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THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR THE  
PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

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President

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President & Secretary  
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Dear ██████████

Thank you very much for your letter of August 13. I regret that I cannot make a meeting in ██████████ on September 6 & 7. Virtually all of September and October have been long booked, and I shall be every place from San Francisco and Reno to Belgium and Uganda during that period.

Do you folks understand that the ASPCA operates a no-kill shelter here in New York? We just do not brag about it because to say one has a no-kill shelter seems to indicate that people who do kill are sadists or monsters of some particular stripe. It is no great thing to operate a no-kill shelter! It means that somebody else is doing the killing for us. And that is true of no-kill shelters all across this country. They chose to let someone else do the dirty work, and we readily admit that that is the case. However, we will never use the fact that our shelter does not do the killing that it once did as a means of raising funds or attracting attention. It is unfair to the rest of the humane community.

I fail to see how any conference, any where, is going to change this. Consider the fact that between 40,000 and 45,000 dogs and cats are being euthanized in New York City this year by the CACC. Consider the fact that it is becoming more difficult to adopt dogs out all the time because of the restrictions inspired by the many Pitbull and Rottweiler and other "dangerous dogs" attacks in recent months.

Taking those two facts into consideration, do you or anyone else suggest that any amount of effort can significantly decrease that level of euthanasia except by stemming the supply of dogs and cats? New homes are becoming more difficult to find all the time and the number of dogs coming in is steady. They come through the front door of the CACC, as they once did through ours, every single day of the week.

Spay/neuter and responsible pet ownership are the ways to reduce the numbers, not publicity about not killing dogs and cats. The same number of animals are being killed, if not by a local municipal animal control agency or a humane society, then by the veterinarians, the police department or the sanitation department - somehow the animals are being disposed of. Running on about no-kill as the answer is maybe okay in San Francisco, with a population of 70,000, one third who are gay (the gay community is traditionally the most animal friendly), compared to New



America's First Humane Society