite the ability to transfer dogs to reduce killing, and despite endowments valued in the millions. And shelters kill despite empty cages. Sound familiar? It should.

These are issues we face in the U.S. In the U.S., slowly but surely we are overcoming them as they will in New Zealand. But in New Zealand, they have what we don’t. Traveling with me across the county, organizing the effort, providing support and guidance to local shelters was Robyn Kippenberger, the CEO of the RNZSPCA, the Kiwi equivalent of

HSUS’ Pacelle: “What do you need?” “How can we help you?” was the question I heard her ask shelter staff time and time again. That is what she asks, and she has plenty to offer. In fact, after receiving an unexpected but sizable grant to the RNZSPCA to help with the campaign, Kippenberger did what is inconceivable to imagine U.S. groups doing: she split it equally between every SPCA in the nation and mailed out the checks that very week, without fanfare or self-aggrandizing press releases.

As the RNZSPCA said to the nationally assembled groups at the conference in Rotorua, “what *must* be done, *can* be done, and *will* be done.” And the RNZSPCA is willing to help in any way they can. In the end, that is why New Zealand is likely to cross the goal line first. And when it does, the country at the bottom of the world will be on top—and help lead the way to our inevitable and collective No Kill future.

They are not alone. In 2009, our director also gave the keynote at the national conference in Australia. Some communities “Down Under” are also following the No Kill Equation model of sheltering and have also achieved No Kill level save rates. Preliminary data also shows shelters in Canada achieving success. One shelter went from an 84% rate of killing to a 16% rate, and the future looks even brighter. Please note: Nathan Winograd’s travels are privately funded. They are not paid for with No Kill Advocacy Center donations.

U.S. Future Looks Bright

Austin, TX. Congratulations are due for Austin, Texas No Kill advocates at FixAustin.org who have achieved a major hurdle in their fight against entrenched shelter leadership responsible for killing animals with ruthless efficiency while saying “No” to the programs and services that make ending the killing possible. The shelter director routinely ordered animals killed despite state inspection reports that found hundreds of empty cages on any given day. Simple requests—such as an end to convenience killing (killing when space is available)—were rebuffed time and time again.

Their uphill battle for decency and compassion included opposition from the ASPCA backed the kill-oriented director, while trying to undermine reform efforts; and HSUS, which wrote a letter of support to move the shelter from a centralized location close to where people live, work, and play to a remote “out of sight, out of mind” part of the city so that managers could get bigger office spaces.

In spite of the bureaucratic uncaring, regressive leadership at the shelter, and anti-lifesaving roadblocks from both the ASPCA and HSUS, they won unanimous passage by the City Council of their No Kill plan. The plan includes an end to travesties such as convenience killing.

Hastings, MN. Animal Ark, an animal shelter recognized as a model for the No Kill movement in the United States, announced the formation of the first No Kill communities in Minnesota and Wisconsin. This news comes as a result of an agreement signed by Ark and the local agency which provides animal control sheltering services to Hastings and Rosemount, Minnesota and Prescott, Wisconsin. The agreement provides an adoption guarantee for any healthy and treatable homeless animal in these communities.

Washington DC. The No Kill Advocacy Center’s annual No Kill Conference sold out just two months after it was announced. The conference will bring the nation’s most successful animal shelter directors and top animal lawyers to teach people from all over the world how to end the killing of animals in their communities. Last year’s conference sold out months in advance, reaching participants from over 30 states and six nations!



No Kill Nation

A *National Tragedy.* This year, roughly 4,000,000 dogs and cats will be put to death in our nation's animal shelters. Their only "crime" is that they have no human address. Others may be sick or injured, but they could be saved with little effort. Unfortunately, they, too, will be killed. And still others are feral cats who should never enter shelters in the first place. But there is another way.

A Reason for Hope. In the last decade, several progressive shelters have put into place a bold series of lifesaving programs and services which have dramatically reduced the death rate in their communities. The resulting success proves that there is a formula for lifesaving, and that if we are to achieve a No Kill nation, it is incumbent upon shelters nationwide to embrace the programs and services which have been proven to save lives.

The No Kill Advocacy Center is the nation's first organization dedicated solely to the promotion of a No Kill nation. And it is the only national animal welfare agency that is staffed by people who have actually worked in and created a No Kill community.

Join the Crusade. But the challenges we face are great. From entrenched bureaucrats who are content with the status quo, to uncaring shelter directors hostile to calls for reform; from agencies mired in the failed philosophies of the past to those who have internalized a culture of defeatism—the roadblocks to No Kill are substantial, but not insurmountable.



We have a choice. We can fully, completely and without reservation embrace No Kill as our future. Or we can continue to legitimize the two-prong strategy of failure: adopt a few and kill the rest. It is a choice which history has thrown upon us. And a challenge that the No Kill Advocacy Center is ready to take on.

Your tax deductible contribution will help us hasten the day when animals find in their shelter a new beginning—instead of the end of the line. Working together, we can build an alternative consensus to traditional sheltering models—one which is oriented toward promoting and preserving life. An alternative which seeks to create a future where every animal will be respected and cherished, and where every individual life will be protected and revered.

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Or make a secure online donation at
www.nokilladvocacycenter.org.