RESCUE FROM TRAGEDY

There was a German Shepherd in San Antonio we named posthumously Lazarus. A once beautiful Shepherd so exhausted, thin, weak and filled with parasites he was placed in his concrete kennel meant for a stray and BEFORE anyone could begin to help, he died.

We wondered how long did that condition take to create? How many people passed by him on their ways to their lives not noticing and not paying any mind to him no less providing no help for the deterioration of a once noble and intelligent boy. We wondered who could have changed that life. We did not want to be among the people who chose not to help. We cannot do everything but we can do a lot more than is happening.

We are a small Shepherd Rescue in a small no kill state, Delaware. Some of us grew up here. Others moved here. We know Delaware. We are a NO KiLL state as a basic value. All that is for a reason. We are good people who believe in kindness, humanity and life including for those who God has entrusted to us. Pets are family.

Parts of our country are not so committed and are so quickly fluid and changeable with people moving in and out. How go the people go those dependent upon those people: Namely their dogs. When people are poor, animals are poorer and destitute. When people are homeless, animals are forgotten and abandoned as strays. We at Tri State Shepherd Rescue expand the window to include the events leading to those tragedies. We try to understand and move the reality forward in a productive way. We could lament and complain or we can DO.

We are Dog People. We are Shepherd People. Our Shepherds are our protectors, companions, babysitters, playmates, entertainment and confidants. And through no faults of their own the dogs and shepherds in our very own country wind up dying or being killed by policies encouraging overgrowth and neglect.

Animals – and especially in our lives German Shepherds - understand us, follow us, help us, save us and love us. No one - not anyone - stepped up to do so for him. Lazarus is lost. But there are others every hour of every day that face a sentence of suffering and death. What can be done? What is possible? And what can the kind, compassionate souls do to act and not sit back and lament. We need to change this.

Someone in Delaware would have cherished Lazarus and provided for his health and contentment. Instead, he had to struggle on his own forsaken in Texas. It is hard to be a shepherd in Texas. Tri State chooses to help.

By no means are we perfect or capable of doing all of what is needed. But we know enough to know we can get the shepherds to people who can help and would be honored and thankful to do so. So every night for months we check to see what can be done about the euthanasia lists. No one can fix dead.

We attempt to alleviate hardships we can. We cannot change the policies. We cannot change the societal views on spaying and neutering. We cannot vote to budget help. We cannot give them lives. We can keep them alive to be able to start them on a new life. Where people can love them through to a new life.

Right now, the costs are overwhelming. The assistance locally is sporadic although sometimes well meaning. And evey time we look at a picture of a dog due to be killed we think that could be our dog, our pet and our best friend. We aim to change things for that dog and any others we can try torescue.