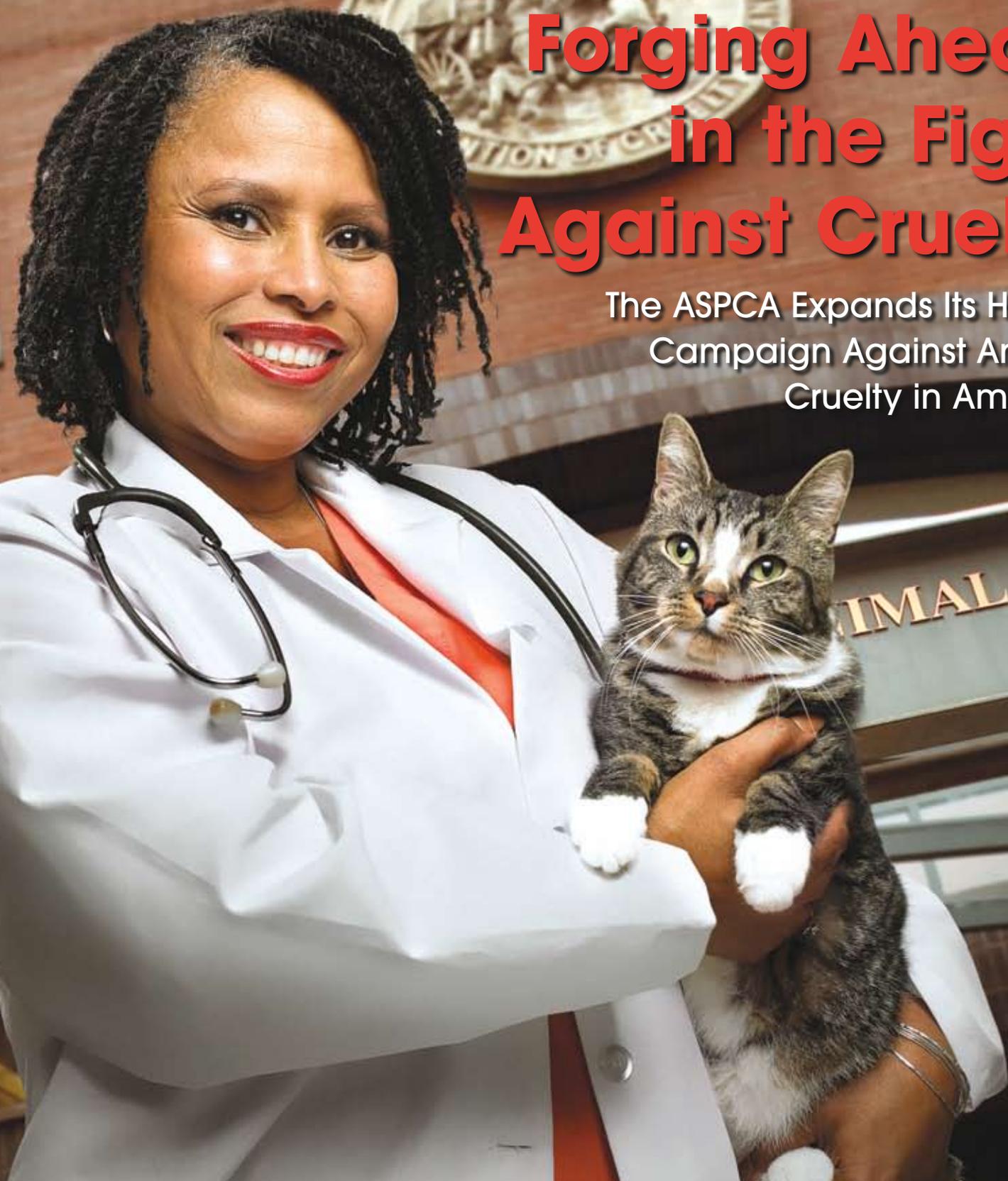


ASPCA[®] *Action*

SPRING 2008

Forging Ahead in the Fight Against Cruelty

The ASPCA Expands Its Heroic
Campaign Against Animal
Cruelty in America





THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS®

ASPCA ACTION VOLUME 4 SPRING 2008

PRESIDENT'S NOTE



A NOTE FROM EDWIN SAYRES:

It was on a warm spring evening in 1866 that ASPCA founder Henry Bergh first took to the streets of New York City, boldly stopping a cart driver from beating his weary horse. Just days before, on April 10, the ASPCA had received its official charter. So began the ASPCA's 142-year mission to provide effective means for the prevention of cruelty to animals throughout the United States—an effort that continues today.

