

Dear Friends,

Recently, I've been asked many times why I work so hard for an animal welfare organization, why I devote countless hours to this cause. I've been asked why this particular cause is so important to me when there are obviously so many others out there that need help. With Michigan's economy getting worse by the day, with the jobless rate soaring and home foreclosures at a record high, I understand why my work is questioned. People need help. People are having problems. People also have pets.

Never once have I answered the telephone at the animal shelter and heard, "Hello, my name is Fido and I'm lost, I'm homeless." Max didn't come ask me for food, he didn't tell me he was chained to a fence and was starving and cold. Yet they came, Fido and Fluffy, Max and Mabel. They arrived on the doorstep of Harbor Humane Society, brought in by people; people who have been forced to give up a beloved pet due to job loss or home foreclosure. Sometimes they arrived in an Ottawa County Animal Control truck, because people treated them poorly, because people didn't care enough. The animals come and keep coming. They are voiceless, they are weary, they are scared. They need people. They need help.

American people spend over \$1 Billion dollars every year on pet toys alone. American's also spend \$2 Billion dollars each year on homeless, unwanted, abused and discarded pets every year. Harbor Humane Society is appealing to the people of Ottawa County to harvest that love so many of you have for your pets and help the animals that need it the most. Each month more than four hundred animals are coming into the animal shelter and they need someone to care for them.

Quite simply, I diligently support an animal welfare organization because millions of years ago, people domesticated cats and dogs, and now, these domesticated animals need help from people. I know I can help them and I hope you will too.

Sincerely,

Jill DeJager
Board President