



A
STRAY
DOG'S

**RUFF
LIFE**



2,000 healthy dogs are killed every day in American Shelters.

And ordinary people becoming champions for the voiceless are re-writing what it means to be humane as they challenge institutions in charge in their communities.

"Hi, beautiful baby. Look how adorable he is.
You're so cute. I love you. You're so handsome.
You have a **happy life ahead** of you, my friend."

TERRI SUMPTER
FOUNDER, DETROIT PIT CREW DOG RESCUE





"I think in terms of the problems with animals here in Detroit that we see is they just don't seem to have enough value to people.

They are **disposable**. They're like Bic lighters."

DEBBY MACDONALD
CHIEF INVESTIGATOR, MICHIGAN HUMANE SOCIETY

"Animal welfare is a very passionate topic and sometimes people **lose sense** of what's really happening."

MATT PEPPER
PRESIDENT, MICHIGAN HUMANE SOCIETY





DOG#4413946
423314°N838458°W
STATUS: STRAY
HISTORY: UNKNOWN
TIME: 10:17AM
DATE: JUN 2 2019

DOG#3345121
423314°N838458°W
STATUS: STRAY
HISTORY: UNKNOWN
TIME: 05:47PM
DATE: JUN 6 2019

“One of the most difficult things I think when it comes to working with the stray population in Detroit is that the current laws about our ordinances about who can pick up, and where, and why needs to **change** somehow.”

MELISSA MILLER
VOLUNTEER, DOGAIDE, THEN DACC DIRECTOR

"We see a lot of horrible dogs. We can't take them all home. I have 26 dogs at home that are ex-chained dogs.

There's **no more room** at the inn."

ALIESHA MEDLEY
FOUNDER, HOUSTON HUTS FOR MUTTS





"If Houston Pets Alive is still open then they're going there because I know that they'll find a good home with them.

Definitely."

TINA STONE
VOLUNTEER, HOUSTON HUTS FOR MUTTS

"We've come in. We've offered our help. We want to make sure every pet in this arena **lives.**"

TAWNY HAMMOND
BEST FRIENDS ANIMAL SOCIETY





"There are very few cities that have a non-profit that is really focused on trying to increase the city's live release rate as their **goal.**"

DR. ELLEN JEFFERSON
PRESIDENT, AUSTIN PETS ALIVE!

"I began my research into stray dogs living on the street, I wanted to understand their relationship to dogs being **killed** in shelters."

TOM McPHEE
FILMMAKER, WORLD ANIMAL AWARENESS SOCIETY





"Transparency is a very important equation in trust.

Trust from the community to trust the organization. They have to believe

what they're looking at is the **truth.**"

DEANNA MCPHEE

FILMMAKER, WORLD ANIMAL AWARENESS SOCIETY

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

For the past 10 years I have been trying to get my head around telling a story with too many mostly opaque layers; the story of abandoned, stray, homeless dogs on American streets and in shelters, and the very rough existence they endure before a million are killed wantonly every year. I have hundreds of hours of the most compelling dog rescue footage and interviews with stakeholders all across the globe.

The American Strays Canine Survey was created, enabling volunteers to understand where the focal points of the problems are. Volunteer surveys have been deployed in many cities in Michigan, Texas, and the gulf region of the south. The canine survey allowed our teams to have purpose at the front lines of the independent dog rescue community, and to capture the raw elements that go into whether a city will be successful handling their community's domestic animal issues.

The idea that a million dogs are killed specifically due to space issues in American shelters, for being homeless temporarily, was so very striking to me. It was right under my nose, and I truly had no idea until I saw it all first hand.

As our film team captured the action on the streets while the surveys occurred, I began to see the greater powers at work, keeping cities like Houston and Detroit from providing a higher quality of service to the animals and people in their communities.

TOM McPHEE
FILMMAKER, WA2S FILMS
WORLD ANIMAL AWARENESS SOCIETY



A STRAY DOG'S RUFF LIFE

Written and produced by Deanna McPhee & Tom McPhee

Directed and edited by Tom McPhee for Man Smiling Moving Pictures

Distributed by Circus Road Films & 1091 Pictures

WA2S.ORG/RUFF-LIFE