

Ben Fink

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YATW Blogpost #3

Thus far, I have accomplished much ever since the start of my YATW project. I have also described my accomplishments in my two previous blogs. In [my first blog](#), we were introduced to the issue of animal abuse and the euthanization of shelter animals, and what I have been doing to elicit positive change for the issue. In [my second blog](#), we dug into my own personal opinions and experiences in terms of animal cruelty and adoption. Now, for this final blog, I wish to create my post for change, to convince people to help take action to elicit positive change for this issue.

To elicit positive change for the issue, I have mostly taken occasional trips to Operation Ava to play with the unadopted animals. One of my videos may be accessed [here](#). I also helped at a fundraiser for Operation Ava by selling dog treats and food to customers. I must confess that now that I look back at those occasional trips (not counting the fundraiser), I haven't really helped to create change for the issue. If I could start the project all over, I would probably create a presentation for class, so that they may know about the issue of animal abuse.



These three puppies from Operation Ava have already been long adopted. I could not play with them, as they had not been vaccinated yet.

Despite my inability to create change, I do know of ways that the United States government is attempting to address this issue. According to the Humane Society, at least six states have passed laws which have been upgraded to view animal cruelty as a first-offense felony. According to an article on the *Animal Ark* website, Ed Sayers, the former CEO of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), who is against no-kill shelter reform, has been replaced. Hopefully his replacement is against the euthanasia of animals. Also, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) is in danger of losing the license for their shelter, which just so happens to be a pro-kill shelter. Finally, according to one Ken White, construction finished sometime in 2011 on the Tom and Annette Lantos Center for Compassion. This “life-saving” no-kill shelter treats unadopted animals of all kinds like family. Instead of using cinderblock rooms, “dormitories” and “condos” are set up to make the animals feel at home until they can be adopted.



By the time this photo was taken, these currently adopted kittens had just arrived at Operation Ava.

The ways that people around the nation are already using to elicit positive change regarding the issue of animal abuse and euthanasia are effective in my opinion. Using the law to punish the perpetrators is an effective way to send a message to any animal abusers and pro-kill shelters. Perhaps the state laws could be integrated into one federal law that counts animal abuse as a first-offense felony. Another potential law might ban euthanasia in shelters. However, the only way for these laws to be created is for the people to create them. Somehow, it is necessary to get the word out to the American people that animal abuse and euthanasia are important issues. Once they realize the gravity of these issues, they will rally to create a law to protect our non-human brethren.

Before my final blog is finished, I would like to add a few closing statements and acknowledgements. First of all, I would like to thank Miss Dunn and Miss Lucy for helping me to create all three of my blogposts. A special thanks goes out to Katie Broynton, the head of volunteering at Operation Ava, for answering my interview questions for my original research. Finally, for providing me with the information needed to create my blogs, I would like to thank the Humane Society of the United States and the ASPCA. It has been an honor and a privilege to work on my YATW project and I hope that anyone who reads these blogs will rally in support of animal rights.