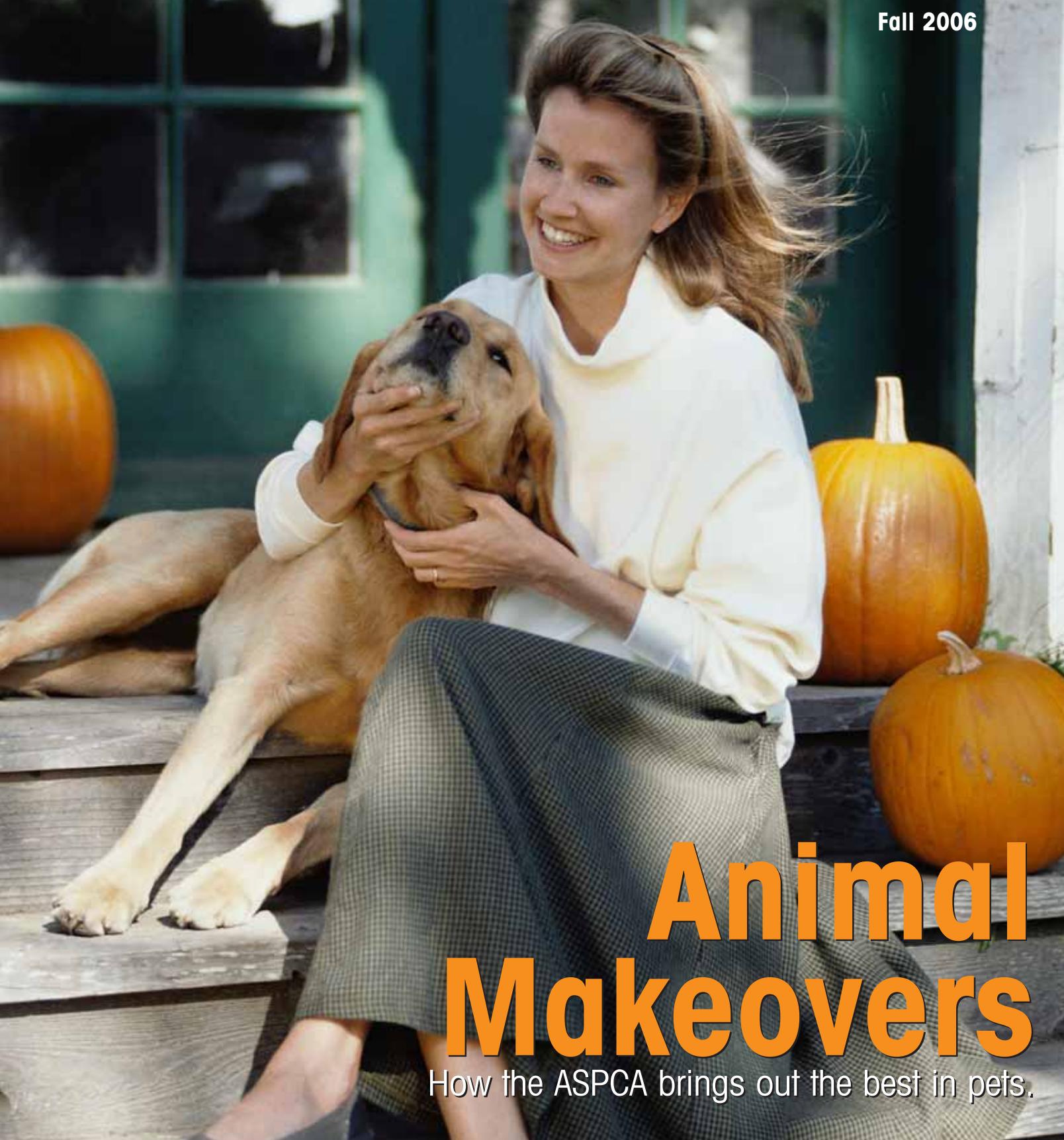


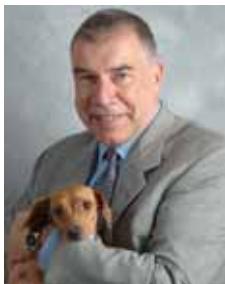
ASPCA® Action

Fall 2006



Animal Makeovers

How the ASPCA brings out the best in pets.



Building Humane Communities

With autumn right around the corner, many of us are looking forward with relief to bidding farewell to summer. This year, most of the country experienced a summer of rising temperatures and gas prices. Here at the ASPCA headquarters in New York City, things were no different. The rising cost of gasoline had curtailed the efforts of the Mayor's Alliance to fuel a transport van that shuttles animals from city shelters to foster homes until the animals can be adopted. Most of these animals would otherwise be euthanized.

In an effort to salvage this program aimed at protecting the city's homeless pets and our overall commitment to making New York City a model humane community, the ASPCA agreed to donate \$10,000 to the Mayor's Alliance to continue its transportation initiative as fuel costs rise. The public stepped up and matched our donation, dollar-for-dollar.

This is just one more example of our ability to improve animals' lives thanks to the generosity of ASPCA members. As one of our most dedicated supporters, you understand our commitment to finding permanent, loving homes for America's homeless pets and putting an end to animal cruelty. Thank you for joining us in our efforts to change the fate of America's homeless, abused, and neglected pets.

Edwin Sayres
ASPCA President & CEO

ASPCA Action

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This newsletter is not intended to provide advice on individual pet health matters or to substitute for consultation with a veterinary doctor.

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Animal Makeovers

ASPCA behavior experts help more pets find permanent, loving homes

The three dogs were a sorry sight when ASPCA Humane Law Enforcement agents pulled them from the dark basement where they'd been abandoned. Emaciated and fearful, they were rushed to the ASPCA's Bergh Memorial Animal Hospital in Manhattan, where ASPCA experts could provide lifesaving veterinary treatment and tender care.

"All three dogs were extremely withdrawn when they first came in," says Victoria Wells, Manager of Shelter Behavior and Training at the ASPCA. "They stood in one spot, frozen, and threatened to snap when touched—telltale signs that a dog has had very little positive interaction with people."

Two months and twenty plus pounds later, the three brown-and-white husky-shepherd mixes were well on their way to new and better lives. Dubbed Slim Jim, Oscar Meyer, and Mary Jane by ASPCA staff who office-fostered them, the three siblings responded remarkably well to the humans now showing them such affection and care.

