

February 1, 2012

Honorable Mayor Teresa Tomlinson
Government Center Tower, 6th Floor
100 10th St.
Columbus, GA 31901

Via e-mail ttomlinson@columbusga.org

Dear Mayor Tomlinson:

We hope this letter finds you well. We've followed with interest recent news reports regarding the Columbus Animal Shelter and public pressure to lower the shelter's euthanasia rates. I'm enclosing information that we hope will be helpful (please excuse the delay in our letter—I tried numerous times to send this information via e-mail, including from my personal hotmail account and with your assistant Lacey's help, but each time it was returned as undeliverable).

On a daily basis, our office receives reports of shelters pressured to lower their euthanasia numbers by individuals and groups unfamiliar with the inner workings of animal care and control facilities (or the daily challenges and heartbreaks that shelter workers face), or, in some cases, efforts by volunteers or staff members to implement troublesome policies that are not in the animals' best interests, such as warehousing animals for months, keeping animals in cramped cages and kennels designed only for temporary housing (which promotes disease transmission in addition to being inhumane), keeping animals in makeshift quarters when regular cages and kennels are full, and more.

We realize that no one wants to euthanize, least of all the people who work at the shelter, but the sad reality is that animals who are not adopted and not adoptable don't benefit in any way from being kept alive with little to no hope of adoption, and they become less adoptable with each passing day. In the best economy, there are simply too many animals and not enough homes for them all, and with the current downturn, shelters (often already burdened with staff and budget shortages) must struggle even harder to manage the increasing numbers of unwanted animals streaming through their doors. The following are just a few recent examples of such policies gone awry and I've also attached information about the so-called "no-kill movement" that I hope is helpful:

- **San Antonio, TX: *Hope for No-Kill Shelter in 2012 Dies***
<http://www.mysanantonio.com/news/politics/article/No-no-kill-in->

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[2012-1436038.php](#); also see attached editorial *ACS No-Kill Policy Only Masks Problem*, which cites animal bites doubled

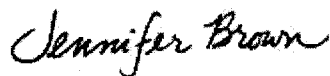
- **Indianapolis, IN:** *Shake-up at Animal Care and Control*
<http://www.wthr.com/Global/story.asp?s=11188092&clienttype=printable>
- **Detroit, MI:** *Michigan Humane Says Doors are Open to All*
<http://www.clickondetroit.com/news/28967342/detail.html#story>
- **Niagara Falls, Ontario:** *No-Kill Policy Dropped*
<http://www.niagarafallsreview.ca/ArticleDisplay.aspx?archive=true&e=2927359>
- **East Baton Rouge, LA:** *New Operators Say Staff Overwhelmed*
<http://theadvocate.com/home/675101-79/new-operators-say-staff-overwhelmed.html>;
Crowded No-Kill Shelter to Start Emergency Euthanasia <http://www.nbc33tv.com/all-about-animals/crowded-no-kill-shelter-to-start-emergency-euthanasia-due-to-overpopulation>

Additionally, some shelters see “rescuers” as a solution to reducing euthanasia or easing overcrowding (sadly, the overwhelming numbers of animals in need of homes make it impossible for shelters to adopt their way out of the dog and cat overpopulation crisis), either by choice or under outside pressures, and we routinely see cases where animals are found suffering in horrific conditions after being released by local shelters to those promising they’ll find homes for them but who aren’t in a position to do so. In fact, such incidents just recently occurred in North Carolina, Illinois, New Jersey, and New York along the Vermont border, where local government shelters released groups of animals to so-called rescuers who were later charged with animal cruelty after sick, dying, and dead animals were discovered on their properties. We respectfully urge the city—if it hasn’t already—to implement a policy whereby animals are released only through adoption or to quality placement partners (I’ve attached guidelines in case it’s helpful) who’ve been carefully screened and their properties inspected to see conditions firsthand.

Please know that PETA supports the good work of open-door shelters. We hope you’ll consider us a resource.

Thank you for your time and attention and for your hard work for Columbus citizens. I can be contacted at 630-966-8895 or JenniferB@peta.org.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Brown, Animal Sheltering Advisor
Cruelty Investigations Department

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Animal Hoarding: 'No Kill' or Helping that Hurts?

