

OPEN MIC

Dade mayor misleads on animal shelter

County Mayor Daniella Levine Cava ignores the root cause of the problem, unabated reproduction, in her Aug. 27 op-ed, “ ‘Let me set the record straight on Miami-Dade County’s animal shelter.’ ” She wrote, “We are a no-kill shelter no matter what.” That’s a sneaky way of saying that because homeless and abandoned cats and dogs are blocked from entering the shelter, they are left to suffer and die on the streets.

The mayor provides counts of housed animals and sterilization surgeries, but she doesn’t say these numbers have not improved over the past decade. She invites animal-rescue groups to “meet and greet” the animals, essentially asking high-hearted citizens to take them off her hands.

County citizens are good people. Eleven years ago, when told about cat and dog overpopulation, most voters agreed to pay a bit more for a good cause. It was not approved because a handful of greedy veterinarians lied to the then-mayor and commissioners, promising to provide all the services needed. No services were ever provided, probably because homeless cats and dogs don’t magically appear in veterinarians’ offices with a Visa card. For 10 years, the commission has refused to honor the voters’ choice.

There’s a call for animal lovers to attend the Sept. 7 County Commission meeting to ask that at least \$10 million be included in the budget to fund the first year start-up activities of the Pets Trust Plan.

Readers should visit PetsTrustMiami.com to read the decade-old plan and let an independent voluntary board focus on the root cause of animal overpopulation, with a five-fold increase in spay/neuter surgeries for stray cats and dogs. The county has proven it is not up to the task. Let the experts take charge.

– Mike Pryslak,
Miami