

MHS Column
November 3, 2011

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

A young man is walking on the beach and sees thousands and thousands of starfish that have washed ashore. Further along he sees an old man, walking slowly and stooping often, picking up one starfish after another and tossing them gently into the sea. "Why are you throwing starfish into the ocean?" the young man asks. "Because," replies the old man, "the sun is up, the tide is going out, and if I don't throw them in, they will die."

"But," said the young man, "there are miles of beach and starfish all along it! You can't possibly save them all. You can't even save one-tenth of them. Even if you work all day, your efforts won't make any difference at all." The old man listened, then bent down to pick up another starfish, throwing it into the sea. "It made a difference to that one."

Sometimes the sheer volume of homeless animals on Maui seems overwhelming. We would love to see empty kennels at our shelter, but for every shelter pet that is adopted, two more animals come in our door. Our kennels are always brimming with wonderful pets, all awaiting their chance at adoption. We wish we could save every unwanted, abandoned animal on this island. However, due to limited resources, we cannot save them all. It would be easy to throw up our hands and give up, but we will never stop trying.

Help us reduce the number of animals euthanized. Adopt from our shelter. Spay/neuter your pets. Don't abandon your pets. Join us in our efforts to save more lives. Every single one makes a difference.

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