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Submitted by Phyllis M Daugherty on Jan 31, 2012

In a compelling 2011 book, "Cold-Blooded Kindness," subtitled in part, "...Reflections on Helping that Hurts," Barbara Oakley introduces concepts that may help us better understand how ostensibly compassionate people can commit the criminal act of animal hoarding and seem oblivious to the suffering and cruelty of keeping often hundreds of animals crammed into cages or rooms where their flesh is consumed by the accumulation of their own excrement and where they die from dehydration and starvation.

Animal hoarding is reaching epidemic levels nationwide, and increasingly there is evidence that it is correlated to the "No Kill" movement. Maddies' Fund defines "No Kill"

as, "...all healthy and treatable animals are saved..." Nathan Winograd, challenges his followers farther, stating on a website called The No-Kill Nation, "The only animals dying in a No Kill community are dogs and cats who are irremediably suffering, are sick or injured with a poor or grave prognosis for rehabilitation, and vicious dogs with a poor prognosis. (This does not include shy or non-aggressive scared dogs.) Nothing short of that is acceptable. And nothing less will do." http://www.thenokillnation.com/?p=8

The idealism sounds wonderful but it is not realistic when unwanted and neglected animals are still pouring in the doors of public and private shelters all over the country, and at least 4 to 5 million a year are not adopted and are euthanized, according to The Humane Society of the United States, While there is much insistence on "saving" the animals, the No Kill websites are devoid of describing the humane conditions under which these "saved" animals must be kept. Unfortunately, many of these "saved" pets spend years in cages and kennels after they are "rescued."

Best Friends states in a recent Associated Press article that it has 1,700 homeless animals in a "no-kill sanctuary." Many unwanted pets are transported by shelters to other states and to Canada with no monitoring of their final disposition, to assure they do not show as euthanized on the facility's statistics. http://www.opposingviews.com/i/l-a-shelter-dogs-transported-to-canada-rescue-or-ruse .

The insistence that animals must be removed from "kill" shelters because there is no fate worse than humane euthanasia can cause serious emotional distress and pressure on a rescuer. Effective animal rescue requires refusing to take responsibility for animals beyond your ability to provide proper care for them. There are many responsible rescuers and private organizations that rehome pets annually and who devote much of their lives to spay/neuter efforts to reduce pet overpopulation. They all want to see an end to the need to euthanize adoptable animals.

But, the radical insistence by "No Kill" proponents that the only thing keeping public shelters from being "No Kill" is a lack of effort to adopt them to the public is not true. Statistically, less than 20 percent of animals are adopted from animal shelters and that has not changed much after billions of dollars has been spent on education and adoption programs

Until breeding (backyard and professional) is strictly curtailed areawide, spay/neuter efforts maximized, and humane care laws enforced without exception, unwanted animals will come into shelters in far larger numbers than quality adopters. With these solutions put in place as a priority, shelter euthanasia will decrease automatically.

HOARDERS, NO LONGER JUST THE "CRAZY CAT LADY"

In most states, there are no laws requiring rescuers/rescue organizations to be licensed or have any training in animal care, or any background check in order to hang up their shingle and start taking animals from shelters. Some take only the most desirable impounded pets, called "cherry picking," free or at a minimal cost from public shelters for resale at a substantial profit (plus donations).

With the growing "no kill" pressure, there is an increasing number of reported hoarding cases where those involved obviously do not have the animals' best interest at heart, but the tenacity and relentlessness of the "No Kill" movement has convinced a large part of the public and appointed or elected officials not to risk their wrath by questioning..

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As a supposedly humane nation, how long do we continue to excuse horrific animal hoarders who often function adequately in social and academic realms and maintain a career—attorneys, veterinarians, even a former Mayor of Beverly Hills, have recently been convicted of gross animal neglect/abuse in hoarding cases. These are not people suffering from such a debilitating mental disorder that they are justified in keeping animals in gruesome conditions and filthy cages, providing inadequate care, and bypassing prosecution because they claim to "love and save" animals:

A tragic example is currently in the news. On January 26, in Summerdale, Alabama, police were called to Purple-Hearted Puppies kennel, a no-kill shelter, where over 200 animals were in various stages of starvation and some even forced to cannibalize dead kennelmates in order to survive. Forty-two dogs and cats were dead and two horses had to be immediately euthanized. When officers went to the home of the mother and daughter who owned the kennel, another 15 animals in similar condition were found. Both adults were present.

