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Letter: Don't lose faith in shelter pets

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Friday September 16, 2016 5:00 AM

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With the news of disease and loss of life at the Franklin County Dog Shelter, concern for our community's animals is growing — and with good reason. Distemper and the other pathogens causing disease can be devastating in dogs. But amid all of this fear, please remember this: There are thousands of healthy and friendly dogs looking for a family within shelters and rescues that offer outstanding veterinary care. Let's not let the fear that all shelter animals are sick take adoption opportunities away from these deserving animals.

At the Capital Area Humane Society, we practice veterinary excellence. Our long-standing, highly effective disease control protocols, designed by animal welfare experts, keep animals protected. Every animal is examined, vaccinated and isolated upon arrival specifically to reduce disease transmission. Potentially diseased animals are treated in quarantine away from those who are healthy.

Our partnership with the Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine is cutting edge, as every fourth-year veterinary student spends two weeks in our facility learning the gold standard of care. Ours is just one of the successful shelters and rescues that protect animals from disease and find them great homes every day. These same organizations are stepping up to help respond to this crisis. At CAHS, we are temporarily admitting stray dogs (normally served at the shelter) in addition to the dogs we already admit through cruelty investigations, owner surrenders and transfers from overburdened shelters.

Let's not lose faith in shelter pets. Opt to adopt, Columbus: Pets are counting on us.

Rachel D.K. Finney

Executive director

Capital Area Humane Society

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