"Slim Jim was the most miraculous of the turnarounds," says Wells. "The second day I had been sitting on the ground with him, talking to him and trying to feed him treats, when all of a sudden you could see the blank look in his eyes fade away. There was something living in there! As he became more and more comfortable, it got to the point where if he caught a glimpse of me from 20 feet away he'd run to me to get hugged."

Like thousands of other abused and neglected animals rescued by the ASPCA, all three dogs underwent extensive behavioral evaluations and rehabilitation to make sure they were suitable for



Months of "therapy" transformed the fearful Slim Jim into a loving and pampered Freud.

adoption. And like many before, all found loving homes: Mary Jane with her ASPCA foster "mom"; Oscar Meyer with an older gentleman; and Slim Jim with a couple who, sympathetic to his lengthy "therapy," renamed him Freud.

A Few Simple Tricks

Behavior training has helped all sorts of "problem" animals at the ASPCA get a second chance. There was Emma, the deaf white pit bull who with the help of a vibration collar and hand signals learned basic skills that made her irresistible to a new pet parent. And 10-year-old Sheila, the bone-thin, tick-infested German shepherd rescued from one backyard who spent a second puppy-hood romping through fields

BEHAVIOR TIMELINE ASPCA: 140 years of fostering the human-animal bond

1866 Philanthropist Henry Bergh calls attention to the inhumane treatment of many animals in our society and establishes the ASPCA.

1944



The ASPCA first begins offering dog obedience classes. Brochures at the time note, "Dogs and owners are always trained together, the theory being that we teach you to train your dog," a philosophy that continues to inform activities to this day.

1970s

Behavior helpline service is set up to provide new pet owners with ready advice and information on behavior questions.

1980s

ASPCA staff begin behavioral evaluations of dogs and cats up for adoption. Programs for Animal-Assisted Therapy are established.

with her new family—proof positive you can teach an old dog new tricks. ASPCA Action readers may also remember Fluffy Bee, the painfully shy gray tabby who was adopted after ASPCA doctors put her on anti-anxiety medications.

"A few training techniques can make all the difference," says Dr. Stephanie LaFarge, Senior Director of Counseling Services at the ASPCA. Training can correct everyday problems like jumping up, pulling on the leash, or chewing up furniture, a major reason why so many pets end up in shelters in the first place. Knowing a few basic tricks like "Sit" or "Stay" may even be the charm that gets an animal adopted, as graduates of the ASPCA's first Charm School training program learned first-hand earlier this year.

Beyond basic good manners, select dogs at the ASPCA shelter are now identified as temperamentally suitable for therapy dog work, in which intensively trained teams of people and their pets visit hospitals, nursing homes, schools, and other locales. "Therapy team visits can aid medical recovery or boost performance," says LaFarge, who runs Animal-Assisted Therapy classes at the ASPCA, part of a training program with the Delta

Society. Her own dog Sophie, an Eskimo-shepherd mix deemed "unadoptable" after she was rescued from a drainage ditch, went on to become a model therapy dog, working with prisoners and troubled youth.

Coming to Your Home

The ASPCA offers a wealth of invaluable training tips at its website — www.aspca.org/behavior — and is ramping up efforts to create a "smarter" site that offers personalized guidance tailored to individual needs, often accompanied by tutoring videos. "This is going to be an enormous help to pet parents," says Dr. Pamela Reid, Certified Applied Animal Behaviorist and VP of the ASPCA's Animal Behavior Center in Urbana, IL.

Reid cites statistics showing that most people experience some type of behavior problem with their animal, yet few are able to do much about it. "Even if you are lucky enough to live near a behavior expert, their fees can pose an insurmountable barrier," she says.

"The ASPCA wants to help as many pet guardians as we can, thereby reducing the number of pets being relinquished to shelters," says Reid. "We have the expertise to help on a national

scope to foster happy, loving relationships between people and their pets." ■



Once deemed "unadoptable," Sophie went on to become a highly skilled therapy dog.

BEHAVIOR TIMELINE ASPCA: 140 years of fostering the human-animal bond

1990s The ASPCA begins conducting original research on pet behavior problems, shelter dog behavior, and companion animal loss, presenting papers at scientific meetings worldwide.

ASPCA staff help develop and review more than 15 ASPCA books on pet care and training.

2000 The ASPCA holds an official dedication for its new behavior training space in its New York City headquarters.

2002 The ASPCA offers the first post-doctoral Fellowship in Applied Animal Behavior.

2005-present The ASPCA expands nationally by establishing the Animal Behavior Center in Urbana, IL, a sister department to the Animal Poison Control Center that handles over 100,000 lifesaving requests a year. The ASPCA staff includes five Certified Applied Animal Behaviorists.

Big Fix on the Gulf Coast



Tina Bernard (*right*) issues the first spay and neuter voucher to Jo Ann Williams and Jazz.

Amid the heroic rescues during last years' devastating Gulf Coast hurricanes, a troubling truth emerged: Fully 80% of the dogs and cats that turned up at rescue facilities throughout the region were unaltered. Now the ASPCA, along with PetSmart Charities, the International Fund for Animal Welfare, the Humane Society of the United States, and United Animal Nations is helping to solve the problem, with an ambitious \$3.3 million program to bring free and low-cost sterilizations to an expected 20,000 animals in the coming year.

"Spaying and neutering is the first crucial step to stop the cycle of unwanted pets," says ASPCA Spay/Neuter Initiatives Manager Aimee St. Arnaud, who is helping to coordinate spay and neuter efforts in the area. "The key to prevention is to make spay and neuter an affordable, accessible, and routine thing to do."

The program, unprecedented in scale, funds three organizations that have a strong track record in

the affected areas: Spay/Louisiana, the Humane Society of South Mississippi, and Mississippi Spay and Neuter (SPAN). These local groups will take a three-pronged approach to ending animal overpopulation long-term:

A spay and neuter voucher program. Residents throughout Mississippi and in hard-hit areas of Louisiana are receiving vouchers for free or low-cost sterilization surgeries. "It's a very easy, very helpful program," says Jo Ann Williams, the first voucher recipient in St. Bernard Parish east of New Orleans, one of the areas hardest hit by Hurricane Katrina. Her Pomeranian, Jazz, was recently neutered at a local clinic.