If you have never seen the horrors of an animal-hoarding situation and the misery and desperation of the surviving, helpless victims, please read this article, "Hundreds of Dogs and Cats Near Starvations...Dozens Dead" and watch the video here:<http://www2.wkrg.com/news/2012/jan/26/hundreds-dogs-and-cats-near-starvationdozens-dead-ar-3125248/>?referer=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2F1.php%3Fu%3Dhttp%3A%2F%2Fwkrg.com%2Far%2F3125248%2F&h=bAQQGzKoy-&shorturl=http%3A%2F%2Fbit.ly%2Fyix3KC

And watch "New Developments - Abandoned Animals, which discusses that the 15 animals at the home of the hoarders had not had food or water for at least ten days. See video here:

http://www2.wkrg.com/news/2012/jan/27/new-developments-abandoned-animals-ar-3127488/?referer=http://www.facebook.com/1.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fwkrg.com%2Far%2F3127488%2F&h=xAQEUkt2b&enc=AZPVVgAwa7WPGG2_QZQg4hBIHZ_1jFco0wZ_PnkTH1-k0qJInlazoOXWTiYWI-DP9QibZurEupisP66HHokSulSt9PX3qcSfFFmQli7XRW6jD2YpvcAHM2RqzmyHluX-LXiHrc94zB6iGpYHcQRZpDTKgOrNtQB25cZotnzG7pzxQUQT7ezq_qfg63bTavVFa-yamssgF5PPfBGRzGIAAemdUDNs72qTb-FXM07qRePw&shorturl=http://bit.ly/zVDrU

In a July 2011 article, Is 'No-Kill' Movement Leading to More Cat Hoarding? Cindy Swirko writes about a recent Gainesville, Florida, hoarding case: "Haven Acres kept hundreds of cat in deplorable conditions that left some dead and many more sick."

"No-kill rescue groups and shelters abound... These groups and others get potential pets from the Alachua County Animal Services shelter and offer them for adoption. But they have limited money, space and volunteers. So the number of animals they can take in is limited.

"That narrows the options for people intent on getting rid of an animal — take it to shelter and risk euthanasia, dump it somewhere or try to find a place that will take it with a promise of no euthanasia. A place like Haven Acres."

<http://www.gainesville.com/article/20110723/ARTICLES/110729763>

IS ANIMAL HOARDING JUSTIFIED BY "SANCTITY OF THE VICTIM"?

In *Cold-Blooded Kindness*, Barbara Oakley discusses the concept of "the sanctity of the victim," which, once established, purportedly excuses bizarre behaviors by a self-declared savior and validates the importance of the rescuer who selflessly sacrifices his/her life to be an angel of mercy and thus should be above criticism and questioning.

Could this explain the insistence by hoarders that they alone can "love their animals" and that even animals found dead under urine and feces saturated sofas and in dresser drawers are all right and being "treated?"

Looking at it from this perspective and applying another of Barbara Oakley's posits, would this perhaps more properly classify animal hoarding as a "disorder of certainty" rather than obsessive-compulsive, which Oakley states, "...involves the inability to be certain"?

If so, should the certainty that they are ordained to fulfill a mission of rescue exempt offenders from violation of laws and should society be blind to their accountability for resultant inhumaneness of their actions? The lack of criminal penalties specifically directed toward the hoarding of animals would suggest it does. Although an increasing number of hoarders are prosecuted for animal neglect/cruelty, animal hoarding itself has been historically considered as a mental illness and is still categorized with "cluttering" by some mental health standards.

"FIRST LAW" Imperative for the "No Kill" Movement?

Oakley presents another perspective of sanctifying the victim. Followers of movements based on this concept believe they have found their "calling." They are engulfed by the sense of belonging and the cult-like, ostensible imperative of the "...overwhelming importance of their own role in selfless service to those victims." The charisma and inspirational rhetoric of leaders can have a hypnotic, compelling effect which Oakley calls the "First Law." The First Law requires that any criticism of such leaders must be rejected, along with "...anyone who dares to criticize them."

