

MEMORANDUM

TO : [REDACTED]
FROM: [REDACTED]
DATE: MAY 25, 1995
RE : LETTER FROM [REDACTED] OF MAY 15, 1995

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for faxing me Ashlea Haselgrove's letter to you. Although it has always been quite apparent that Ms. Haselgrove does not approve of the way ARK and IFAW view animal welfare, I am not quite sure what brought all this on.

The first page and a half of her letter deals with politics among animal welfare groups which I am not particularly interested in joining and therefore will leave it alone. There are a few items in the rest of her letter, however, which I would like to reply to..

In my eyes, animal welfare does not mean indiscriminate euthanization. I realize that some cultures have a different view on animal welfare than others, but to just accept that fact and go along with it is not my idea of animal protection. One of the reasons we decided to support ARK after the earthquake is Elizabeth's conviction and belief that, in order to make this a better world for animals, it takes education and a change of attitude towards animals. However, she is well aware of the cultural differences and, in my view, does a good job dealing with them. At the same time she is also realistic enough to know that some animals, that are sick or vicious, do need to be euthanized and it seems to me that she is not always getting cooperation to do so from others because of their differences of opinion.

The last paragraph of page 2 of her letter puzzled me. I do remember discussing the subject of using a train to transport animals and to build many more (temporary) shelters on donated land. Ms. Haselgrove was at Elizabeth's house having dinner during that brainstorming session and I thought she understood that the best way of dealing with problems is to throw out any idea that pops up which then, very often, results in solutions. There is absolutely no point in throwing up your hands and saying 'it won't work' before even trying, which was the purpose of the exchange of ideas. Incidentally, I have had my fair share of practical experience in animal welfare but am at a point where that practical involvement is no longer needed (although I'm still very much involved with animal rescues, especially marine mammals). With my extensive experience in animal welfare, as well as my contacts and resources world-wide, I am more effective dealing with the 'big picture' than driving around 18 hours a day picking up an animal or two. We all have our roles.