

From: Zelda Penzel <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, August 09, 2014 2:38 PM
To: Heaphy, Eileen
Cc: Board of Representatives; Jankowski, Ted; Mayor's Office; Martin, David; [REDACTED]; tgeary@cthumane.org; [REDACTED]; Maryann.Kleinschmitt@newcanaanct.gov; [REDACTED]; Heaphy, Eileen
Subject:Re: re Stamford Animal Control

Thank you so much for getting back to me, Ms Heaphy.

SOS: Save Our Shelter Animals is based in New York. We are not a rescue group, but rather, a national advocacy organization, working to change the paradigm in present day sheltering which continues to condone a senseless and vicious cycle of killing as a means of population control; one that has been an abject failure, as evidenced by the fact that the killing of millions of adoptable shelter pets persists in spite of all efforts to end it. Among the many things we do to raise public consciousness about important matters concerning companion animals are the following:

- * We reach out to and meet with public officials who are concerned about these issues, and try to educate those who are not.

- * Using social media and the internet, we work with rescue and transport groups all around the country, helping to network for companion animals who are in danger of being killed in shelters or who have been abandoned through no fault of their own.

- * We endeavor to get endangered animals to safety, some from regressive shelters that still use outdated and cruel methods to kill animals (gas, heartstick, shooting and drowning); some from shelters that make little to no effort to get them adopted, to open their doors and invite in the public or to bring in shelter directors with vision and dedication to saving lives.

- * We testify at public hearings on bills affecting the lives of companion animals, such as the recent New York City Council hearing on an ill-considered Pet Store bill that would have little to no effect in curbing the glut of pets originating from cruel "puppy mills".

- * We sponsor educational events for animal activists, shelter directors and others interested in the welfare of animals e.g.: Hope for NY Shelter Animals Conference, featuring Nathan Winograd as guest speaker; and most recently the New York Premiere of Redemption, the No Kill Revolution in America.

While I appreciate the important role that organizations such as ours "have to play in finding solutions for animals in need" it is without question, the decisions made by elected officials and those charged with instituting policies and selecting people to carry them out, that is of even greater importance and urgency; for these are indeed, the decisions and "solutions" that make the difference between life and death for our companion animals.

Many thanks for your interest and concern, Ms Heaphy. I look forward to hearing from you soon as you make progress in your goal to create a shelter in Stamford that will truly benefit your citizens and of course save the lives of the animals entrusted in its care. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of further help.

Zelda Penzel

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