Let's look at recent inspirational statements by the major leaders of the "No Kill" movement, whose statistics, formulas, E-metric measurements and projections are accepted without question by novice and seasoned animal-welfare advocates/rescuers who want desperately to see an end to pet overpopulation and the need to euthanize homeless, surplus pets.

In the January 9, 2012, Associated Press article, Euthanasia to control shelter population unpopular, the three No-Kill experts that have spoken for the past two decades rally the hopeful again. Richard Avazino of



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4. 2012 NFL Mock Draft: Revisiting 2011 Draft Day Trades
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6. Penn State's Joe Paterno Was No Hero
7. Video: Radio Host Bryan Fischer Blames Pres. Bill Clinton for Rise in HPV Virus
8. Cops Kill One of their Own; Albert Covarrubias was Sex Abuse Suspect
9. School Suspends Cancer Survivor J.T. Gaskins; Growing Hair for Charity
10. Effort to Get Marijuana Legalization on Washington Ballot Works

Maddies Fund stated "We are just a breath away from doing what is right for the animals," He sees an anticipated \$70 million per year in corporate donations by 2015 as a key factor in reaching the "No Kill" goal, according to the AP report.

In the same article, Nathan Winograd tells us that 95 percent of all animals entering shelters can be adopted or treated and most of the 5 percent remaining "...can be cared for in hospice centers or sanctuaries." As for public shelters nationwide being packed with 60 to 70 percent pit bulls and other dogs "with aggressive reputations," his solution is for "shelters to do a better job of trying to find them homes."

Best Friends founder/director Gregory Castle reminds us that 800 grassroot groups have joined the Best Friends' network "to make their communities no-kill." He admits that "No Kill" is a nebulous term in his explanation that, "Differences in the varying no-kill campaigns are mostly a matter of nuance...and how you define sick and aggressive." http://articles.boston.com/2012-01-05/news/30593939_1_animal-shelters-euthanize-animals-adoptable-pet/2

Cindy Swirko, who wrote about the Gainesville Haven Acres hoarding case, isn't convinced that everything is going that successfully in the "No Kill" movement. She writes about the opinions of a different group of observers and reflects:

"Experts say the "no-kill" movement is increasingly being exploited by hoarders who take in far more animals than they can handle, including many from people who think the animals they're handing over will live out their lives in heaven but actually end up in a living hell.

"If I was going to design a prison for bad cats, it would look like a lot of these sanctuaries, with poor housing, no protection for them to express their normal behavior or to be healthy," said Julie Levy, a University of Florida veterinary professor who specializes in cats. "I think this is an emergency situation in animal welfare because it appears to be growing. In some ways, the use of terminology like 'no kill' is contributing to this." <http://www.gainesville.com/article/20110723/ARTICLES/110729763>

KILLING THEM WITH KINDNESS

According to Pet-Abuse.com, animal hoarding cases rose from 60 in 2000 to 146 in 2010. It is also disturbing that often only one charge of animal cruelty is filed when there are hundreds of victims. This minimal penalty devalues the remainder of the lost lives and suffering to the point of insignificance. Additionally, it enables the perpetrator to be released quickly, often moving to another location where they can continue to satiate their addiction to harming and killing animals in the name of love. http://www.pet-abuse.com/pages/cruelty_database/statistics/state_ranking.php?year=2009&search=go

ARE WE DOING ENOUGH ABOUT HOARDING?

We all would love to see an end of the need to euthanize behaviorally and physically sound discarded pets, but there are just not enough homes to adopt them. Humane euthanasia to relieve shelter overcrowding cannot be stopped just because it is uncomfortable or unpopular without subjecting thousands of innocent animals to suffering in packed kennels plagued with disease and injury or death from attacks and fighting.

We must not allow them to be "rescued" by those who are unprepared for or unable to provide for all their needs. We also cannot, in the name of "No Kill" and in our rush to feel good about having them "leave the shelter" release them into the hands of someone who can sadistically watch them suffer and/or starve to death, often with food available on the premises.

Can we continue to accept that unconscionable crimes against multiple victims in hoarding cases are just kindness gone awry? Shouldn't specific laws/provisions address the egregious factors in these cases and the recidivism that is almost certain?

