

Times-Herald

Animals deserve better

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My heart breaks for animals like the Rottweiler found abandoned in a Maple Avenue yard on a short chain with no food or water ("Owners leaving pets behind to survive as best they can," Aug. 11).

I urge people facing foreclosures or financial hardships never to abandon their animals on the streets, in the woods, or in empty homes or yards to "fend for themselves." Abandoning animals is illegal, and it's a virtual death sentence for animals who depend on humans for food, water, shelter, and veterinary care. Please, never hand animals over to uncertain fates with strangers or leave them at "no-kill" shelters where animals may be warehoused in cages for months or years, either.

Taking animals to well-run, open-admission shelters where they will be fed, cared for, and loved, and will have a chance at finding new homes is the kindest option if you have no choice but to part with your animal companions.

Everyone can help free up room and resources at shelters by having their own animals spayed or neutered and by adopting animals from shelters instead of buying them from breeders or pet stores, which contribute to overpopulation. To learn more, visit www.HelpingAnimals.com.

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