

given to her under the city's voluntary pet tag program. She has been given indoor access to her owners' home and a guarantee from her owners of her rights: the right to exist, the right to enjoy her world as we do ours, the right to be provided for as she provides, the right to all essential medical and mental accommodation, and the right to kindness and fairness. Such is this success of education.

"Scruffy Dithers" is the Palo Alto streetpeople's dog. Wandering the city without guarantee of shelter and wary of society's mainstream participants, Scruffy found a group of kindred spirits under the railway bridge at San Francisquito Creek and El Palo Alto. Scruffy has been the occasion of several instances of leash law violations, but rather than coming down on his caretakers with an enforcement attitude, an educational tactic has been adopted which today finds Scruffy with access to a home, vaccinated for rabies, and wearing an identification tag. The major stumbling block with Scruffy has been with leashes. Scruffy is not comfortable when leashed, and in spite of free leashes and meetings between officers and owners, they have not changed his behavior to a mutually favorable end.

In spite of his street wisdom, it is feared that Scruffy will meet tragedy one day on the road from a less perceptive and ill-timed automobile. Should that happen, then education in this instance will have failed, and it will be argued that Scruffy could have been saved by an enforcement tactic that would have taken him away from his owners and attempted to find him a more responsible,

providing home. Yet, everyday that Scruffy lives in defiance of the established order is another day that he has provided love for his people and flourished in the environment of his choosing. It is a risk, and perhaps a revolutionary endeavor to allow it to continue. Also, it is a choice made in consideration of the public good, and after weighing possibility and reality, we have chosen reality and its untold future. Our decisions in this case have been governed by the greatest allowance for freedom of living interests. If we fail in this, we go down with, rather than without, our principles. In that form, failure is not total. An element of success is retained, that element which finds us remaining true to the realm of our selves.

Conclusion

All of this is in keeping with a natural progress of society. For the animal control officer to become the animal awareness educator is for the parent to become the peer, and to allow for a trend toward greater individual respect and responsibility for the administration of personal freedoms. By letting a community govern themselves with their compassion and common sense, we extend a degree of elevation and humanity for all; we also take a chance that we shall fail. Yet, after the particular failure of an animal control police state in the 1970's and weighing that history against the progress of animal awareness education in Palo Alto today, I am sure that we are making the correct choice, a choice that reflects the best of humanity. In my estimation, that is the measure of success for the animal control officer as animal awareness educator.

The First Speciesist

The earth has never cried for blood
nor the seas for sacrifice.
The skies send winds with
or without
propitiation.

Thirsty god-masks
mask man's thirst
for blood as he dances 'round his sacrificial fires
his cooking fires
his Bunsen burners
and his microwaves.

For whom does he dance?

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