the truth about... Shelters

If we take Fido to "the shelter" they will find him a home?

Possibly. It could happen - but the odds are against it. The public needs to stop viewing the City and County Animal Care Facilities as a dumping ground for their pets....

SHELTERS EUTHANIZE TO "MAKE SPACE"

Remember that every animal that enters a shelter through the front door means that another animal must exit the shelter by the back door. The shelters can only hold a certain number of animals - and when they need space, they euthanize to make that space. Yes... these shelters also do adoptions... but for every adoption that takes place, between 3 and 4 animals are euthanized

THE REALITY OF "THE RED LIST"

Shelters see thousands and thousands of animals each year... among these are the animals that are considered (through no fault of their own) the "undesirables". Common "undesirable" pets are listed to the right in the "RED LIST" section. Any animal fitting these descriptions is in big trouble at a City or County Shelter because there are SO MANY of them in the shelters. How does a black cat have a good chance at getting a home when there are already 25 or more black cats at the shelter?

Any animal that is described by more than one of the items on this list is in that much more danger. For example: an owner-reqlinquished black Shepherd has three strikes against it before it ever gets booked in. This is a dog that may go straight back to the "bump room" without being shown at all for adoption (the bump room is the room where the animals wait to be euthanized that day).

OWNER RELINQUISHED ANIMALS

You must understand that the shelters are there to care for the STRAY and LOST animals in the area - they are not meant as a dumping ground for unwanted pets. Animals that come in as strays must - by law - be kept at the shelter for 72 hours in order for their owners to find them (three days - YES, only THREE DAYS). After three days have passed they reach their "review date" - and from then on they can be euthanized at any time to make space. However... an animal that is turned into the shelter by it's owner has NO required hold time (nobody is searching for this pet because it is not lost). The truth of the matter is that this means that Fido could be in a Hefty bag within 2 hours of dropping him off... especially if you see Fido's description on the RED LIST to the right.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

If the information on this page surprise you, bothers you, shocks you or disgusts you - perhaps you might be the kind of person who would like to make the world a better place for homeless animals.? You may want to consider volunteering for a local rescue group where you will see animals rescued from the shelters and placed into loving, permanent homes. Please visit www.petfinder.com to find rescue organizations in your area. Every little bit of time, energy, money and love you can spare CAN and WILL make a difference.



RED LIST

Pit Bulls & Mixes Rottweilers Shepherds **Dobermans** Black Cats & Dogs Feral Cats **Unweaned Kittens** Senior Cats & Dogs Injured Animals **Disabled Animals** Sick Animals Cats that Hiss Dogs that Growl **Ungroomed Dogs Tabby Cats Pregnant Dogs & Cats Bunnies** Owner Turn-Ins