Permanent, high-volume spay and neuter clinics. The rebuilt and relocated Humane Society of South Mississippi, serving a 90-mile radius, opened its doors in Gulfport in May. A brand new facility for the New Orleans area, serving 25 parishes, is slated to open next spring. Vans will provide the elderly, feral cat caretakers, low-income pet parents, and others ready access to state-of-the-art surgery suites in order to sterilize up to 17,000 dogs and cats a year.

The Big Fix Rig.

This 53-foot mobile van that can hold up to 160 cats is equipped with operating tables designed to sterilize an additional 4,000 animals in the coming year. Its first stop in Louisiana:

Benefits of Spay and Neuter

- Fewer unwanted litters
- Fewer animals entering shelters
- Fewer problem behaviors in pets (yowling, fighting, spraying, roaming)
- Lower risk of certain cancers (uterine, ovarian, testicular)
- A longer, healthier life for your pet

Rebel Field in Chalmette, where ASPCA rescuers took in pets in the harrowing weeks following Hurricane Katrina. The Big Fix Rig will continue to provide "on-the-go" low-cost spay and neuter services in hard-hit communities throughout the state. Later this year it returns to Mississippi, where it has already done 540 surgeries and handed out 1,400 vouchers in just four weeks.

Also planned is an in-depth survey of Gulf residents about why they do or do not alter their animals, to help make this program more effective. "Thank you, ASPCA members, for making all this possible," says Julie Becker of Spay/Louisiana. "We're amazed at every step of the way how supportive you all have been." ■



The Big Fix Rig will add 4,000 sterilization surgeries in its first year on the road.

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Commemorating the ASPCA's 140th year at Bergh's resting place.

Honoring Henry Bergh

Over 300 well-wishers gathered at historic Green-Wood Cemetery in Brooklyn, NY, in May to celebrate the ASPCA's 140th anniversary and to honor its founder Henry Bergh, who is buried there. "He was a pioneer of compassion in the United States," says Valerie Angeli, Senior Director of Public Information and Special Projects at the ASPCA. "This was a joyful celebration of a life and of a great person who made the world more humane."

Young and old, along with guest dogs, therapy cats, ASPCA dogs up for adoption, and the NYPD Mounted Police joined in an honor walk to Bergh's mausoleum, where the bronze animal sculpture that once hung on the side of the ASPCA's main headquarters in Manhattan now adorns the lush grounds. Guests enjoyed one-of-a-kind artifacts from ASPCA archives in a special museum exhibition, "Blessed Are the Merciful: Celebrating Henry Bergh and the ASPCA." Bagpipers playing animal-themed songs, appearances by ASPCA "animal cop" stars from the popular

Animal Precinct TV show, champagne (donated by ASPCA corporate partner Windsor Vineyards of California), and cookies (donated by Latka's Dog Treats) rounded out the festivities. Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz unveiled a proclamation during the event declaring May 6, 2006, "ASPCA Day in Brooklyn." ■



Aiding Animals Worldwide

Some 300 Turkish veterinarians and veterinary students learned valuable lessons on the practice of veterinary medicine in U.S. shelters when the ASPCA's Lila Miller, D.V.M., presented at the Third Annual Small Animal Medicine Conference at Uludag University in Bursa, Turkey. Dr. Miller is co-editor of *Shelter Medicine for Veterinarians and Staff*, a groundbreaking text on caring for companion animals housed in shelters. Her talk covered such critical issues as disease control, shelter design, feral cat programs, and cruelty investigations, all issues vital to humane care for animals everywhere. The visit was capped by a tour of a state-of-the-art shelter complex under construction, led by Bursa's mayor and filmed by Turkish public television. ■

Back-to-School Reading List

This year's ASPCA Henry Bergh Children's Book Awards were presented in June at the American Library Association's annual conference in New Orleans. Winners and honorees* for 2005 include:

ER Vets: Life in an Animal Emergency Room

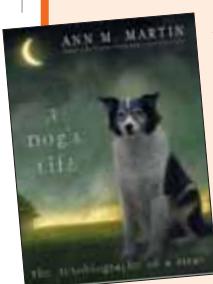
by Donna M. Jackson (Honor). A photo-filled, behind-the-scenes look at a Colorado animal hospital.



Magnus at the Fire, by Jennifer Armstrong (Award). A firefighting gray stallion refuses to be put out to pasture.

Dog Sense, by Sneed B. Collard III (Award). A 13-year-old takes on the school bully with the aid of his beloved dog.

A Dog's Life: The Autobiography of a Stray



by Ann M. Martin (Award). Life lessons from a stray's point-of-view.

Defiance, by Valerie Hobbs (Young Adult Award). A young cancer patient befriends an elderly neighbor and her pet cow.

*Correction: Our Summer '06 issue erroneously cited all book award finalists as winners. For a complete list of animal-friendly books, visit www.aspca.org.

ASPCA and Fresh Step Boost Adoptions



Mayor Tom Barrett of Milwaukee celebrates the Wisconsin Humane Society's Safe Steps Home grant.

Imagine a world where every cat counts! That was the theme for this year's ASPCA Adopt-A-Shelter-Cat Month, a national promotion sponsored by the makers of Fresh Step Scoopable Cat Litter with carbon. Fresh Step also sponsors the Safe Steps Home (SSH) shelter grant program, and the ASPCA was able to integrate the two programs this year by creating an Adopt-A-Shelter-Cat Month tour with special cat adoption events in cities that received grants.

During each cat adoption event, local shelter spokespeople and veterinarians were on site to offer advice on adopting a cat and tips for caring for a new cat. In addition, the makers of Fresh Step litter gave away free Cat Adoption Starter kits to anyone who adopted a shelter cat during the event and

throughout the month of June. Locally, each SSH grant shelter participated in local radio promotions and media events which resulted in raising awareness of cat adoption as well as increasing adoptions overall.

The ASPCA and Fresh Step are pleased to announce the following grant recipients for this year's Safe Steps Home program. Each shelter was awarded \$20,000 for innovative programs that help cats:

Animal Rescue League of Boston (Boston, MA)
Animal Rescue League of Western Pennsylvania (Pittsburgh, PA)
Capital Area Humane Society (Columbus, OH)
Indianapolis Animal Care and Control (Indianapolis, IN)



The Capital Area Humane Society in Columbus, OH, will enhance its Website and offer a Re-Homing Kit to boost adoptions.

