

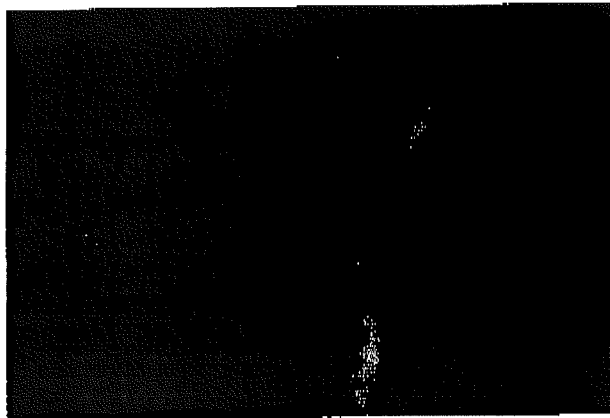
Last week you may remember that I posted, Petey Ran Off. Sadly Petey had already been euthanized by the time it was published. I am greatly sickened and upset by this. The Houston Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (HSPCA) is an organization I have donated money to in the past. I did not realize they have policies in place that basically kill an animal before it is even arrives. Below is the email I received yesterday:

*We did learn this morning that Petey was at SPCA from July 15, and was euthanized on July 19. My heart is breaking that this beautiful creature was labeled "unadoptable" due to his breed mix, and for whatever reason, the flyers with his picture and our contact information went unread. We are very grateful to all who helped to search, posted flyers, and checked websites. Thank you so very much for your care and concern.*

So, the HSPCA had Petey for 5 days and kills him. Could they not tell he looked healthy and well cared for? According to their website, "Healthy, behaviorally sound animals will be placed into our adoption program. The Houston SPCA proudly places 100% of our healthy, behaviorally sound canines and felines animals that are healthy and free of serious behavior issues - into loving new homes." Really? Well, according to the Mayors 2005 Report, the HSPCA euthanized 20,516 animals. They took in 34,815. If my math is correct, they euthanized almost 60% of all animals. I think they need to take back the part where they state, "We do our best and proudly place 100% of our adoptable canines and felines animals." Would it have been so hard to call someone that might foster Petey, or call a group that would not put him down? That seems reasonable to me.

I am not advocating that people should stop adopting from the HSPCA, however I want people to be aware that when they take a stray to the HSPCA, more than likely it will be killed. You do have other options. Houston is fortunate to have more than a few dedicated groups that will not put down a stray. Friends For Life Animal Shelter and HOPE are two great organizations.

Just remember, when it comes to the HSCPA, *Adopt, Do Not Drop Off!*



Petey