At the city pound

By Vincent O'Sullivan

I’m in charge of a cage. I know those that won’t. I don’t mean can’t. Just won’t. There’s a roster for Tuesdays, Fridays. Dogs to die.

The disconsolate, the abandoned, those with recurrent symptoms, the incorrigible mutt — oh, a dozen choices by way of reasons. Even so,

some won’t. Won’t play along once their number’s up. The “rainbow bridge” in the offing as the posher clinics put it, a pig’s ear as a final treat, a venison chew, the profession behaving beautifully at a time like this. Still, those that won’t. Won’t go nicely, I mean,

with a gaze to melt, a last slobbed lick. Those with a soul’s defiance, though embarrassment in the lunchroom should you come at that one!

Even after the bag is zipped, you feel it:

*We’re real at the end as you are, buster. We sniff the wind. What say if we say it together? Won’t.*

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