Oregon Humane Society (Portland, OR)
Mercer Island Eastside Orphans and Waifs (MEOW) Cat Rescue (Seattle, WA)
Neighborhood Cats (New York, NY)
The Scratching Post (Cincinnati, OH)
Wisconsin Humane Society (Milwaukee, WI)

For details on each individual grant, please visit www.aspca.org/freshstep. On behalf of all our grant shelters and the cats adopted as part of this extraordinary effort we thank Fresh Step for its sponsorship of these lifesaving programs. ■

For one paralyzed pooch, ASPCA rescue brought mobility and a new friend-filled home.

Sweet Pea's Sweet Rewards

It was last September that ASPCA Humane Law Enforcement agents, tipped off by a concerned citizen, were called in to investigate a brown-and-white pit bull languishing in a New York home. Filthy and emaciated, the badly neglected four-year-old terrier could barely drag its paralyzed hindquarters across the floor.

"She was in a great deal of pain when our agents seized her," says ASPCA Supervisory Special Investigator Annemarie Lucas. "The ailing dog was treated by ASPCA doctors. The owner was arrested and charged with neglect."

Christened "Sweet Pea" by the ASPCA adoption team, the cuddly canine responded well to the expert care provided by ASPCA veterinarians and staff. An avid eater, she regained strength and was soon scooting across the floors of ASPCA headquarters.

"She quickly learned that two hands are better than one, so that if you stroked her with just one hand, she poked at the other with her soft muzzle," says Elizabeth Silverman, an ASPCA volunteer who tended to Sweet Pea. "She thrives on TLC, so much so that she even enjoys having her teeth brushed!"

Still, Sweet Pea had persistent health problems, including recurrent infections and chronic pain that required daily medicines. And despite the intensive medical attention, she would never walk again.



Sweet Pea (right) joins family and friends at Eddie's Wheels for Pets.

Home Free

That's when ASPCA volunteer Esther Koslow contacted Eddie's Wheels for Pets, which makes custom-fit assistive carts for animals. The organization, based in Shelburne Falls, MA, donated two sets of wheels, one for Sweet Pea and another for fellow shelter-dog Baby (see "Miracle Baby!" page 18).

Sweet Pea quickly adapted to long, wheel-assisted walks in the park. But months later, she still hadn't found someone willing to take on the responsibility of adopting a special needs dog.

"After all that time in the shelter, Sweet Pea needed a break," says Koslow. In June, she and fellow ASPCA volunteers Dina Schmidt and Joseph Rivera brought the lovable canine up to the lush western Massachusetts

countryside for a two-week "vacation" with Leslie and Eddie Grinnell, Eddie's Wheels' founders.

"Within a half hour, Sweet Pea was at ease with her new setting and canine pals," says Koslow. "The next day, Eddie and Leslie announced that Sweet Pea was going to stay with them for good. It was a perfect match."

Sweet Pea and Toby, a large Doberman-Rottweiler mix, have become the official "shop dogs." Fellow companions include Daisy, a dachshund also on wheels; a Doberman named Autumn; and a host of staff and visitors.

"The little mush-pot is doing great," says Leslie Grinnell of her new addition to the family. "She's been falling at people's knees to tell them, 'My name is Sweet Pea. You can pet me now.' ■





\$20,000

SAFE STEPS HOME

■ Washington

Mercer Island Eastside Orphans and Waifs (MEOW) Cat Rescue in Seattle, WA, will use a \$20,000 Safe Steps Home grant from the ASPCA and Fresh Step Scoopable Cat Litter (see page 8) to purchase a much-needed cargo van to transport cats to low-cost spay and neuter clinics and adoption events throughout the city. "I cannot tell you what this grant has meant to MEOW. It has changed the way we operate in so many ways," says one MEOW spokesperson. "We are so proud to have our hearts' work honored by the ASPCA/Fresh Step Safe Steps Home Program."



700+

MEET YOUR MATCH™ WORKSHOPS AND VIDEOS

■ California to Maine

Staff from more than 450 shelters have attended Meet Your Match™ regional training workshops throughout the U.S. to date. Meet Your Match™, an ASPCA program made possible by grants from Iams, color codes people and canines based on personality and lifestyle traits to make the best possible pet/parent connections. This year the program has expanded to include puppies, and a first-of-its-kind Feline-ality Adoption Program, matching cats with potential adopters, begins this fall. Some 250 additional animal welfare groups have learned about the program through the Meet Your Match™ Canine-ality & Puppy-ality Guide and Instructional Video, available online at the ASPCA store (www.aspca.org/store).



3,000+

ASPCA KIDS

■ Texas to Massachusetts

Every month, hundreds of schoolchildren, from pre-K through high school, learn about the importance of being kind to animals through the ASPCA Kids Classroom program, which teaches humane care in schools throughout the New York area. This year, classroom and teacher workshops are expanding from New York City to Massachusetts, Texas, and beyond. In the first half of 2006, the ASPCA reached over 3,000 kids through classroom presentations, mini-camps, and public programs. It's one more way the ASPCA is spreading its message of caring to an up-and-coming generation of young Americans.

Your Dolla



\$22,000

SENDING OUT AN SOS

■ Wisconsin

The Dane County Humane Society in Madison, WI, was the proud recipient of a \$22,000 SOS Grant, awarded by the ASPCA with funding from the Glaser Progress Foundation to bring low-cost, high-volume spay and neuter services to rural areas of the state. The SOS, or Shelter Outreach Services, model has met with great success in the Finger Lakes region of upstate New York, where some 15,000 animals have been altered in the three years since the program started. ASPCA experts have since expanded the program to rural areas of New Hampshire and Vermont and, now, the upper Midwest.



\$10,000

FUELING ADOPTIONS

■ New York City

With gas prices soaring, the ASPCA pledged \$10,000 to fuel a homeless animal transport van run by the Mayor's Alliance for NYC's Animals. The vehicle shuttles hundreds of pets a month, 7 days a week, from city shelters to foster homes until they can be adopted. Many of these animals would otherwise be euthanized. Within days, compassionate citizens rose to the ASPCA's 10K challenge by donating an additional \$10,000 plus to the cause.



