

**STATEMENT OF ADELIA HARRISON
FOR
UNCAGED NEW YORK**

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My name is Adelia Harrison with Uncaged New York

Almost all animals that come into ACC healthy will fall ill from shelter-diseases. Some get extremely sick.

New Hope rescuers spend thousands of dollars treating cats and dogs pulled from ACC. Many animals come up positive for multiple upper respiratory viruses. Far too many of those we don't pull are slated for euthanasia ... even though it is the ACC that made them sick in the first place.

Despite all the progress ACC has made in the past 3 years, it has never been able to control the spread of disease. That's a primary duty of any shelter. Keep the animals safe.

According to Maddie's Fund: "Crowding and the attendant stress is undoubtedly the single greatest risk factor for infectious disease outbreaks."

ACC shelters are almost always overcrowded – and the animals are always highly stressed. Even after the ACC added more staff, animals continue to be overlooked. Some die in their cages.

As ACC's Medical Director has previously explained, the shelter buildings – now called Animal Care Centers - were never designed for the proper care of animals. Brooklyn is an old factory. The ASPCA built the Manhattan shelter as a holding pen.

Try as you may, and we acknowledge that you do, the ACC cannot protect its animals from disease in these terrible buildings.

Since the ACC opened its doors to rescuers 13 years ago, the ACC has looked to rescue groups to do the heavy lifting.

That's not a proper business model. Nor is euthanasia. In 21st century New York City the daily extermination of living beings is still standard operating procedure?

How can the city, the DOH and the Board and management of ACC deny that new shelters are desperately needed and how do you plan to contain the spread of disease without more and better facilities?