

Dear [Insert name of Public Official]:

My name is INSERT YOUR NAME and I am a resident of INSERT NAME OF YOUR MUNICIPALITY.

I am writing to you today to express my dissatisfaction with the current animal control practices in our community. In particular, I take issue with the current service provider for animal control as well as the contract that has been signed with them.

An effective animal care and control service must include several key elements:

- Protect citizens and ensure for the safety of their pets;
- Operate proactive programs to promote responsible pet ownership and prevent overpopulation;
- Have an emphasis on quality of care and services provided by the animal control agency;
- Take a community-centered focus as a partner with all stakeholders
- Refuse to contract out animal control to an organization that has a profit incentive to contribute to the overpopulation of companion animals.

Currently our Municipality contracts out animal control services to a private for-profit pound that, by definition, benefits from the overpopulation of animals and lacks a mandate to protect and care for them. In addition, the current animal control contract does not ensure for adequate quality of care for animals, high quality services for citizens or initiatives to prevent the continued overpopulation of companion animals.

I am asking that my tax dollars be used to provide effective animal control services in my community. In particular, I ask that you ensure that our animal control contract requires, as a minimum, that the supplier of animal control services in our community:

- Works with a licensed veterinarian on a daily basis and ensures that animals receive urgent medical care as needed;
- Euthanizes all animals exclusively by lethal injection of sodium pentobarbital in the most humane and least stressful manner possible by personnel trained in animal health and euthanasia techniques;
- Takes a proactive approach to reuniting lost or stray animals with their owners and upon reception of any animal, verifies without delay the presence of any identification and uses all means available to locate

and contact the owner of any animal identified and publishes images of stray animals within 24 hours of arrival;

- Keeps records regarding intake, euthanasia, adoption, reclamation and transfer rates of animals and ensures the fate of each individual animal is traceable and reports this information regularly to the borough/municipality as well as to the public;
- Takes all reasonable steps to attempt to find homes for adoptable animals and prioritizes adoption by working with other reputable shelters or non-profit rescue groups;
- Sells, adopts or gives animals solely as COMPANION animals, maintains flat and reasonable adoption fees/ sale prices for all animals available for adoption and sterilizes all cats and dogs before or upon adoption and publishes images of animals available for adoption online;
- Provides appropriate protocols of sale, adoption or disposition of animals, showing that every reasonable effort has been made to prevent any form of exploitation of any animal it collects or receives;
- Is open outside of normal business hours for the public to interact with animals and maximize their chance of adoption;
- Is accessible by public transportation within a reasonable amount of time from the **municipality** and its services;
- Is proactive about companion animal overpopulation, does not benefit from a continued surplus of animals.

The end goal of all these basic demands is to change a system in which animals are eliminated for no reason and endure great suffering paid for by our tax dollars!

I ask that you use my tax dollars to proactively and effectively deal with animal issues and **(1)** end the **municipality's** current animal control contract **(2)** form an advisory committee to review the issue of animal control **(3)** revising the animal control contract to include the criteria described above and **(4)** refuse to contract out animal care and control services to for-profit organizations that recklessly kills animals and does not sterilize animals before adoption/sale **(5)** To prohibit the sale of animals in pet stores in **municipality** to stop the vicious cycle of impulse purchasing of animals and overpopulation

I trust you will look into this matter and await your response.

Sincerely,
[Your Name & Address]

