



A no-kill shelter for homeless animals.

April 5, 2001

To Whom It May Concern:

Operation Kindness is a private no-kill animal shelter located in Dallas/Fort Worth. We are the oldest and largest no-kill shelter in this area. Last year we successfully re-homed 3,091 dogs, cats, puppies and kittens. At any one time we house between 180 – 220 animals in our shelter. For a number of reasons we sometimes take in an animal that does not do well in a shelter environment and may develop aggression issues. Because we are a no-kill shelter, euthanizing these 'problem' animals is not an option for us.

Luckily, in the fall of 2000, I discovered the Southern Animal Rescue Association (SARA). After touring the sanctuary I was extremely impressed with the set-up, the condition of the grounds and especially the care of the animals. The staff at SARA is obviously dedicated to their organization and the animals. I worked with Tracy Frank (of SARA) and our shelter management to arrange our first exchange. In exchange for two of our most problem dogs, we returned to Dallas with six of SARA's adoptable ones. All of the SARA dogs were successfully adopted into good homes. Our two problem dogs are living happily together in a pen on the grounds at SARA. That alone is amazing. In our shelter environment those two dogs were constantly barking and snarling at one another and everyone else.

Since that initial exchange, we have returned to SARA several times. A total of 12 Operation Kindness staff and volunteers have visited SARA on those trips. Everyone has been impressed with the sanctuary and excited about the relationship our two organizations are building. During our first trip of 2001 we drove down to SARA with no animals and returned with 5 dogs and 3 cats. On our most recent trip on April 1, 2001 we took 3 dogs to SARA and returned to Operation Kindness with 5. Because SARA is so willing to help Operation Kindness with our problem dogs and give us adoptable animals in exchange, it is important to us to make what we consider a fair trade and take as many SARA animals as possible back to Dallas. We have had great success adopting the SARA dogs and cats in the DFW area.

The service that SARA provides as a sanctuary and their willingness to provide love, life and a chance at rehabilitation to temperamental animals is critical to the mission of Operation Kindness. We are grateful to the staff at SARA and look forward to a long and successful relationship as we all work towards the day when there are no more homeless animals.

Sincerely,

Janet Vaupel
President
Operation Kindness