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# OPINION

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## 99 HOMES in 99 HOURS for 99 REASONS

### STAN PAC'S 99 SALE



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October 17, 2007  
Vacaville, CA

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Maite Kropp  
**Talking to the Animals**

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### New no-kill book is a must-read

By Maite Kropp

Article Launched: 10/14/2007 07:26:19 AM PDT

"Today, most Americans hold the humane treatment of animals as a personal value, which is reflected in our laws, cultural practices, the proliferation of organizations founded for animal protection, increased per capita spending on animal care, and great advancements in veterinary medicine" says Nathan J. Winograd.

He has the expertise to make such a statement. Winograd is the director of the national No Kill Advocacy Center. A graduate of Stanford Law School, he is a former criminal prosecutor and a corporate attorney. He was also the director of operations for the San Francisco SPCA. He has spoken in the United States and abroad on animal sheltering issues and has written animal protection legislation at the state and national levels.

He also has lectured on animal sheltering ethics to students at Cornell University's College of Veterinary Medicine and on animal law issues at the UCLA School of Law.

"There are over 70 million pet dogs and 90 million pet cats in the United States, and their owners are collectively spending 38 billion dollars a year," Winograd says. "But the agencies that the public expects to protect homeless animals are instead killing more than 5 million animals annually."

Why is the American public silent about this issue? Perhaps it is because the information is not getting to the public, as much as pet rescuers wish it would.

Now, everyone can learn about this important issue by reading a book written by Winograd, "Redemption: The Myth of Pet Overpopulation and the No-Kill Revolution in America" (Almaden Books, 2007).

I suggest every former, current or future pet owner read and think about this book. It will arouse a range of emotions, from sadness and anger to hopefulness. Above all, it will inspire you to respect and help our animal friends in a positive, supportive and loving way.

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The Humane Society of the United States has announced its donation to the state of Louisiana, which is building an animal shelter designed to house pets during emergencies.

The number of animals left behind during hurricanes Katrina and Rita was a nightmare that the American public still has not forgotten.

Now Louisiana is about to build an animal shelter that, during emergencies, will be able to house up to 500 animals. It will be located at Dixon Correctional Institute in Jackson, La., about 30 miles north of Baton Rouge. It will include a clinic that will be supervised by students at Louisiana State University School of Veterinary Medicine. Construction should be finished by April.

Louisiana's governor has approved using inmate labor for the construction, as well as some staffing of the facility. Supervisors at the medium-security prison will choose inmates to be trained in the care of animals during emergencies. Dixon Warden James LeBlanc said the Correctional Institute will be "ready to go at a moment's notice when something does happen."

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