

A MESSAGE FROM PFA'S PRESIDENT

When there is a long road ahead of you, occasionally looking back to see how far you've come "has its place." That is a tactic that has worked for me in the journey I've taken with many of you for animal welfare. It's been a trip of 25 years and we've learned a lot about animals, humans, and what works and what doesn't.

Twenty-five years ago this fall—October 1986—People For Animals was founded. Though some memories have become fuzzy, I still have a clear memory of the animal welfare environment at that time. In Tennessee very few counties or cities had animal control programs and those who did provided minimal funding, a staff of "dog-catchers," horrific conditions for the animals, inhumane euthanasia and virtually no spay/neuter, adoption, or education programs. Since dogs and cats serve as buffers between potentially rabid animals and humans, governments were primarily interested in their responsibility for rabies control. Animals entering these "rabies control" shelters faced bleak futures indeed.

Fortunately, over these last 25 years, governments have accepted a broader definition of what their responsibilities are. PFA has been one of the voices that advocated on both state and local levels for that change in view. **In 2011 many Tennessee shelters spay & neuter pets before release, have adoption programs that include an application process for potential adopters, behavioral assess-**

ment of pets, and education about what it means to be a responsible pet owner who makes a lifetime commitment to their pet(s). Tennessee state law requires that all shelters that do not spay & neuter prior to adoption collect a \$25 refundable deposit toward that surgery.

And so....times have changed! Not enough, but we have made great progress in some counties. Others still have inadequate or even inhumane programs....or no programs at all. Hopefully as there are better shelter program models to inspire and to emulate, progress will continue to be made. We must dedicate ourselves to that goal throughout our communities, our state and our nation.

For PFA, our 25th birthday is only a milestone. **The demand for our primary service.....spay/neuter assistance.....is literally at an all-time high. That surgery is the only solution that offers a mathematical possibility of reducing the number of dogs and cats being born to match the number of loving, lifetime homes available.** Just as pets reproduce exponentially, the benefits of spay/neuter multiply in the same way. Join our journey and help us increase our advocacy and spay/neuter assistance for our NEXT 25 years!

For the Animals,

Ann Logan



You think it's easy to kill companion animals day in and day out?

- 1) Adopt from Shelters and Rescues until they are empty
- 2) Spay/Neuter your pet
- 3) Volunteer to help if you can

When animals are sick or injured and their suffering cannot be alleviated, euthanasia is the greatest kindness and blessing that humans can offer. In sharp contrast, it is literally tragic that euthanasia is used by society as an accepted way for us to deal with the too-many-animals-not-enough-homes problem of healthy, adoptable pets. Thank goodness for shelters that will take so many in, but if we humans would spay and neuter our pets and make shelters our first-stop adoption source, those deaths would not be necessary.