\$1.7 MILLION

A MODEL SHELTER

■ Mississippi

Hundreds of guests celebrated the unveiling of the Humane Society of South Mississippi's new state-of-the-art animal shelter in Gulfport in May. The ASPCA has contributed or pledged some \$1.7 million to date for recovery, rebuilding, and spay and neuter efforts after Hurricane Katrina destroyed the old shelter. The 42,000-square-foot facility on seven acres will greatly expand humane programs in a six-county area, allowing for high-volume spaying and neutering of up to 15,000 animals a year in a 90-mile radius.

rs At Work

And Justice for All

ASPCA legal experts aid pet parents all across America



Susan Riston of Cairo, IL, knows firsthand what it means to face breed discrimination. When her son came home with a tiny, red-brown ball-of-fur named Buddy, a pit bull he'd rescued from a street-corner, "I had visions of this 'Cujo' breed ravaging the two-year-old child and the other pets in our home. But I decided I had to give this ugly little pup a chance."

"Three years later," says Riston, "Buddy turned out to be one of the best dogs we've ever had. He spends most of his day getting his 'beauty sleep' on our bed."

But for a year, Riston and her family lived in fear that "someone would take our Buddy from us." As in many cities across America, her town had enacted breed-

specific legislation, which bans the ownership of specific breeds of dogs deemed to be dangerous, regardless of the animal's individual temperament.

"The idea of getting rid of a dog that was a member of our family was heartbreaking," says Riston. Spurred to action by Buddy's "outlaw" status, she made it her mission to take on Cairo's vicious dog ordinance.

"I was lucky," Riston says. "A friend put me in touch with Ledy VanKavage," Sr. Director of Legal Training & Legislation for the ASPCA. VanKavage informed the city attorney that the breed-specific ordinance was illegal in the state of Illinois, and the ban was abolished.

Take Two

Riston felt a familiar sense of outrage earlier this year when TV news reports showed distraught pet parents in Cutler, IL, three hours north. There, officers had been seizing pet Rottweilers from their homes following a similar ban targeting "dangerous" breeds.

"When I saw it on the news it just tore my heart out, because I knew how those people felt," says Riston, now legislative liaison for the Southern Illinois Pet Society (SIPS), an animal rescue group. Again she contacted the ASPCA and, with the help of VanKavage, the law was rescinded and pets returned.

"Dangerous dog legislation is important, but it should be breed-neutral," says VanKavage, who speaks often on breed-specific laws, including at the 2006 Canine Legislation Conference in Chicago this August. "Responsible and caring pet parents should be able to own whatever breed or mixed breed of dog they want." With her help, the state of Illinois has passed several important pieces of legislation aimed at placing more responsibility on pet guardians, rather than focusing on specific breeds.

"Any pet parent can make a huge difference," says Riston. "The wealth of free information the ASPCA makes available to anyone who is interested is unbelievable." To get your information, visit www.aspca.org/lobby

State Highlights

Maine:

Family Protections

Victims of domestic violence are often faced with abusers who threaten to kill or maim their pets. Now those animals will be protected, thanks to a landmark new law, signed by Maine's Governor John Baldacci, that allows animals to be included in protection orders in domestic violence cases. "With this new law, we hope to help remove another tool for emotional and physical violence used by the abuser to exert power and control over their victims," says the Governor.

Louisiana:

No Pet Left Behind

None of us can forget the devastating images of pets left stranded in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Many pet parents, knowing

their companion animals could not accompany them, remained behind with their pets, further complicating rescue efforts in the wake of the storm. A comprehensive new Pet Evacuation Bill in the Bayou State will help protect pets and people during times of emergency. The new law, signed by Governor Kathleen Blanco in June, allows household pets in carriers onto public transportation during evacuations (provided they don't endanger people). It also promotes advance disaster planning, public education efforts, and emergency volunteer training, and enhances pet identification systems to help ensure pet parents separated from their four-legged friends are swiftly reunited.

Illinois:

Safer Streets

A first-of-its-kind new law from Illinois (House Bill 2946) prevents convicted felons from owning unsterilized or vicious dogs. Signed into law by Governor Rod Blagojevich, the measure is designed to protect the health and safety of Illinois' pets and citizens and to prevent animals from being used as weapons.

North Carolina:

Peaceable Kingdom

House Bill 2098, signed by North Carolina's Governor Mike Easley, not only prohibits the fighting of dogs versus dogs, but expands current law to prohibit dogs fighting any animal. This important legislation will help curb the cruel spectacle of "hog-dog" rodeos, in which dogs are pitted against wild pigs,

an increasingly popular "sport" that can harm all animals involved.

Alabama:

Pet Population Control

Alabama has taken a solid step toward curbing pet overpopulation with House Bill 252, signed into law by Governor Bob Riley. It requires the sterilization of all animals acquired from public and private animal shelters and nonprofit animal welfare groups—a measure that will no doubt help cut down on the millions of adoptable pets euthanized each year simply because there are not enough homes for them. Curbing animal overpopulation will help all adoptable animals find a home.

Tennessee:

The Littlest Victims

Household pets in the Volunteer State will get added protections, thanks to a new law requiring employees of any county child or adult protective services agency to report suspected animal abuse, cruelty, or neglect. Family violence is about power and control, and abusers often victimize the least powerful members of their family, including the pets. One study revealed that animals were abused in 88% of the families in which children are abused.

TAKE ACTION IN YOUR STATE

To learn more about important animal welfare bills in your state and find contact info and sample letters for your state lawmakers, join the ASPCA Advocacy Brigade at www.aspca.org/lobby.



Planned Giving: The Gift of Love

How one animal lover provides big-time support for the ASPCA



ASPCA supporter Lois gave the gift of love.

Lois is an ASPCA donor and a long-time New York City resident, so it seemed natural to her to come to us when she wanted a second cat. Soon after adopting the beautiful Lily, Lois called the Planned Giving Department; she was bubbling with enthusiasm for the ASPCA because of her wonderful experience. The staff in the Adoption Center could not have been nicer or more helpful, and Lily was the perfect companion animal. It was during that conversation that Lois told us the

ASPCA was now a beneficiary of her IRA.

Like Lois, you too can use the beneficiary designations available for a variety of your financial assets to fulfill your wish to help animals in need. Leaving a bequest to the ASPCA in your will is not the only way to include us in your estate plans.

