

The Dumping Epidemic

In reviewing the situations we realized that nearly seventy percent of the cases dealt with dumping or abandonment in one form or another. Each situation in and of itself was heartbreaking but when we saw the total picture we really began to realize that our “Throw Away Society” is actually throwing away their pets and animals at an alarming rate.

Abandonment or dumping unfortunately takes many forms. Some are obvious: A box of kittens left in a shopping mall parking lot, or a dog tied up to a lamp post and left at night outside a supermarket, or a badly abused duck crippled by numerous abuses is covered in motor oil and dumped where office workers will find him the next day.



Abandonment is also obvious when dogs and cats are dumped along the roadside or at the end of a cul-de-sac like Smokey, Leo and Ebony who all found their way to our sanctuary and rescue this year.



Smokey



Leo



Ebony

Abandonment is also obvious when a person moves away from their residence or property and leaves their pets or animals behind for someone else to worry about. In the past year we have been involved in situations where horses, chickens and dogs were simply left behind. In some cases, the owners when tracked down, and later questioned said “we no longer wanted the chickens because they weren’t laying eggs any longer” , or “we no longer wanted the horse because it was getting old and we didn’t want to deal with veterinary bills. We were going to let nature take its course.”



Abandonment or dumping is increasing at animal shelters across the nation. In discussions with other sanctuaries and shelters everyone relates that they have heard the stories... “we are moving and can’t take the dog, cat or animal with us”; “Our kids are grown now and none of us have the time to take care of the dog any longer”; “my new boyfriend doesn’t like my cat, so I need to turn her into the shelter”; “I bought three ducklings for my three year old daughter at Easter, and now, six months later, my backyard smells like a farmyard. They have to go”, etc. etc.

Responsible pet or animal ownership requires a thorough understanding of what is involved with that animal's care...today, tomorrow and many years from now as it ages and has new needs. Dumping, abandonment or "throwing the animal away" should not be an option...but that is the increasing reality today. Fortunately, we and other rescue organizations are here to try and pick up the pieces and provide a safe home for animals that are being discarded.

We hope that this short recap of what we have seen and experienced this past year makes you stop for a moment or two and ponder as to what our responsibilities are as individuals and as a society when it comes to animal ownership and their long term care. Thank you for your interest and support. If you would like to make a donation to our sanctuary and rescue operation to help us provide for abandoned and dumped animals we would greatly appreciate your support.

Additionally, please feel free to share this article and our website with your friends and family. We hope the more people realize we have a societal based epidemic of dumping animals emerging; the faster we can stop the trend.