

I am the director for Cat Utopia. We operate in both the Umatilla County and Morrow County and Union County.

The ARE, we “hoped”, would be a support system that would help create good care for animals, ensure animals are spayed and neutered prior to adoption to affect the overpopulation of animals, and to provide constructive encouragement for those rescues working hard to get animals to good homes. We “hoped” this organization would address hoarding situations and severe neglect locations in our state – all the places many of us take animals in from. Also, back yard breeders that are allowed to breed in their homes in horrible conditions with zero oversight....

Instead, we have only incredibly critical unsupportive scrutiny with enormous fines that put many of the smaller rescues out of business – now leaving even MORE animals unattended – particularly in rural areas. One of our organization foster homes was sent a fine of \$7000 because the outside stray cats that the homeowner feeds, alters, and cares for are allowed into their garage. No stipulation was made as to people’s personal pets, nor is there any warning of this violation first prior to slapping on huge fines. The tiny missed details that do NOT affect the outcome or health of an animal pile up on many rescue groups ie: missed listing the dosage of dewormer, missed name of a surrender individual – many of which will not speak to us when we do rescue, etc.

It is my hope the focus of this organization can shift to help prevent pet overpopulation – not just oversight on rescues. At least have a long term goal, which would be to reduce the enormous need and overcrowding of rescues in the first place.

Cindy Spiess

Cat Utopia