Many of you have retirement plans, IRAs, 401(k)s, or 403(b)s, that require a beneficiary designation. Your beneficiary does not have to be an individual; the ASPCA can be your beneficiary.

Did you know that when retirement plan assets are left to heirs other than the spouse, the beneficiary could incur estate and income taxes of up to 70 percent? Since income taxes were not required to be paid during one's lifetime, they must be paid at death in addition to potential federal and state taxes, leaving little for heirs. Giving retirement assets to the ASPCA tax free can be a wonderful way to make a gift to the animals.

Life insurance policies are another easy and often overlooked way to make a meaningful charitable gift. There are a number of ways to support the ASPCA's many programs with an insurance-related gift, such as beneficiary designation, gift of a paid-up policy, or making the ASPCA the owner and beneficiary.

You can also use bank and investment accounts in most states to leave a legacy to the ASPCA. The arrangement is known as TOD/POD or Transfer-on-Death/Payable-on-Death. This requires that you complete a form directly with your financial institution. You do not have to work with an attorney or accountant, nor are any fees involved to arrange such a gift.

We hope we have started you thinking about how you can make a difference for animals in need. For more information, please call our Director of Planned Giving, Marsha Pierson, CFP, at 212-876-7700 ext. 4505, or email her at marshap@aspca.org. ■

Keeping Your Pet Safe in Emergencies

A survey of those affected by last year's devastating Hurricane Katrina found that 42% of people did not leave the area; 44% of those cited pets or loved ones as the reason. The ASPCA is working with state and federal legislators to make pets part of any evacuation plan. We have also teamed with the U.S. government and leading animal welfare organizations to get the word out on three key steps to keeping your pet safe should disaster strike.

1. Prepare. Assemble a pet emergency supply kit that includes:

Food and water. Include a three-day supply.



Pet medicines and medical records. Store in a waterproof container.

First aid kit. Bandages, scissors, tape, etc. Ask your vet what to include, or visit www.aspca.org/store to buy a kit online.

Collar, harness, or leash with ID tag. ID is a must for all pets at all times.

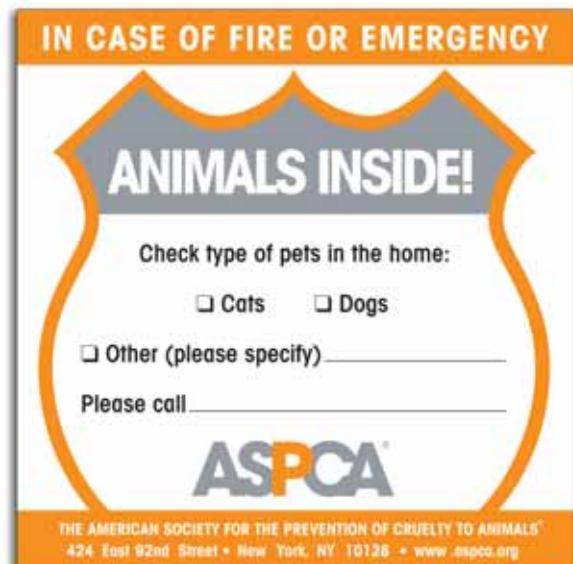
Crate or other pet carrier. A sturdy, safe, and comfortable crate or carrier makes it easier to transport your pet.

Sanitation. Include such items as pet litter and a litter box (for cats), as well as paper towels, trash bags, newspapers, and household bleach.

2. Plan. Should you stay put or evacuate? Listen to the radio, watch TV, or check the Internet for information and evacuation instructions.

Create a plan to get away. Plan how you will assemble your pets and where you will go. Remember: Some public shelters do not permit pets. Research motels and kennels that do take companion animals.

Develop a buddy system. Plan with neighbors, friends, or relatives to take care of your pets if you are unable to, and determine a meeting spot.



Talk to your veterinarian. You might consider permanent ID, such as microchipping or enrolling your pet in a recovery database. If you do microchip, make sure that you keep your contact info up to date in the recovery database.

Compile contact information. Include veterinary hospitals in your area, as well as in places where you may seek shelter.

Obtain "Pets Inside" stickers ([visit www.aspca.org/emergency](http://www.aspca.org/emergency)). Place on your doors and windows to alert firefighters and rescue workers. Consider including a phone number where you could be reached in an emergency.

3. Stay informed. Know about types of emergencies that may affect your area.

Visit www.aspca.org/emergency for more information and lifesaving tips.

Garlic + Onions = Danger?



Tina Wismer, D.V.M., DABVT, DABT, is a Veterinary Toxicologist at the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center.

Q. The ASPCA lists garlic and onions as foods to avoid for pets. My pet food contains some garlic and onion powder in the list of ingredients. Are these foods dangerous? A.A., via email (ASPCAAction@aspca.org)

A. Garlic and onions can cause anemia in our pet animals. Cats are more sensitive than dogs to these effects. Most pet foods do not contain enough garlic or onions to cause a problem in a healthy animal; however, there have been several instances in which kittens were fed baby food that contains garlic or onion powder and developed anemia. So, I would definitely not feed anything containing garlic or onions to any very young, sick, or debilitated pet.



Choosing Gender



Crista Coppola, Ph.D., is a Certified Applied Animal Behaviorist and Behavior Fellow at the ASPCA Animal Behavior Center.

Q. I have a girl dog and want to adopt a second pup. Should I get a boy? J.L., Portland, OR

A. Assuming that your girl is spayed, it is best to add a male to your family. In general, female and male dogs get along better than dogs of the same sex. While two females or two males can live harmoniously in the same household, if the dogs do not get along, it is more often a pair of the same sex. And rumor has it that if two females disagree, they are more likely to inflict injury on each other during fights. If dogs are not getting along, they are usually sparked to fight over resources like food, beds, toys and bones, and human attention. With any combination of pets, it is wise to be careful when offering food, treats, and edible toys, as you don't want to provoke an unnecessary fight. Providing basic obedience training to both dogs will increase the likelihood that the dogs will get along well because they will be easier to control in potentially testy situations.

Garden Bulb Hazards



Steven Hansen, D.V.M., is Senior VP of the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center.