Is animal hoarding an uncontrollable mental disorder; a crime of misguided intentions? Or should those who harm, torture and kill animals with their "kindness" be held as culpable as child, spousal and elder abusers? Is animal hoarding an act of love, or does it mask a perverse need for ultimate power and control over helpless, defenseless, captive victims?

(Note: Barbara Oakley is also the author of *Evil Genes* and *Pathological Altruism*. <http://www.barbaraokley.com/>)

ANIMAL- HOARDING CASE REPORTS IN 2012

Less than one month into 2012, already shocking stories of animal hoarding have been reported across the United States. A few are discussed below:

Dogs' Would-be Rescuer Held (Los Angeles Times, 1/25/12)

A Tennessee state trooper discovered 140 dogs and one cat crammed into a U-Haul truck and a towed mini-van, according to the *L.A. Times*. "Some dogs were in cages, while others were loose, the trooper said in an affidavit obtained by The *Times*. One dog was dead."

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-long-beach-kennel-20120125,0,5620032.story>

The floors of the truck and van were covered with feces and urine and the dogs had not been removed to relieve themselves for the entire four days nor was there any evidence that food and water had been available during any of that time, according to reports.

But the subtitle of the article in the *Times* reads, "Nobody doubts that **Bonnie Sheehan** loves dogs." (Author's note: I guess it's too late to ask the one who died in the truck about that "love.")

Ms. Sheehan, head of Hearts for Hounds, states she was moving the animals to Virginia to find a better market for adoptions because she was overloaded at the "no kill" kennel she rented on Obispo Avenue in

<http://www.opposingviews.com/i/society/animal-rights/animal-hoarding-no-kill-or-helping-...> 2/1/2012

Long Beach, California. According to reports, animal control officials were in the process of addressing the fact that Sheehan had 150 dogs in kennel space legally allowing only 75. "Ms. Sheehan devoted her life to finding homes for animals so they would not be euthanized in a shelter, said her supporters."

The *Memphis Commercial Appeal* saw it a little differently, and wrote"

"During a routine traffic stop on Jan. 17, officers with the West Tennessee Drug Task Force discovered more than 100 dogs—and one cat—packed in carriers and make-shift cages in a filthy U-Haul truck and 25 more dogs riding in a minivan being towed by the truck. The animals had no access to food or water."

"The dogs were in cages and loose in the back of the trucks and apparently that's the way they left California. **Bonnie Sheehan, 55, and her passenger, Pamela King-McCracken, a 59-year-old volunteer with her rescue organization, were arrested, jailed and charged with felony animal cruelty.**" <http://www.commercialappeal.com/news/2012/jan/24/women-arrested-hauling-140-dogs-u-haul-agree-relin/>

WREG-TV in Memphis. reported that the women were each charged with one count of aggravated animal cruelty, a Class E felony, and were jailed on \$100,000 bond each in Fayette County. Both could face up to two years each if convicted. Other charges are still possible, according to District Attorney Gen. Mike Dunavan. They agreed to relinquish custody of the animals, according to local media reports. The preliminary hearing was continued until Feb. 21.

NBC affiliate WSLs 10 in Roanoke reported there were "...no records of Hearts for Hounds registering as an animal shelter or pet adoption agency or applying for a legally required licensing." The station also reported that neither of the properties listed in Sheehan's and McCracken's names in Virginia were zoned for use for pet adoption or animal sheltering. <http://www2.wsls.com/news/2012/jan/20/2/hearts-hounds-not-registered-animal-rescue-ar-1626741/> .)

Note: To read about another Long Beach hoarding case in which **Alexis Kyrklund and Gloria Ramos** of Noah's Ark were convicted, see **JUDGE JESSE RODRIGUEZ SPEAKS OUT ON ANIMAL CRUELTY AND HOARDING** <http://www.opposingviews.com/i/society/animal-rights/judge-jesse-rodriguez-animal-cruelty-and-hoarding>

Kern County, CA: 200 Animals Found in Neglect; Caretaker Arrested

On January 9, the *Californian* reported that animal control officers and staff of the Bakersfield Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals found more than 200 animals, most of them dogs, suffering from neglect, dehydration, malnutrition, illness and injury, when they got to **Duain Preitz's** remote **Best of Buddies** "no kill" rescue property west of Rosamond. The haphazard compound was full of 215 animals, including approximately 165 dogs, plus cats, horses, ducks, chickens, and a pig. An undisclosed number of deceased animals were also found.

