



November 7, 2008

Dear Mayor and Council Members:

My name is Gwen Chaney and I am President of the American Rottweiler Club, a national organization with over 1,000 members many of whom reside in Texas and/or the Houston area. I am writing on behalf of the entire club to encourage the city of Houston to replace the outgoing director of BARC with someone whose interest is solely on saving animals that need a home in the city of Houston. As you know, there is a "no-kill" philosophy as put forward by Nathan Winograd, one of the foremost proponents of policies which help place animals in homes as opposed to euthanasia. Mr. Winograd's approach to animal control is a proven success and in stark contrast to the usual catch and kill methods employed by many municipalities around the country. The focus, of course, should be on adoption, education, and voluntary spay and neuter made affordable through coordinated efforts of private sector organizations, rescue groups, and government entities.

The time is right for Houston to change directions for BARC. There is now an opportunity to fill positions with persons dedicated to increasing adoptions and eliminating euthanasia without unwieldy, unenforceable, and costly "mandatory" punitive proposals aimed at the public and pet owners.

The American Rottweiler Club, through it's local members, would be more than happy to help educate and promote a "no kill" philosophy to it's members and to others in clubs which have working relationships with our organization. The American Rottweiler Club has recently been involved in emergency response coordinating rescue efforts for Rottweilers after Hurricane Ike. Our club's members in the area are active and would be more than happy to assist or advise the city through coordinated efforts to help end euthanasia in southeast Texas.

Our local contact person for the American Rottweiler Club is Jeffery Shaver, Vice-President. He may be reached anytime on his cellular phone, 713.557.0807 should you have any questions or need any assistance with further information, or implementing any plan relative to reducing euthanasia in the city of Houston. We hope you will take our concerns seriously not only for the sake of our members in your area but for the sake of all animals in Houston that can have a home if only the right policies and people are in place to make it happen.

Respectfully,

Gwen Chaney,
President of the American Rottweiler Club