Q. This fall I'm planning on planting tulips and daffodil bulbs for spring blooming. Are these garden bulbs dangerous to pets? B.T., Sharon, CT

A. Like many ornamental bulbs, the bulbs of tulips and daffodils (*Narcissus*) contain toxins that can be hazardous to pets. Curious dogs in particular may be tempted to get into a bag of unplanted bulbs or to dig up fresh plantings. Fertilizers such as bone or blood meal can also attract dogs to bulb gardens. Signs of ingestion can include gastrointestinal upset, drooling, loss of appetite, and convulsions. If you suspect your pet may have ingested garden bulbs, contact your local veterinarian or the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center (1-888-426-4435, fees may apply) for immediate assistance. Fences or wire bulb cages, or avoiding bulbs altogether, may be useful if your pet is a tenacious digger and chewer.

Happy Paws at Bergh Ball

Supporters celebrated the ASPCA's 140th anniversary at the 9th Annual ASPCA Bergh Ball, "Happy Paws for the ASPCA Cause," held April 27 at Manhattan's Mandarin Oriental Hotel. Among those in attendance were **Lake Bell**; **Colin Farrell**; **Kristen Bell**; **Kate and Andy Spade**; **Dylan Lauren**; **Somers Farkas**; **Jonathan Farkas**; **James Nederlander** and **Margo MacNabb**; ASPCA President & CEO **Ed Sayres** and Chairman **Hoyle Jones**; Event Chairmen **Linda** and **Benjamin Lambert** and **Jeanne Sorensen-Leff**; and Junior Chairmen **Allison** and **Jay Aston** along with **Stephanie** and **John Harris**. Hotel guests **Robin Williams** and New York Knicks player **Stephen Marbury** popped in for a surprise visit as well. The event included a live auction with artwork by **William Wegman**, **Peter Beard**, and **Eric Fischl**. Sponsor of the evening was **Chopard**, creators of a line of jewelry with floating diamond paws that benefit the ASPCA. The evening raised a record-breaking \$1 million plus for the ASPCA. ■



Clockwise from top left: Ed Sayres & Marc Hruschka; Kristen Bell; Lake Bell & Colin Farrell; Robin Williams & Dylan Lauren.

NASCAR Cares



Champion NASCAR driver Greg Biffle took a break from a busy racing season to talk with the ASPCA about the importance of being kind to animals. His charitable foundation

(www.GregBiffle.com) raises money for animals in need.

Photo by Ron Deshaies,
Treasured Events, Charlotte, NC

Q. What sparked your interest in animals?

A. I always had animals around when I was growing up—cats, dogs, pigs, chickens. My pig, Penelope, was my real buddy; I used to ride her around like a pony.

Q. Do you have pets now?

A. My girlfriend Nicole Lunders and I have Foster, a 5-year-old boxer; his daughter Gracie; and Savannah, a boxer-shepherd rescue from Georgia. Our newest addition is Daisy, a Jack Russell mix we're fostering. They're like our children.

Q. How does your life as a NASCAR champ aid animals?

A. It gives me a chance to speak up and let people know about ways we can all make things better for animals.

Q. What are your proudest foundation accomplishments?

A. The Greg Biffle Foundation donated to shelters on the Gulf Coast following Hurricane Katrina. Our visit was broadcast on TV to the racing community and brought the real problems residents are still facing down there back into the spotlight.

Q. How can NASCAR fans help protect animals?

A. As a start, all of us need to spay or neuter our animals. Animal overpopulation is a serious problem and the reason so many animals are put down each year. We can also do our part by keeping shots updated, keeping current tags and collars on our pets, and by coming together and getting the word out about ways we can all help animals.

Q. Why are groups like the ASPCA so important?

A. Without national groups such as the ASPCA, there would be no way to educate large numbers of people and help animals all across the U.S.

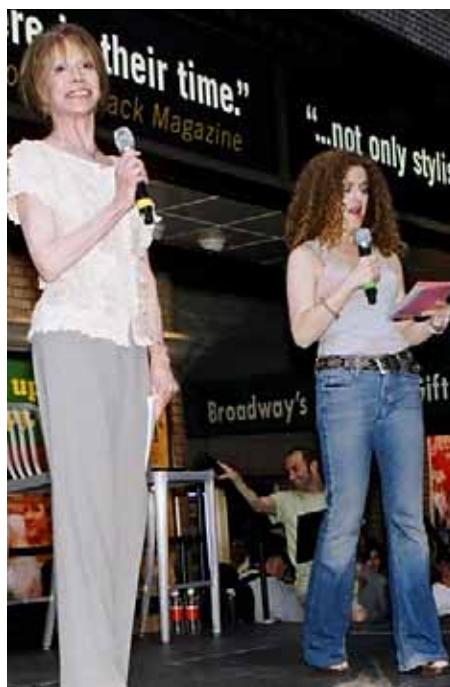
Q. What would you most like to tell your fans about animals?

A. When you are considering donations, don't forget about the animals. They offer so much love and are a wonderful part of life!

Broadway Barks

Entertainment legends **Bernadette Peters** and **Mary Tyler Moore** co-hosted a star-studded gathering of celebrities and their four-legged friends in New York's famed Shubert Alley on July 8 for the **8th Annual Broadway Barks** adopt-a-thon. Shelter pooches from the ASPCA and throughout the city strutted their stuff in front of thousands of fans; many were adopted into loving new homes. Supporters included Broadway stars **Lucie Arnaz** ("Dirty Rotten Scoundrels"), **Maxwell Caulfield**

("Tryst"), **Michael Cerveris** ("Sweeney Todd"), **Victoria Clark** ("The Light in the Piazza"), **Georgia Engel** and **Bob Martin** ("The Drowsy Chaperone"), **John Lloyd Young**, **Christian Hoff**, **Daniel Reichard**, and **J. Robert Spencer** (the "Jersey Boys"), **Eden Espinosa**, **David Garrison**, and **Carol Kane** (all in "Wicked"), **Shuler Hensley** ("Tarzan"), and more. The ASPCA helped sponsor the event, which also included an auction of celebrity-autographed memorabilia. ■



Co-hosts Moore and Peters.

Miracle Baby!



Baby and Patches are best friends.

Baby, the three-legged beagle mix featured in our last issue after receiving an assistive cart donated by Eddie's Wheels for Pets, was a special guest at this year's ASPCA charity **Central Park Dog Walk**, held June 24 in New York City. Karen Griffey of Olean, NY, adopted the lovable canine along with Patches, a special needs cat with deformed ears. Today the two are inseparable.

