

ACC BOARD MTG, JUNE 24,2015

STATEMENT OF DEBORAH PROOS, ACC VOLUNTEER AND FORMER ACC BEHAVIORIST

My name is Deborah Proos. I'm currently a dog volunteer at the Manhattan shelter. I also work for the Mayor's Alliance as a transport driver.

From 2012-2014 I worked in the behavior dept at the Manhattan shelter, so I know how the shelter works and how challenging an environment it is. I know the women of ACC and I've always believed you are well-intentioned. But the disconnect between how you would LIKE ACC to be perceived and the boots on the ground REALITY of it continues to get in the way of any meaningful change.

In as much as ACC is not a hospital or a killing field, it's SOMETIMES a place where dogs frolic happily in playgroup. More OFTEN though, especially of late, it's a place where dogs (and cats) get really sick and deteriorate really fast. Once they land in ISO, instead of a sense of urgency kicking in (diligent monitoring, viable meds, daily walks, timely placement, emergency support to compensate for limited resources), it becomes a crapshoot as to what happens next. Most likely, extended hospital stays and exorbitant bills for rescue. "Return to shelter" for a public adopter who cannot afford "medical care of several thousand dollars".

"Easy as ACC" does not describe the current state of affairs where a live release statistic becomes a medical emergency.

I'd like to give voice to 3 Manhattan dogs whose trajectories to death in the past month have astounded me.

Princess was a 3 yr old Chihuahua, 8 lbs. She arrived on May 22nd. She went from Isolation (ISO) to foster. Her health was not improving, so she came back to ACC

to be monitored for “kennel cough or pneumonia.” She was monitored for 10 days before she was found dead on June 11th in the late afternoon IN her cage IN the medical department of the Manhattan shelter.

Magoo was a blind geriatric Chihuahua, 20 lbs. She arrived on May 17th, medical noted “bright, alert, and responsive.” When I picked her up for transport THREE days later she was swaddled in a blanket and unable to walk. She was euthanized at her foster’s vet that afternoon, her lungs so full of fluid she couldn’t breathe.

Vanilla was a 4 yr old poodle mix, 15 lbs. She arrived on June 2nd. After being monitored in the medical department, she was moved to ISO on June 14th where a volunteer found her shaking and unable to walk. She died of pneumonia 2 days later after finally being pulled by rescue.

Is this expected collateral damage... or unprecedented?

Time for dialog, not dismissal.