For the past 3 years, the ASPCA has commemorated this watershed event in a big way with its orange-themed, animal-centered ASPCA Day celebration. Both people and icons around the country have shown their support for the ASPCA's mission by taking "Go Orange for Animals" to heart—and doing just that, displaying the color orange in their clothing, décor, and countless other ways.

I cannot thank you enough for helping us celebrate our 142nd anniversary, and for the immeasurable support you give to the ASPCA and America's companion animals every day of the year. Because of your commitment, the ASPCA is experiencing unprecedented growth and expansion as we continue the fight to end animal cruelty and significantly advance a number of ground-breaking initiatives. Together we are creating a brighter, more humane future for animals in every corner of the country.

Edwin Sayres
President & CEO

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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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Making Steady Progress Against Cruelty



“Fighting cruelty is both our heritage and our future.”

says Dr. Stephen Zawistowski,
Executive Vice President for National Programs and Science Advisor

The ASPCA continues to make steady progress in implementing its multi-faceted campaign to fight animal cruelty in America. The organization rededicated itself to this mission in 2007, but its anti-cruelty position is also its historical touchstone: fighting cruelty has been the ASPCA's defining cause since 1866, when Henry Bergh founded the organization. Why is the ASPCA reinvigorating its anti-cruelty commitment—and why now? “The time is right to launch an initiative of this kind,” says Dr. Lila T. Miller, the ASPCA's Vice President of Veterinary Outreach and Veterinary Advisor. “The public is becoming even more sensitized to the cruelty issue, and the human/animal bond is stronger than ever, as evidenced by the proliferation of television programs like *Animal Precinct*. If we are ever going to make an impact in the fight against cruelty, now is the time to renew our efforts.”

Rekindling the Commitment

Late last year, the ASPCA took the first step in rekindling this commitment by renewing its pledge to eradicate dog fighting in America. By leveraging its forensic competencies and working closely with federal law enforcement, it helped to bring NFL quarterback Michael Vick and three co-defendants to justice for their roles in running a competitive dog-fighting ring. It also introduced the ASPCA's Mobile Animal Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) Unit, an advanced mobile crime-fighting unit, which operates under the watchful eye of the nation's premier forensic veterinarian and animal crime scene investigator, Dr. Melinda Merck. This unique van is outfitted with state-of-the-art forensics tools and medical instruments that facilitate the prosecution of perpetrators of animal cruelty and help to strengthen the cases against them by incorporating veterinary forensics into crime scene investigations. Dr. Merck and her Special Unit have already participated in several major investigations, including a raid in March 2008 along with the Pennsylvania SPCA in which more than 600 cats were seized from a property in Tarentum, Pa., belonging to



The ASPCA receives about 50,000 calls per year pertaining to cruelty, of which 4,000 become actual investigations, leading to about 100 prosecutions.

a woman who was charged with animal cruelty. According to Dr. Merck, many of the cats suffered from a host of ailments “and medical conditions that could have been resolved with proper husbandry.” Dead cats were also discovered, some in freezers inside the home, others in mass graves, and still others in plain view.

Bringing the Anti-Cruelty Fight Home: Renovating BMAH

The ASPCA is now focused on fortifying its “bricks and mortar” infrastructure in order to extend its reach and maximize the impact of its anti-cruelty fight. First on the “to do” list is the renovation of Bergh Memorial Animal Hospital® (BMAH). The hospital, situated within the ASPCA's New York City headquarters, is a premier medical, surgical and emergency facility, and its veterinarians and technicians provide the most advanced care to the hospital's four client types: fee-for-service customers; clients who qualify for financial assistance; shelter animals that come in from Animal Care and Control of New York City or who are surrendered by their owners; and cruelty/abuse cases.