And miraculously enough, Baby

made the walk without her wheels! Within days of her adoption, she had shed the cart and was running up stairs, delighted to be in her loving new quarters. "When I picked her up at the ASPCA, one doctor said point blank, 'Don't expect miracles,'" says Griffey. "But that's just what happened."

Griffey and Baby endured a 7-hour trip to join the ASPCA Dog Walk not just once but twice after the original event was rained out. They joined over 100 people-pet pairs under drizzly skies to raise more than \$14,000 to provide shots and veterinary care for homeless pets.

"I sometimes call her Mrs. Wags, because her tail is wagging most of the time," says Griffey. "I would highly recommend adopting a pet with special needs to anyone considering it." ■

Pink Goes ASPCA Orange!

Pop star and songwriter Pink turned up in ASPCA Orange for a surprise concert and afterparty at New York nightclub Crobar in April. The singer and animal advocate wore the bright orange dress in support of Anti-Cruelty Month and the 140th Anniversary of the ASPCA, a bond she reinforced by exclaiming "Do it for the doggies!" midway through her set. ■



Courtesy of Kevin Mazur/WireImage

Reality TV Gets "Cat"ty!



The ASPCA's Bambi competed for Top Cat.

Meow Mix jumped on the reality TV bandwagon with *Meow Mix House*, a show that featured 10 cats living together in a glass-fronted home on New York's posh Madison Avenue while competing to become the new Feline VP of Research and Development for Meow Mix. Selected from shelters and rescue groups in ten different cities, the cats competed in

contests, such as who can purr the loudest, who can catch the most toy mice, and who can fall asleep the fastest.

Animal Planet viewers tuned in each week to see which puss would get the boot. Though one of the cats was voted off at the end of each episode, every kitty was a winner: Each cat featured on the show was adopted into a new family and received a year supply of Meow Mix.

Meow Mix also generously donated 40 cases of wet food to the ASPCA's main adoption center in Manhattan. "The wet food is critical—and actually lifesaving—for our shelter cats with upper respiratory infections," says Gail Buchwald, Vice President of ASPCA Cares. "If we can get them eating again with tasty treats, it's often just a matter of time until they regain their strength and health." ■

Celebrity Corner

Crystal Hunt

Soap Opera star, formerly of *The Guiding Light*



Q. What was the name of your first pet?

A. Rusty, a Yorkshire terrier.

Q. What's your fondest "pet memory?"

A. The day I saw Roxy, my Maltese, when she was only a couple weeks old. She was and still is the most beautiful little ball of fur. From that day on, she was wearing bows, dresses, you name it. Roxy appeared with me on every episode of *The Guiding Light*.

Q. Cats or dogs?

A. Definitely dogs.

Q. Why are groups like the ASPCA so important?

A. Because they give homes to animals that don't have one. I'm sure there are many people who would love to do the same, but nobody has a house big enough to fit them all. Thanks to the ASPCA, fewer and fewer animals are wandering homeless.

Q. Do you share your life with pets now?

A. I do, with Roxy and my shih-tzu Snuggles. Although if they hear you call them the "D" word (dog) they look at you like you're crazy; they think they're little humans. They aren't our dogs, they are our family members.

Shelter Pets Rule



Actor and animal advocate **Alec Baldwin** (second from right) joins shelter dog Lexy, proud new

pet parents, and ASPCA staff in May. Baldwin had donated his time to help the Decker family pick out the perfect shelter pet as part of a CharityFolks.com auction.

Photographer and

ASPCA volunteer **Geoffrey Tischman** was also on hand to record the event. ■

Iraq Homecoming

Angel and Aruba

Anne J., ASPCA member, Somerville, MA



I would like to share the story of my two precious girls, Angel and Aruba. Angel's mother, a feral cat, abandoned the 11-ounce kitten under a neighbor's porch last year. She had a nerve disorder that makes her

hobble and wobble. The challenges in raising her were enormous, including eight months of bottle-feeding, but her stamina prevailed. Today the white-and-black 12-pounder has run of the house.

A few months later, while on vacation in Aruba, a thin grey homeless tabby, missing her left eye, "greeted" us on the beach. We fed her, flew her home, and named her Aruba. Today she is one of the friskiest, most inquisitive cats I've ever known.

My son has been a sergeant in Iraq for the past year. He has not yet met Angel and Aruba, but they have been his squad's mascots. He has followed their progress through a series of pictures posted in his humvee. Within the next few months, he will meet his mascots. We cannot wait for that moment!

Our love to the soldiers and the animals everywhere. Thank you, ASPCA, for your wonderful work.

Have a rescue or anniversary tale for the ASPCA? Send us YOUR STORIES

E-mail us: ASPCAAction@aspca.org, or write: ASPCA Action, 424 East 92nd Street, New York, NY 10128.

Please include your name, address, and a photo (high-resolution digital or print) we can keep. Stories will be edited to fit.



Founded in 1866, the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) was the first humane organization established in the Western Hemisphere and today has one million supporters. The ASPCA's mission is to provide effective means for the prevention of cruelty to animals throughout the U.S. The ASPCA provides national leadership in humane education, government affairs and public policy, shelter support, and animal poison control. The NYC headquarters houses a full-service animal hospital, animal behavior center, and adoption facility. The Humane Law Enforcement department enforces New York's animal cruelty laws and is featured on the reality TV series *Animal Precinct* on Animal Planet. Visit www.aspca.org for more information.

Easy Rider

Chatt

Patty S., ASPCA Member, Morris, IL



Chatt came into our lives when my husband and I were on vacation in Tennessee a year ago. It was in August, and we were riding our motorcycle outside of Chattanooga when I saw a honey-colored puppy

sitting along the guardrail on the edge of the highway. Afraid the little pup would be hit by a car, I made my husband stop so I could scoop him up. As soon as I did he licked my face, as if to say, "Thank you."

My husband and I brought him back to our motel room and decided we'd bring him home with us. We named him Chatt, short for Chattanooga, to commemorate where we had found him. The entire rest of our trip we spent playing with our new puppy and trying to figure out what breed of dog he could possibly be.

After our vacation was over, Chatt rode home with us on our motorcycle, over 600 miles! He was a trooper, and spent most of the trip lying calmly in my jacket. Chatt is now a happy member of our family, and we couldn't think of a better souvenir to remember our vacation!

ASPCA Action Returns

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