

SPCA director named top in U.S.

No-kill group cites saving of 92 percent of animals

From staff reports

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The director of the Charlottesville-Albemarle Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals has been named the nation's top animal shelter director of the year by the No Kill Advocacy Center.

Under Susanne Kogut's direction, the local SPCA saved 92 percent of all dogs and cats brought there, according to the California-based advocacy group.

That's a higher percentage than any other community in the country, according to Nathan J. Winograd, director of the No Kill Advocacy Center.

"Susanne Kogut is quite simply the nation's best animal shelter director in 2006," Winograd said in a news release.

Kogut, an attorney with no prior experience running a shelter, took over as director in April 2005. The local SPCA contracts for animal control sheltering in Charlottesville and Albemarle.

Nationwide, between 60 percent and 70 percent of cats brought to shelters are killed, and about half of all dogs, according to the No Kill Advocacy Center.

"Because Kogut saved 92 percent of all animals at an open door animal control shelter in the South, the simple fact is that she has virtually no equal nationwide," Winograd said.

The award comes with a \$500 donation to the SPCA to help fund cat sterilization.

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