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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

fective paradigm. Would a no-kill shelter save Lane County's animals in need? No. Will establishing a no-kill community sustainably save animals now and actually alleviate our long-term problem of unwanted animals in our future? Absolutely.

Kylie Belachaikovsky
Eugene

STARTS WITH PET OWNERS

Thank you for your heartbreaking story (4/26) about euthanizing pets in Lane County. The responsibility in creating a compassionate society lies with all of us and should not depend on policies made by agencies that shelter animals. It begins with anyone considering getting a new pet.

Do your homework first; know what you are getting into. Kittens and puppies are very cute but can live for 10-15 years. Do you have what it takes to give them a loving home for their entire lives? Often animals need to be rehomed for legitimate reasons — death of owner, allergies, etc. But all too often animals are relinquished to shelters for reasons such as a new baby in the house, new furniture, lack of housebreaking and/or medical issues. All of these situations have solutions.

There are many compassionate animal care professionals in our area who are more than willing to offer creative and workable recommendations to anyone seeking to give up a pet. Don't contribute to the problem in shelters by giving up your pet without seeking advice. Don't count on the fact that your pet is very "adoptable" in assuming it will find a new loving home.

Remember to spay and neuter your pets so they don't add to the tragedy of overpopulation. If you can, make a contribution to a local animal welfare organization in memory of Garfield and other beautiful and loving cats and dogs that were euthanized so that today you can be part of a more humane Lane County.

Randi E. Golub, CVT
CatNurse on Call
Eugene

NO-KILL SOLUTION

I would like to reply to the May 17 letter from Curtis Taylor. It is obvious to me that Curtis does not know what he's talking about. Nathan Winograd's No-Kill Solution shelters are completely open door, turning no animal away. No-Kill Solution shelters do euthanize animals that are sick and suffering or are dangerous. These shelters don't "warehouse" animals in substandard conditions. See information on his programs and their success at www.nokillsolutions.com

Reno, after a recent clean sweep of personnel who did not support the No-Kill Solution, has dramatically reduced the numbers of animals killed at both the Humane Society and Animal Control. Lane County needs this No-Kill Solution. Please contact your county commissioner and Greenhill to urge them to adopt this program for the sake of the animals that we love and care about.

Bev Jorgensen
Springfield

REPUBLICANS LACK COURAGE

It takes courage to admit when you are wrong or to admit you have made a mistake. It takes courage to actually take responsibility

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ity for your actions. Republicans clearly lack this courage and they demonstrated this in their most recent presidential debate, which resembled a Neanderthal contest.

When Congressman Ron Paul had the audacity to point out that one of the reasons we were attacked on 9/11 was because of our military presence in the Middle East, he immediately felt the wrath of Rotten Rudy Guiliani, the FOX Noise moderator and the Republican crowd. In other words, if there's something Republicans just won't tolerate (other than equal rights for non-heterosexuals, women's medical freedoms and embryonic stem cell research,) it's admitting that there might be something wrong with the United States of America. It's the same reason so many Republicans refuse to vote for an end to the occupation of Iraq. Supporting withdrawal means coming to terms with the fact that the Republican-led invasion of Iraq was a mistake of huge proportion.

In the first Republican presidential debate when Mitt Romney was asked what was wrong with America, he didn't dare to recognize even one problem. Because Republicans abhor self-criticism, he actually claimed that he couldn't think of anything. We need leaders who will admit that there is a long list of problems that ail America. We need leaders who realize we shouldn't be occupying Iraq. We need leaders who will admit when they have made mistakes. We need leaders who have the courage to take responsibility for their actions. The leadership that this nation so desperately needs is nowhere to be found in the Republican Party.

Joshua Welch
Eugene

PURGE THE PARASITES

Every so often I get disgusted with *EW* and drop it for a time. About the only things I read are the letters, concert announcements and Red Meat, so hopefully it's apparent what I am disgusted with. To my surprise, however, the letters in your recent *Weekly* (5/17) are constructive and interesting, seeking solutions instead of just bad-mouthing.

It is that spirit I'd like to see more of: people seeking solutions as a community, as independent individuals grouping for change (or status quo, you tree-huggers — you keep this town, you know). The recent defeat of the latest tax/theft scheme offers us a chance to help ourselves.

I heard from a friend that the head of Search and Rescue was canned as a "result" of your votes. The petulant children in our local government complain about the lack of allowance and try to make things as hard as