

## From Michael Mountain

### Past President, Best Friends Animal Society

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December 1, 2009

The Honorable Micah Kellner  
The Honorable Thomas K. Duane  
834 Legislative Office Building  
Albany, NY 12248

Re. Oreo's Law

Dear Senator Duane and Assembly Member Kellner,

Thank you for introducing "Oreo's Law" in the New York State legislature. All of us who are working to bring about a time when there are no more homeless pets appreciate your efforts to bring an end to the killing of animals in shelters before every effort has been made to find better options.

During the 1990s, a new generation of humane organizations spearheaded national and local campaigns around the country to replace so much unnecessary killing with spay/neuter, adoption and educational programs. This new approach captured the public imagination at a grassroots level, and by the end of the decade the number of animals being killed in shelters had dropped from more than 15 million each year to less than 5 million. It was a remarkable achievement – one in which local governments played a significant role, and one that we at Best Friends Animal Society were proud to be a part of.

Of course, with 4 to 5 million dogs and cats still dying in the shelters each year, there's more work to be done. And the law that you are introducing, modeled on California's successful "Hayden Law", which passed with overwhelming bipartisan support, will be critical to that work. Specifically, your bill will ensure that no companion animal will die needlessly – and at the taxpayer's expense – when a responsible no-kill shelter or other private rescue organization is willing to spend its own funds to give that homeless pet a good new life.

Thank you for your concern. And while I stepped down from my position as president of Best Friends Animal Society last year and am writing to you in a personal capacity, if there's anything I can do to further your efforts, please let me know.

Good wishes in all your work for the animals,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Mountain". The letters are cursive and fluid, with the first name and last name clearly distinguishable.

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