Duain Preitz was arrested on suspicion of felony animal cruelty. Kern County Animal Control Division Manager Ron Brewster said the original mission to evaluate the animals immediately turned into a criminal investigation when officers saw their conditions.

Prietz has been in trouble with the county since early 2006 because he did not have proper approval for a kennel on the property and was not caring for the animals properly, county records show. He got rid of the 100 dogs he had on the property at the time. But a year later he re-established his kennel operation and started adding more animals. In fall 2010, after inspections revealed continued land use violations and inadequate shelters for the animals, Preitz was denied a permit by the Kern County Planning Commission.

"The [animal] shelter isn't an ideal situation for the dogs," Brewster said, "but it's much better than the conditions they were found in Friday."

More Kern County Animal Hoarding Cases

Kern County reports it has stepped up enforcement of animal abuse and has recently successfully prosecuted hoarders, including **Cynthia Gudger**, who was discovered living in filth with her pets in a warehouse in Tehachapi, and **Cindy Bemis**, who ran a troubled no-kill animal shelter in the desert near Mojave for years. <http://www.bakersfield.com/archive/x187268877/200-animals-rescued-from-compound-in-Rosamond-owner-arrested>

Oakland Cat Lady Who Beat the IRS, Loses Her Nearly 100 Cats

Jan Van Dusen, 60, family-law attorney and large-scale cat rescuer in Oakland, beat the IRS last year and won the write off of cat-rescue/care expenses, but she now faces animal cruelty charges for the neglect of her 100 cats, mostly former strays and ferals, according to reports. She was scheduled for a first hearing before Alameda Superior Court on January 23.

A series of complaints from neighbors about animal neglect and offensive odors led animal control officials to raid Van Dusen's 1,500 square foot home late last October, where they discovered 93 cats and two dogs—many suffering from ailments ranging from parasite infections to severe malnutrition. Sixteen of the animals were deemed terminally ill and had to be put down, while the rest were put up for adoption.

Van Dusen made headlines last year when her attempt to write off \$12,068 in expenses for care for her cats were denied by the IRS, saying that such expenses were personal and therefore not tax deductible because she lacked letters from Fix Our Ferals (where she volunteered) acknowledging the deductions benefited the non-profit

The former family law attorney took the IRS to court and won the right to deduct the vast majority of her animal care costs. She now faces one count of felony animal cruelty and has been charged with one felony

count of animal cruelty, which could land her a \$20,000 fine and up to three years in jail. Van Dusen has plead not guilty. <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2012/01/17/BAP21MQ4PU.DTL#ixzz1kTrD5DXV>

Savannah, SC - Daniel Golden, 43, charged with 71 counts of animal neglect in hoarding case.

Seventy-one dogs were found in home of a Savannah, South Carolina, man accused of hoarding. The house in the 300 block of East 33rd Street has been condemned and **Daniel Golden**, 43, has been charged with more than 100 city ordinance violations, states Savannah-Chatham Metropolitan Police.

Among the charges brought against Golden are 71 counts of animal neglect and 50 counts of failing to properly vaccinate the dogs, according to a news release. The dogs, from newborns to adults were living in "filth," and police said animal waste was ankle-deep in some parts of the home, and the dogs were hiding amid the clutter, including inside a stove-bottom drawer and within the walls.

"They will need the perfect home because they will require a lot of patience and potty training because they've never been outside," said a rescuer who is helping with plans for placement of the animals. <http://www.islandpacket.com/2012/01/24/1939447/savannah-man-accused-of-hoarding.html#storylink=cpy> <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2012/01/17/BAP21MQ4PU.DTL#ixzz1kTrD5DXV>

Battle Creek MI - Child living in Michigan home with 33 dogs covered in feces and urine

The *Kalamazoo Gazette* reported on January 21 that 33 neglected dogs, covered with feces and urine and cramped into carriers and kennels, were removed on Friday from a home in Lee Township (Battle Creek, MI) and taken to the animal shelter.

