



## Humane Voters of Arizona

### Phoenix City Council Candidate Questionnaire 2011

Candidate; Charlie Ellis, candidate for Phoenix city Council district 5

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Animals play an important role in the lives of many Arizonans, who consistently demonstrate concern for animal protection. Humane-minded citizens of all political stripes care deeply about the positions their elected officials take on animal protection issues. Humane Voters of Arizona (HVA) appreciates your input on this 2011 Phoenix Mayoral Candidate Questionnaire.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

**Have you ever been involved in any animal protection issues? If so, which ones?**

**No, I have never been involved in animal rights, although I believe the humane treatment and living conditions of pets is a responsibility of every pet owner. When these conditions are not met I believe laws should be in place to protect animals that we call "pets" as well as animals of work**

**Do you have, or have you had in the past, any companion animals that have had an impact on you?**

**Yes, I've have had dogs around me most of my life. As a child and as an adult. My family has rescued many animals from the dog pound, our first dog as a child was a Bassett hound and the last one I adopted was a pitbull mix. She was a great dog.**

**Do you financially or philosophically support any local or national animal protection organizations? If so, which ones?**

**Yes, ID support chair Joe Arparo's aggressive efforts to punish animal abusers have been to the Arizona Humane Society in the past. I do try tell my**

**friends to rescue animals from the pound whenever they're looking for one. But overall, I have not been active in any of the support organizations.**

### **COMPANION ANIMALS AND HOMELESSNESS**

Every year, tens of thousands of cats and dogs are killed in shelters throughout Arizona. Taxpayers bear the cost of picking up, housing, and ultimately euthanizing these homeless or unwanted animals. The pet overpopulation crisis is the direct result of irresponsible breeding and animals left unaltered in our communities.

Would you be willing to work with animal care and control agencies and/or shelters in Phoenix to address problems related to the homeless animal crisis?

**Yes, I would. The senseless destruction of animal life today is the direct results of irresponsible pet ownership; this is a classic case of stupidity in Arizona as well as the United States perhaps even worldwide. People spend more on a night out for dinner than they would need to simply surgically fix or neuter their pet, which would prevent the killing of millions of animals nationwide**

Between 30-40 % of cats that enter shelters in Maricopa County will be euthanized. Those shelters are working with many neighborhoods and a group of non-profits to do Trap Neuter Return of feral cats and to provide low cost and no cost spay neuter services to owned cats.

If elected, would you be interested in learning more about Trap Neuter Return and plans to reduce the number of unwanted cats in Phoenix?

**Yes, we as a society must respect human life first, and yet part of respecting human life is putting a value on the lives that we choose to surround ourselves with that we call pets. As a society we must find a working solution to our overpopulation of feral cats.**

Would you support a resolution acknowledging the grassroots effort to solve this community problem?

**I'm not sure I understand this question, but the solution does rest within the community and not what the government**

Thank you for your time. Please return the completed questionnaire to:

**Humane Voters of Arizona**

**Email to: [HumaneVotersArizona@cox.net](mailto:HumaneVotersArizona@cox.net)**