

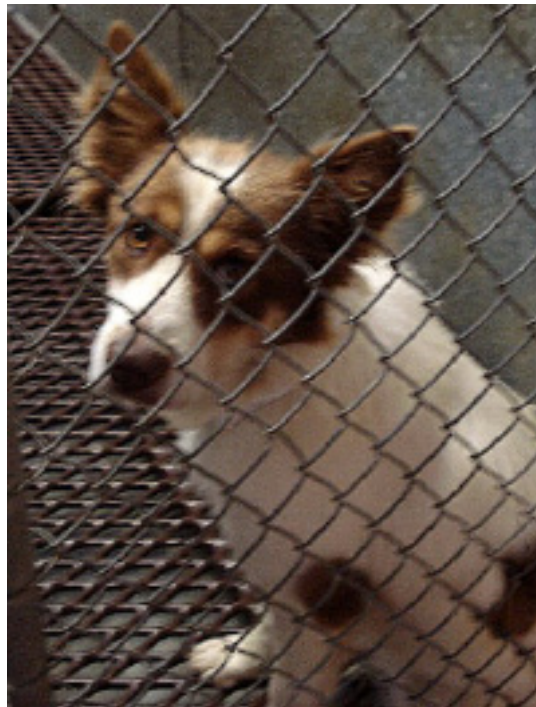
## Mackenzie's Story

The following email was sent to members of rescue groups in and around the Memphis area that had experience with the Memphis Animal Services shelter.

10/16/07 – Lisa Trentham

I feel the need to communicate the obscene slaughter of an innocent dog today at Memphis Animal Shelter under direct order of the shelter vet, Angela Middleton, even after she knew that I was there to adopt the dog and that I'm an approved rescue in their facility. This, in fact, expedited the dog's demise. The dog was there in cage # 570 when I arrived. She was animal ID# 167196

Here is her picture:



The dog was friendly and wagging her tail when I came to see her. I noticed her card had a handwritten note "take to ER." I flipped the card over and a handwritten entry said "dog has allergies, take to ER"

As you can see from the picture, she is a healthy looking dog. I observed NO hair loss on any part of her body. The dog was not scratching, sneezing or having any overt symptoms of any allergies. I went to find a clerk who could phone the clinic for the vet or find a supervisor, yet none of the areas were staffed.

I went to the clinic and knocked on the door. Kirby took the information from me and went to Dr. Middleton who was in the OR. Dr. Middleton never looked at the info on the card, but she did glance to see me standing there. She reiterated that the dog was NOT available for adoption. I took the matter to the acting director, Tony Butler, who told me he could not tell the vet to do surgery on a dog that she had rejected for adoption. He did not try to get the dog out of the cage to determine if she was already spayed. He took the cage card and said he would talk to the vet. I

went to the adoption window to fill out paperwork on two other dogs that were already in the adoption area.

Before writing the check I asked Bill, the cashier to contact Tony and see if I could get that dog in 570. He said Tony had left for lunch so he called the clinic and the doc said NO, I could not adopt that dog.

I left and then made a couple of phone calls to other rescue folks who said that was crazy, they are supposed to release to rescue dogs if they have treatable problems. I went back. The dog's cage was empty. I knocked on the euthanasia room door. The door opened and there sat this same dog, totally alive, sitting on a table with her mouth wrapped shut looking at me, trying very hard to resist being held. I recognized the euthanasia tech and called out his name, "WC, stop!, I am trying to adopt this dog," as he slammed the door shut with his foot.

I will never forget that dog looking at me like she knew she was NOT supposed to be in that spot. I ran to the intake desk and asked the tech to call into that room and tell them to stop euthanasia on cage 570, because I was talking to Tony about the dog.

Archie was nice enough to run to the office to get a supervisor. Ivan, the supervisor went to the ER but did not stop the euthanasia since the vet had "signed off" to euthanize the dog. This afternoon I received an email from Tony Butler that I am no longer considered a Pet Placement Partner at the Memphis Animal Shelter. No reason was given.

It is clear to me that the new vet is more interested in killing adoptable dogs than adopting them, and that the euthanasia techs would rather take part in the killing than postpone what they are doing, even when there is a chance for the dog to be adopted.

Jamaica in particular is very gung ho to kill dogs. When I was waiting for Ivan to come out of the ER with some news, she walked out and said something like, "something needs to be done about you rescue people."

It is also evident that the shelter administration wants rescue totally out of the picture.

Other than writing individual grievances that will go into the employees file, and writing the veterinary medical board, I would appreciate hearing from anyone else about this.

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