



December 3, 2009

The Honorable Micah Kellner
834 Legislative Office Building
Albany, NY 12248

Dear Assembly Member Kellner,

I am the Executive Director of an open admission No Kill SPCA, serving the Charlottesville and Albemarle County communities in Virginia. The Charlottesville SPCA has one of the highest save rates in the nation, and because of that, I have spoken to organizations all over the country assisting other communities achieve similar success. I've spoken locally, regionally, and nationally at animal welfare conferences and I've testified before legislative agencies.

As an attorney, I am also very sensitive to the legal infrastructure needed to create and sustain a No Kill nation. I am writing to you today in support of "Oreo's Law." I wish I did not have to. I wish that all shelters were staffed by directors and managers dedicated to saving lives. I've long believed that leadership is the key component to lifesaving success. But I've seen too many which are not. And in the absence of fully committed leadership in all shelters in all communities, "Oreo's Law" is, sadly, necessary at this time in history.

The leadership of New York State on this issue can help energize the debate and lead to positive changes to benefit animals in other parts of the country.

Sincerely,

Susanne M. Kogut
Executive Director
Charlottesville-Albemarle SPCA
(434) 964-3323
director@cascpa.org