Over the last several years, demand has surged for the services BMAH offers. Bergh's high-quality veterinarians are among the most skilled and diverse of any comparable animal hospital in the country, making BMAH highly attractive to its 25,000 annual fee-for-service clients. At the same time, Bergh expertly

handles the specialized needs of the far less fortunate. The ASPCA's Humane Law Enforcement (HLE) staff, which has nearly doubled in recent years, rescues approximately 250–300 abused and neglected animals annually, and HLE Agents bring those animals to Bergh for treatment and rehabilitation. In addition, in line with its ASPCA® Mission: Orange™ New York goals, BMAH often treats some of the most behaviorally and medically challenged animals in New York City, including animals that require extensive stays in larger spaces that offer medical segregation or isolation if needed. The fact that all of Bergh's audiences have increased in numbers has put unprecedented pressure on the hospital's space and resources, a fact that is at the heart of the ASPCA's decision to renovate the facility.

Although the renovation work isn't slated until the end of 2008, the groundwork is already being laid, according to ASPCA President & CEO Ed Sayres. Sayres and a substantial number of ASPCA staffers are moving out of the 92nd Street headquarters building, making room for the renovation and expansion. Sayres says, "We're also making plans to relocate our space-intensive cruelty and abuse cases. This, combined with our staff move, will create an additional 10,000 square feet of space, and offer bold new opportunities for Bergh to treat several of our client groups more effectively and efficiently than ever before."

Creating a Landmark Facility for Multiple Anti-Cruelty Programs

The BMAH renovation is an important piece of a larger expansion plan at the ASPCA—one that involves the establishment of a unique and sophisticated "action central" for multiple programs that will help the organization make even more dramatic progress in the fight

against animal cruelty in America. The new facility—the ASPCA Anti-Cruelty Center—will operate at a number of levels. First, it will provide a full-service, state-of-the-art veterinary hospital and clinic to receive, evaluate, treat and rehabilitate hundreds of abused animals rescued by HLE agents in the City of New York throughout the course of the year—animals that previously had been treated and sheltered at BMAH. Next, it will house an advanced forensic laboratory to process evidence and conduct investigations that will help lead to the prosecution and punishment of people who engage in animal cruelty. These capabilities, once consolidated, will enable the ASPCA to provide unprecedented educational opportunities for veterinarians and law enforcement officials, including "case-based" hands-on training in how to recognize and respond to animal cruelty. The ASPCA will also be able to teach shelter medicine in "real time," as well as other courses both on-site and through sophisticated, videoconference-enabled "distance learning."

Dr. Stephen Zawistowski, the ASPCA's Executive Vice President for National Programs and Science Advisor, says, "The Center provides us with a landmark facility around which all of our anti-cruelty programs can revolve." He adds, "We are really doing our homework in terms of establishing 'best practices' for the Center, visiting the pathology labs at the Bronx Zoo, as well as the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine. Our next step will be to sit down with a wide range of veterinarians to find out what they need most in terms of resources."

Education a Key Component

Education is a fundamental component of the ASPCA Anti-Cruelty Center.

Dr. Miller notes that veterinarians, unlike pediatricians and physicians, are not mandated to report cases of animal abuse except in a handful of states. "Part of the issue is education," says Dr. Miller. "Veterinarians are not getting the training they need in veterinary colleges to recognize and address cruelty. The ASPCA Anti-Cruelty Center will help us to make the information available to them in the form of forensic models, access to old and closed investigations and case histories about animal behaviors and pathological conditions." Miller notes that the ASPCA Anti-Cruelty Center will also house archives and libraries where veterinarians can do research and access case histories about animal cruelty. "We're going to try to create the same body of knowledge that coroners and medical examiners have access to," she says.

