



DR. DARIN J. WARD

WELLNESS CENTERED DENTISTRY, PC

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drawing as therapy

by harvey d. jackson



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END EUTHANASIA

Animals deserve to live! Did you know that based on current statistics, more than 2,500 cats and dogs will be euthanized at our county's animal shelter in 2006? In addition, there may be hundreds more put down at Greenhill Humane Society.

Although some of these deaths are the humane choice for sick or injured animals, the vast majority of euthanasia in Lane County is performed on healthy animals capable of living a happy life as someone's companion. They may not be the purebred puppy or cute little kitten you can buy at the mall, but they are living creatures who deserve our help.

Animal euthanasia is a symptom of two problems. First, we have a long-term overpopulation of dogs and cats due to lack of education and lack of freely available spay/neuter services. Second, our local shelters are functioning with extremely limited resources. LCARA has space for only 30 dogs and 40 cats. Greenhill is similarly sized.

With a constant flow of new stray and abandoned animals, euthanasia becomes standard operating procedure. At LCARA, a stray pet without a tag may be put down before the owner has a chance to find and retrieve her/him. At Greenhill, a family pet given up for adoption may be put down because she/he is deemed to be un-adoptable.

SARA is one of the most active local animal welfare groups (www.sarasavesanimals.org). On July 20 a national expert, Nathan Winograd, will visit our area and present a discussion titled "Building a No-Kill Community."

His website (www.nokillsolutions.com) has a lot of good information on the subject of animal euthanasia. Winograd's visit is a great step in the right direction and I encourage our local elected leaders, shelter staff, volunteer organizations, and new volunteers to work together and find ways to end senseless animal euthanasia in Lane County.

Lisa Burtraw
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