


NC STATE UNIVERSITY

Office of the Dean
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February 23, 2004

Barbara Lapointe


Dear Ms. Lapointe:

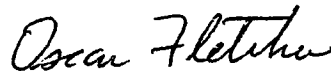
Thank you for the opportunity to review your lesson plans on responsible pet ownership and pet overpopulation. The Humane Society of the United States estimates that between six and eight million animals are placed in shelters each year, and that roughly half of these are killed because of lack of homes. It is a sad fact that too many people enter into pet ownership with a poor understanding of the associated responsibilities, resulting with the pets being surrendered to shelters. Few people are aware of the large numbers of animals that are euthanized in shelters for lack of homes, and this doesn't include the thousands that live as strays or feral populations with poor food supplies and little to no health care.

Our college works in partnership with many shelters in North Carolina to spay and neuter shelter animals so they are more adoptable as pets. Our Community Practice, with its mobile surgery unit, is heavily involved with this effort.

I strongly endorse your effort to educate our youth on these issues in the hope that they can more effectively be addressed in the future. If we can educate our youth about these problems, they can approach pet ownership more responsibly and help prevent the useless deaths of millions of animals in the future.

Thank you for your efforts to educate children about these serious problems.

Sincerely,



Oscar J. Fletcher
Dean

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