

April 16, 2009

To: Nic Pifer  
Animal Humane Society Board Chair  
70100 Ameriprise Financial Center  
Minneapolis, MN 55474

From: Dr. Michael Fox, D.Sc., Ph.D., B. Vet Med., MRCVS  
Dr. Linda Wolf, DVM

cc: Animal Humane Society Board Members  
Members of the media

Dear Mr. Pifer,

After writing to complain about the Animal Humane Society's killing of approximately 130 cats that had been reportedly "rescued" from a mobile home in St. Anthony Minnesota, we had hoped the AHS board would initiate some sort of meaningful inquiry into the many concerning issues raised by ourselves and others in the animal welfare community, not just here in Minnesota but nationally.

Unfortunately, based on your form letter reply dated April 6, 2009, it appears that our hope of a meaningful discussion about these concerns is unlikely. Your response failed entirely to address - in any way - many of the problems expressed about the deaths of these felines. For example: concerning the troubling timeline outlined by Eyewitness News, it appears senior staff members in your organization misled your donors and various media outlets about your plans for these unfortunate cats. AHS staff told members of the press they would keep the cats for weeks in order to evaluate their health and temperaments. Contrary to these statements, it appears your staff began killing the cats about 24 hours after they arrived at your Golden Valley shelter.

Though the serious nature of this loudly expressed concern is clear and obvious your letter did not even bother to mention any of the issues brought to light by the conflict between AHS statements and actions.

Furthermore, your letter only repeated your prior explanation that these cats represented, "a significant public health issue that had the potential to negatively impact other animals at AHS and in the community at large." Yet, as nationally recognized experts in veterinary medicine and shelter management, we understand there is no veterinary basis for such a statement.

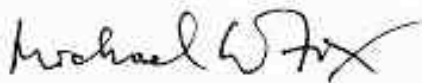
Given that the diseases used as the rationale for killing these cats are generally treatable or manageable and given that they are also very commonplace in situations like those described in their home, it is yet unclear why killing the St. Anthony cats would have been preferable to isolation and treatment. Also unclear is why, if AHS is going to be involved in taking animals from situations such as the one described in this case, your

organization is not prepared to treat or manage the illnesses most likely to be found in those situations. Still even more unclear is how these diseases could have been diagnosed in the time period outlined.

In short, we believe the donors and members of AHS deserve a more complete response to these serious issues, than the form letter dated April 6, 2009. Perhaps more importantly, we believe the animals for whom you care require more thoughtful policies and practices than those exhibited in this case.

We invite you to engage experts in the subject matter surrounding this case so that you may rethink your policies so the mistakes concerning the events and outcomes related to the St. Anthony cats can be avoided in the future. Additionally, we are also willing to offer our services to you, at no charge, to help you evaluate your existing protocols so you may avoid this sort of unnecessary killing in the future.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael W. Fox". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Dr. Michael Fox  
Veterinarian, bioethicist, and syndicated columnist

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dr. Linda Wolf". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Dr. Linda Wolf  
Consulting veterinarian, lecturer, trainer