Battle Creek City Police Animal Control Division and the Calhoun County Sheriff's Office responded to a complaint of animal cruelty and neglect in the 19000 block of 20 1/2 Mile Road in Lee Township, according to the report.

Police also discovered a 13-year-old girl living at the residence and reported for investigation by Children's Protective Services, the report stated.

A 42-year-old female resident was not arrested at the scene, but a warrant is being sought through Calhoun County Prosecutor's Office for animal cruelty and child endangerment, according to the report (See WOOD8 TV report at.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TBaC8f-OetA>)

http://www.mlive.com/news/kalamazoo/index.ssf/2012/01/more_than_30_neglected_dogs_co.html

Waco TX - Woman Arrested After 17 Animals Found Abandoned at Waco Home

Marcia Ann Allsup, 50, of McLennan County turned herself in after she was charged with animal cruelty, according to KWTX.com on January 23, 2012. She was released on \$3,000 bond.

The charge stems from the seizure of 17 dogs and cats on January 3 from her home at 4648 Wood Street. The animals were turned over to the Waco Humane Society and Allsup was ordered to pay to pay \$2,670 in restitution to cover boarding fees and veterinary treatments. She also must pay court fees.

Animal control officers found several dogs in the yard of the home without food or water and could hear additional animals inside the house. They found dogs and a cat in the home also without food and water and a large amount of animal waste in and around the home.

Five animals that appeared to be infested with mange and had been without food or water for several days were found locked inside storage sheds in the backyard of the home. <http://www.kwtx.com/home/headlines/137887093.html>



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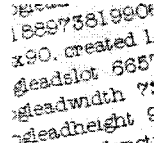
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Jay Teske

No Kill is totally do-able. But it requires the implementation of a new model. One that doesn't follow the "old standard" shelters like to employ of, "let them come to us." It requires out-of-the-box thinking. And, most importantly, that management get off their collective lazy backsides and actually into the trenches to do work.

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Submitted by NotBornYesterday on Feb 1, 2012.

Every week there are "No Kill" shelter being busted for horrible, cruel conditions and all the while the "rescuer" says that nothing is wrong. They can't see what they do. Yes, it is creating hoarders because it makes it too easy to get pets from a "No Kill" shelter. "No Kill" isn't interested in quality adoptions, more adoptions, get those numbers, push them out the door, who cares what happens to them once they are outta sight.

And remember that the Hayden doesn't consider puppies and kittens under 8 weeks old to be adoptable therefore they can be euthanized. Plus paying to euthanize, well, how can anyone in a right mind support this kind of legislation?

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Submitted by Jay Teske on Feb 1, 2012.

An animal hoarder claiming to be an "animal rescue" is a completely different beast than an actual 501c3 rescue or a licensed shelter... but nice strawman. Try again?

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Experts: Quarter of Animal Hoarders Were Rescuers



(ABCNEWS.com)



By SUE MANNING Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES September 2, 2010 (AP)

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Linda Bruno called her Pennsylvania cat rescue the land of milk and tuna. It thrived for years as people sent pets they couldn't care for from hundreds of miles away — unaware it was a death camp for cats.

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Investigators who raided the place two years ago found killing rooms, mass graves so thick they couldn't take a step without walking on cat bones and a stunning statistic: Bruno had taken in over 7,000 cats in the previous 14 months, but only found homes for 23.

In doing so, she had become a statistic herself, one of an increasing number of self-proclaimed rescuers who have become animal hoarders running legal and often nonprofit charities.

Rescues and shelters now make up a quarter of the estimated 6,000 new hoarding cases reported in the U.S. each year, said Dr. Randall Lockwood, ASPCA's senior vice president of forensic sciences and anticruelty projects.

"When I first started looking into this 20 years ago, fewer than 5 percent would have fit that description," Lockwood said.

Hoarding itself is not a crime in most states, but cruelty is and both can start around the same time — when one more animal becomes one too many. Rescuers take in rejected, abandoned, abused or stray pets. Some come from municipal shelters as they are about to be euthanized.

