

May 28, 2008

Dear Friends of Shelter Animals,

Last week the Lane County Budget Committee recommended that the County Commissioners fund Lane County Animal Services (LCAS) for another year, using funds from the County "reserves" to make up the shortfall.

This means that there will be Animal Control Officers available to answer calls about dangerous dogs, and injured and abused animals, in the unincorporated areas of Lane County -- much needed services in our community, if performed responsibly and humanely.

It is clear to many of us who have been working hard to create a No Kill(ing of Adoptable & Treatable Animals) Community in Lane County, though, that there have been few significant improvements at Lane County Animal Services, in spite of the huge amount of effort expended by volunteers, rescue organizations and animal advocates, who have spent countless hours assisting the shelter employees with their work, and introducing programs with a proven record of saving adoptable & medically/behaviorally treatable animals.

It's great to know that those employees at LCAS who *have* embraced the County Commissioners' Save Adoptable & Treatable Animals Philosophy will be employed for another year to continue their dedicated work, however, it's also clear that many of the LCAS employees continue to be extremely comfortable with the old "catch and kill" system, and have absolutely no intention of changing. Some of them are even going so far as to try to get certain volunteers banned from LCAS, because the volunteers continue to point out substandard and neglectful conditions that many of the animals at LCAS are kept in.

We at SARA, as well as other local animal advocates, have concluded that the only way to create real change at LCAS is for an experienced No Kill/Save Adoptable & Treatable Animals shelter director to be hired at LCAS, who can provide the leadership, transparency, accountability & fund-raising abilities needed for a successful shelter system that *truly serves* the community. Nathan Winograd of the No Kill Advocacy Center can provide this recruitment service, for a relatively modest professional fee.

If you would like to see our community truly achieve a No Kill/Save Adoptable & Treatable Animals shelter system, please sign the petition at the following link: <http://www.thepetitionsite.com/petition/930567723> - this petition is getting worldwide support, which is very exciting!

Please spread the word -- a No Kill/Save Adoptable & Treatable Animals community is possible if we all strive with this goal in mind!

Diana