



and a look — at s departure

NATION

Dale McFeatters

engineered victories for Bush Republicans in 2000, 2002 and his magic deserted him in when he predicted a GOP victory until the Democrats gained of Congress.

then, Bush's inner circle has completely dispersed. He has p domestic counselor, budget chief attorney, political di-

ton since.

Theories about why he is leaving a year and a half before the end of the Bush administration depend on analysis of the state of organization of the GOP. Those who see the remnants of a tightly run machine would view Rove's departure as a careful tweak to improve the party's image by reducing the heat that his White House presence generates.

Congress and the public still want to know what role he played in the firing of the U.S. attorneys and the smearing and destruction of the career of former

LETTERS

We don't act like dog's best friend

Dogs are bred like livestock in Pennsylvania, more than any other state.

The breeding dogs are confined to cages for life with forced conception, minimum sanitation and medical care.

The pups are inbred, unstable, unsocialized, neurotic and sick when they are ripped away from their mothers and shipped across the country in trucks and boxes.

There they wait behind the glass until some poor, unsuspecting, uneducated buyer comes along to "save" them.

The new owners were expecting fun and companionship, not problems.

The "problem" dog is tied up outside or maybe dropped off at a shelter or given away, or even turned loose to fend for itself.

Hundreds of thousands of dogs desperate for homes are waiting in shelters.

Dogs are tied in the backyard and never leave the end of their chain.

How dare we call a dog "Man's Best Friend"?

Do we really think that a dog is born with human manners burned into their DNA?

Why is it OK to blame the dog for his lack of education? Why is it OK to send him to a shelter or post a "Free To Good Home" ad, hoping the next owner has better luck, before looking for another dog that's "not so bad"?

When you adopt a dog, you have taken on the responsibility to learn how to effectively communicate your expectations and provide the proper exercise along with consistent boundaries, just as we teach our children manners and language using positive motivating methods.

Why won't we take the time to learn to build a positive, fulfilling relationship with our dogs? If a dog is our best friend, we have a responsibility to return that friendship.

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Health-care crisis growing bigger