It remains a mystery how someone goes from trying to rescue animals to stockpiling them in inhumane conditions without food, water or basic care. No single trigger has been found, but dementia, addiction, attachment disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder and



Hoarding Couple Trapped Under Debris [Watch Video](#)



Is Lindsay Lohan a Secret Hoarder? [Watch Video](#)



Cat Ladies: Why Do They Do It? Watch Video

other psychological problems are often blamed.

"The root of it is really nothing to do with animals. It's to do with people's heads and how they work," said Gregory Castle, co-founder and chief executive officer of Best Friends Animal Society in Kanab, Utah.

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This unusual article shows 3 veggies that fight stomach fat.
TruthAboutStomachFat.com

The focus on hoarding of all kind has intensified in recent years due to widely publicized cases and television shows about it. The Hoarding of Animals Research Consortium at Tufts University is

urging the American Psychiatric Association to include animal hoarding in its next update to its diagnostic bible.

Some hoarders develop a "messiah complex," seeing themselves as saviors even as animals die. One hoarder told Lockwood: "I wouldn't give one of my dogs to Jesus Christ if he came in the door."

Bruno was seen as a cat saint of sorts and she surrounded herself with volunteers who enabled her and rallied around her when the 29-acre Tiger Ranch Cat Sanctuary in Tarentum, Pa., was shut down. Some 700 people signed a petition seeking dismissal of the case.

Cats were found in nearly every filthy, stinky building on the 29-acre property. Many were too sick, starved or weak to get to the little food or water available.

The Pennsylvania Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals recovered 391 live cats and 106 dead ones. Thousands were believed to be dead and buried.

Bruno, 47, was sentenced to two years of house arrest and 27 years probation. She was ordered to pay \$200,000 in restitution and \$21 a day in electronic monitoring fees.

Several agencies received reports of hoarding at Bruno's ranch, but it took months to document. Typically, the accused offer myriad excuses. They claim they are victims of religious and political persecution or contend people are lying or planting evidence.

It's hard to believe the excuses after seeing inches-thick feces, urine stained walls, cages stacked high with starving animals, dead and rotting carcasses, trash, fleas, maggots and diseases, said John Welsh, spokesman for the Riverside Department of Animal Services.

A whistleblower tipped off Welsh's department in 2007 that a nurse, Sylvia Gyimesi, was euthanizing sick animals with a homemade cocktail of vodka and sleeping pills at the Best Buddies Rescue she ran out of her Aguanga home.

In a pair of mobile homes on Gyimesi's property, investigators found close to 150 Chihuahuas, dachshunds and poodle mixes, along with some large breed dogs. Welsh said the stench and squalor were so bad, he had to leave almost immediately. They found graves in the back yard and a paw coming up from the sand near a barbecue.

Gyimesi said a disgruntled helper had snitched on her after being scolded for not working. She denied being a hoarder and said she never euthanized any animals.

"I think hoarders use rescues as an excuse, a facade, a front and they don't recognize it themselves. Their animals are not getting care and they don't want to let any animal get adopted," she told The Associated Press. "I know I had too many dogs and it wasn't the cleanest, but I'm not a frigging murderer."

She turned all but 10 of her animals over to the county and pleaded guilty to a single misdemeanor count of animal cruelty in exchange for five similar counts being dismissed. She had to perform community service and has vowed to never run a rescue again. She has since passed all inspections at her home.

The recidivism rate among hoarders is usually 100 percent, so Gyimesi is an exception, Welsh said.

Gyimesi said it took her 18 months to rebuild her life after spending a day in jail and cashing out a retirement fund to pay \$14,000 in fines and fees.

Fallout from massive hoarding cases has a much broader impact. In summer 2007, nearly 800 cats were seized at For the Love of Cats and Kittens (FLOCK) in Pahrump, Nev.

Vets and volunteers from Best Friends Animal Society cared for the animals, turning the compound into a temporary triage for the starving, disease-ridden cats who struggled to breathe in the 115-degree desert heat.

Casinos held adoption events, finding homes for 72 cats. But of the 570 cats at the Best Friends 3,900-acre sanctuary today, more than a quarter are from the Nevada rescue still waiting to be adopted more than three years later.

Online

<http://www.tufts.edu/vet/hoarding/harc.htm>

<http://www.aspca.org>

<http://www.bestfriends.org>

<http://www.rcdas.org>

<http://www.pet-abuse.com/cases>

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