

I don't know why this troubles me so much, but it does. A few months back, I was educated to the fact that only reputable Rescues could pull dogs (and probably cats, I guess) with medical issues.

Does that mean that our County Shelter doesn't think that there's anyone in the general population other than a Rescue Group who is responsible enough or has the financial means to see that the animal obtains proper care? Obviously so.

By making this their policy, this seems like a great injustice to the animal awaiting immediate medical attention and to the already financially over-whelmed Rescues. It's like saying to the Rescue Groups, "You do something with 'em or else".

Maybe I shouldn't be surprised or puzzled, but I am. Equally, I am curious though how long have these animals been at the shelter before they end up on this "Urgent" or "Immediate Rescue" list? 1 day? 3 days? 10 days? Example: Botox, the dog with the embedded collar featured below - The information provided states, "Has embedded collar will be removed today." Okay, so when was he picked up as a stray? Yesterday? The day before? The day before that? How long do these animals suffer?

Lastly, the "Pull Fees". What the hell??? Using Botox, again, as an example, GCACS can no longer manage Botox's medical needs once the collar has been removed. So, they are graciously going to offer him up to a Rescue Group at a going rate of \$69. Why \$69? I don't know. Others go for \$29. I guess because they had to remove the collar. Okay, so it's \$69 for any Rescue Group that wants to take Botox off their hands and now make him their problem.

What happens if no one steps up to take GCACS up on this offer? Do they euthanize Botox? Sure, they do. There goes their \$69, plus the amount of money they used to house and feed him, the payroll dollars for his care, and then you tack on the \$100+ figure that is bounced around on Facebook as being the amount of money needed to euthanize him. Geez! The world has truly gone mad!

Sure, there are costs involved with running any organization. But, OUR County Shelter receives a hell of a lot of money from OUR tax dollars, and through the shelter's in-store Retail Sales, adoptions, and donations received from us, the citizens. Their budget needs would not be impacted if they would focus less off of making a profit off of strays and surrenders and more on moving these pawns (sorry, meant to say pets) out of this shelter at no cost to reputable Rescue Groups and to those in the community that show that they have the means to provide proper Vet care to animals with "medical issues". In doing so, the "shelter" could solve many of their problems, such as:

1. The number of days that an animal is housed.
2. The number of animals housed.
3. The number of people needed on the payroll to run the shelter.
4. The amount of food and medical supplies needed.

Couple these changes with a permanent TNR (Trap, Neuter, & Release) Program for cats and the costs associated with running this shelter (or any shelter for that matter), would be greatly reduced.

Just seems like a no-brainer to me. Maybe I'm missing something. Or, just maybe things need to change!

My thoughts on matters. Feel free to offer yours...

Deb The Community Pet Project