

A MESSAGE FROM PFA'S PRESIDENT

For many years untold effort and countless dollars have been applied to addressing society's failing described as "too many pets, not enough homes." In addition there has been a gut-wrenching emotional toll on those attempting to "rescue" all that they can and on shelter staff that must euthanize when communities fail in their responsibility to prevent those births in the first place!

PFA is always focused on preventing the births of too many dogs and cats.

Twenty-six years ago when PFA was a newborn pup or kitten herself, the need for that focus was obvious. Spay/neuter was first, and whatever was next was a distant second. But 26 years is a long time and PFA and many others have worked hard toward the ultimate goal of fewer pets born and a loving, lifetime home available for every dog or cat. Though we're certainly not there yet, we can see that while spay/neuter remains first and is essential, the problem cannot be solved through spay/neuter alone.

At many shelters there is a new and alarming statistic emerging. **For a variety of reasons, up to half of the animals coming into shelters are owned pets: pets with a home one day and the next day they're being taken to a**



shelter where they will hopelessly wait for their human to return. At many shelters every effort will be made by caring staff and passionate volunteers to find each pet a new home, but as we all know, there aren't enough good homes for them all.

This new, particularly troublesome source of incoming pets is a reality that requires a solution beyond spay/

neuter. Though spay/neuter often helps to keep pets in their homes by eliminating heat cycles, pregnancies, undesirable male behaviors and costly health issues, it won't prevent all surrenders. So we must remain vigilant and agile as we continue to combat this daunting, multi-faceted problem.

We need to address the reasons that animals lose the homes they have. Animals deserve that our intelligence equals our passion! Let's all give a little more of ourselves—our time or resources—to the animals who give so much to us.

For the Animals,

Ann Logan