

## On the Road

*The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness does not overcome it.*

By

Nathan J. Winograd

Over the last several years, I have traveled to cities across the country trying to reform animal shelters, offering alternatives to killing, telling the story of hope embodied in the No Kill philosophy. My travels have taken me throughout Arizona, California, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, New York, Nevada, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, and elsewhere.

Mostly, what I found was this:



*I found bleeding animals being totally ignored with no care or cleaning as shelter managers and supervisors walked by.*



*I found algae-covered water bowls that no one cleaned.*



*I found shelters with empty cages during busy summer months so staff did not have to work hard while they killed the animals instead, claiming to do so for "lack of space."*





*I found kittens scheduled to be killed because they acted “feral” or were impounded in “feral” traps and the shelter did not want to evaluate them or put in place either a foster or TNR program.*



*I found cats kept in filthy conditions.*



*I found inhumane methods of killing.*



*I found sick cats with no food, water, or litter, forgotten for days in back rooms.*





*I found empty water bowls.*



*I found dogs kept in filthy conditions.*



*I found animal bodies in trash bags at shelters whose staff admitted that sometimes the animals are still alive and found to be moving because of poor procedures and lack of verification.*



*I found shelters which kill puppies because of parvovirus epidemics which they cause through poor cleaning and care by staff no one holds accountable.*





*I found animals forced to walk, sleep and eat in kennels covered with diarrhea while staff socializes.*



*I found animals trying to drink from empty water containers because they were forgotten in back rooms.*



*I found lethargic puppies slowly dying while staff walked by and appeared oblivious to their plight.*



*I found dogs with obvious and painful injuries such as broken legs untreated or cared for.*





*I found friendly animals who were later called “aggressive” and killed as “unadoptable” to make statistics look better.*



*I found food stored with and contaminated by litter, chemicals, sitting next to freezers with the bodies of dead animals. (Note: gas chamber on left.)*



*I found wet and shivering dogs sprayed down with high pressure hoses and caustic chemicals because staff was too lazy to take them out before cleaning and sanitizing dog kennels.*



*I found filthy litter boxes, cages and water bowls after staff claimed they "cleaned" them.*





*I found dead feral cats in shelters because directors are opposed to TNR programs.*

I found mothers and newborns with no food. I found animals slowly dying because of improper “euthanasia” techniques. I found dilapidated buildings in wealthy communities, shelters run by health departments that were teeming with filth, and those run by police departments where staff was abusive to the animals. In short, what I found was a sheltering system in crisis, crying out for reform.

I found this despite the fact that the national groups continue to legitimize, protect and defend these agencies by claiming that these shelters are merely doing the public’s dirty work with skill and compassion, that they are dark angels, by parroting the fiction “that all stakeholders in the animal welfare community have a passion for and are dedicated to the mutual goal of saving animals’ lives,” and that no one wants to kill, even though many directors of these shelters find killing easier than doing what is necessary to stop it.

As dire and depressing as this may be, I also found hope for the future.



*I found volunteers, activists, and rescue groups making a lifesaving difference to the animals.*

**Pet Tales** with Linda Wilson Fuoco 

## Must all pit bulls die? Shelters to change policies

Wednesday, May 24, 2000

By Linda Wilson Fuoco, Post-Gazette Staff Writer

 They take in abused and homeless animals. Those shelters that find new homes for thousands of dogs and cats provide a

*I found a nation of animal lovers fighting to change an animal shelter system which does not reflect their values—people who are progressive, caring, compassionate, and generous when it comes to animals.*





*I found everyday heroes standing up to injustice and demanding life affirming alternatives.*



*I found a lot of great animals. And I found that there is someone out there for each and every savable one.*

## Animals finding comfort, not death, at shelter

Nancy Perkins Deseret Morning News

IVINS, Washington County -- Lost and abandoned animals who wind up at the luckiest creatures on Earth.

Just ask "Parley," a goofy, 6-year-old border collie mix with a crooked leg and

*I found an animal control shelter in Utah that saved 97% of the animals because that was the right thing to do.*

DailyProgress.com | SPCA director named top in U.S.

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News

**SPCA director named top in U.S.**  
*No-kill group cites saving of 92 percent of animals*

From staff reports / Charlottesville Daily Progress  
January 21, 2007

The director of the  
Charlottesville-Albemarle  
Society for the Prevention of



*I found one in Virginia that saved 92% because the shelter took killing of animals who are not suffering, hopelessly ill or vicious off of the table.*





*I found another in Nevada that increased adoptions by as much as 84% by embracing, rather than blaming, the public.*



*And I found others that went the extra mile for animals in need.*

In short, I found a light shining in the darkness, which the darkness was not able to overcome. And it is that light that will pave the way for a No Kill nation.

