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February 11, 2010

The Honorable Micah Kellner  
The Honorable Thomas K. Duane  
834 Legislative office building  
Albany, NY 12248

Dear Assembly Member Kellner and Senator Duane,

Thank you for your decision to introduce "Oreo's Law" into the New York State legislature; this law has been a long time coming and exudes the basic fundamentals of the no kill movement. Animals that end up in our shelters deserve a second chance. This is a much needed law in this disposable society of ours.

I am founder of Angel's Gate. We are the nation's first residential hospice for animals. We work tirelessly every day fighting to preserve life and dignity of our animals in the final months of their lives. There are already too many animals killed in this country because they are not wanted or because they have no place to go. Oreo had a sanctuary who wanted him. So the decision to end his life is both senseless and tragic.

Oreo fought hard to stay alive. Having rehabilitated hundreds of animals, I can assure you, to recover from the injuries that Oreo sustained he had to have an incredible will to live. It takes much time to recover when every aspect of your life has been shattered. Pets Alive was willing to give Oreo the time and space to **heal**, physically, emotionally and spiritually. To have him endure recovery all those months only to lead him to his untimely and deliberate death is unconscionable. So why did this happen? This happened because there are currently no laws in place that would prevent this from happening. Oreo fell through the cracks of our society.

As a "role model" the ASPCA has now publicly set a precedent as to how society should treat animals deemed "aggressive". It would surely seem that the ASPCA has lost sight of its original mission. Oreo is just one case and brought to public awareness because of the media. One needs to wonder just how many "Oreo's" have suffered the same fate. I would like to see the power for life and death decisions of our companion animals in the hand of those with compassion. I pray that Oreo's death will not be in vain. My support and prayers are with you.

Namaste,

Susan Marino RN LVT CCRP  
founder/Director Angel's Gate