



# FixAustin.org

December 3, 2009

The Honorable Micah Kellner  
The Honorable Thomas K. Duane  
834 Legislative Office Building  
Albany, NY 12248

Dear Assembly Member Kellner and Senator Duane,

We are writing to express our support for “Oreo’s Law,” a law that will save thousands of lives of lost and homeless pets at no cost to taxpayers. It is, as the saying goes, a “no-brainer.”

As you know, “Oreo’s Law” would prohibit public and private shelters from killing an impounded pet if a recognized non-profit organization with a 501(c)(3) status volunteers to save it. Although such a law may seem unnecessary to those outside the animal-welfare community, we can assure you that it is desperately needed. Only one “Oreo” made the news, but there are countless others who lose their lives every day due to entrenched shelter bureaucracies who would rather kill an animal than find an alternative, live outcome. Indeed, the only thing we would change from the originally crafted version of the “Oreo’s Law” bill would be to add an amendment, supported by the No Kill Advocacy Center, that would bar any organization from receiving the benefit of Oreo’s law if it has an officer or board member who has been convicted of animal neglect or abuse or if such charges are pending in a court of law.

One might understandably ask why an animal-advocacy group in Austin, Texas, is so heavily supportive of a bill proposed in a state thousands of miles away. The answer is that where New York goes, so goes the nation. New Yorkers were the first to create humane societies and societies for the prevention of cruelty to animals more than a century ago. And Tompkins County, New York, led the nation’s first successful effort for an open-admission community shelter to save all healthy and treatable impounded animals—a movement that has now spread across the country. Today, we ask that New York be a leader yet again by passing “Oreo’s law” to safeguard the lives of even more lost and homeless pets. With hope, the nation will follow.

Warmest regards,

Ryan Clinton