



Facebook fans fire off:

When we linked to a recent *Washington Post* story about a feral cat controversy in the District of Columbia, **Kimberly L.** commented: “Is it up to us to decide what a ‘good life’ is for them? How could we? My personal opinion is we should TNR as often as possible ... if we could ‘get them all’ there would be an ‘end in sight’ for feral cats ...”

We asked you about great collaborations, and **Christy H.** threw some love to her local PetSmart: “PetSmart is a very good venue for our group, Friends of the Animals of Jessamine County Inc., to find homes for our dogs and cats! Their National Adoption Weekends are especially good! In addition we can apply for grants and get supplies we need and we get extra money for every adoption we make while set up at one of their stores. We love our PetSmart in Brannon Crossing in Nicholasville, Ky.!”

In response to a note highlighting the extensive Resource Library on *animalsheltering.org*, **Ann G.** wrote: “As a volunteer adoption counselor/foster parent at the Humane Society of Pulaski County in Little Rock, Ark., I have read and enjoyed so many of your great articles! Thank you so much ... I’ve learned so much from these resources!”

Thank you, Ann! We love hearing from readers and encourage everyone to keep in touch via Facebook and email—join the conversation at facebook.com/animalshelteringmagazine and asm@humanesociety.org.

A Word From Us

If animal shelters had a crystal ball, they probably wouldn’t be able to use it. The cats would want to bat at it. The dogs would want to chase it. The hamsters would think it was a fancy new exercise toy.

Besides, predicting the future may be overrated. As a number of thinkers have pointed out, why be satisfied with *seeing* the future when you can actually help shape it?

In our “101” Department (“Start Spreading the News,” p. 39) we highlight a Humane Society of the United States program designed to help shelters shape the future by keeping animals out. If we envision a world where animal shelters are a last resort, we need better safety nets to enable and encourage people to hold on to their pets. The Pets for Life NYC program does that—and can help you create just such a program in your community.

As our field comes closer to solving the problems of pet homelessness and euthanasia, some have tried to envision what the animal shelters of the future will look like. Will they be mere way stations for lost pets? Will they expand into community centers for the pet-loving set—places where everyone can come to find a new companion, take a class on dog behavior, get good advice on how to introduce their cats, buy pet supplies? Several shelters around the country are already moving toward this “campus” model of sheltering. Others—like the shelters we highlight in “Clinical Trials” on p. 32—are bringing elements such as veterinary services under the shelter roof, enabling them to treat and save more pets.

We hope you’ll find all of our stories helpful in your work to create a brighter future for animals. If you’re ever struggling with an issue, drop us a line and we’ll try to help!

—*Animal Sheltering* magazine staff