"The ASPCA's Anti-Cruelty Center will allow us to set even higher standards in the recognition, prevention and fight against animal cruelty—the commitment on which our organization was founded," says Ed Sayres. "The Center will bring together the best and brightest animal welfare respondents from around the world in an environment where they can most benefit from the ASPCA's unique breadth and depth of animal welfare and anti-cruelty expertise. The Center will truly help us take the fight against animal cruelty to a new level."

Upon completion, the ASPCA Anti-Cruelty Center could cost as much as \$13 million. Dr. Zawistowski says, "The size and location of the ASPCA Anti-Cruelty Center have not yet been determined. However, we are on a fast track to make these decisions, and we expect to break ground as early as 2009." ■

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Pioneering the ASPCA's Anti-Cruelty Initiative



Education of veterinarians about how to identify and report cruelty cases is a key component of the planned ASPCA Anti-Cruelty Center—and one of the driving forces behind the education effort is 30-year ASPCA veteran, Lila T. Miller, B.S., D.V.M. As the Vice President of Veterinary Outreach and Veterinary Advisor—and as the co-editor of the 2004 seminal textbook on shelter medicine, *Shelter Medicine for Veterinarians and Staff*—Dr. Miller is eminently qualified to help spearhead the Center's education programs. With a seven-page curriculum vitae crammed with achievements, she also has the humane "gravitas." Through the years, Dr. Miller has played a key role in fostering leading-edge humane practices at the ASPCA, moving the organization from one where nearly 90 percent of the animals were probably euthanized in the 1970s, to one where today approximately 90 percent of the animals find placements.

Dr. Miller embraces her expanded role as simply the next step in her lifelong dedication to animals. She wanted to be a veterinarian from an early age, and everything she did prepared her for her education at Cornell University College of Agriculture, where she earned her B.S., and Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine, where she earned her D.V.M. Dr. Miller put her post-graduate plans for private practice on hold when she was asked to work for the ASPCA to create and implement humane treatment and maintenance protocols for hundreds of homeless animals. "We started taking dogs out of 'colony kennels,' segregating them, vaccinating them, categorizing them by adoptability, and moving them through the system faster to prevent the spread of illness," she says. "We began treating more animals for medical and behavior problems rather than just euthanizing them. We also stopped using the decompression chamber and began euthanizing by

injection only. These needy animals deserved much more than just being warehoused and euthanized—so we developed a triage system so that we could actually evaluate, treat and rehabilitate them. It really was the birth of shelter medicine as we know it today."

With her first textbook behind her, she is now working on a second that covers the management of infectious diseases—all before she begins a second edition of her popular shelter medicine text. In addition to her past achievements, Dr. Miller also worked with Dr. Jan Scarlett to establish the first course on shelter medicine at a U.S. veterinary college, specifically Cornell, where she is today an Adjunct Assistant Professor, just as she is at the University of Pennsylvania. "Shelter medicine is a real science," Dr. Miller says. "There are close to a dozen veterinary colleges now offering courses, as well as a few residencies available. We're seeing a real revolution in how we perceive shelter animals."

Dr. Miller has held a number of different roles at the ASPCA through the years, including the management of a clinic in a low-income, high-crime area in Brooklyn in the late 80s and early 90s—a 15-year effort she calls a "wildly successful experiment"—but perhaps no challenge is as far-reaching as the one she now faces at the ASPCA Anti-Cruelty Center. "The main thrust of our anti-cruelty initiative is to effect a fundamental change in how society views animal cruelty and neglect—a change that will help to educate people, including veterinarians, law enforcement officials and those in the judicial system that cruelty and neglect do exist in our society, that in many cases they are crimes that should be prosecuted, and that we can all have an impact in the fight to eradicate cruelty and violence in our communities for the good of both animals and humans. The ASPCA Anti-Cruelty Center will help us to achieve that goal," Dr. Miller concludes. ■

"We'd like veterinarians to become more aware about what cruelty looks like. When someone brings an animal to them and tells them a story that doesn't make sense, he or she needs to consider the possibility of non-accidental trauma. Violence does not exist in a vacuum: veterinarians should consider that violence against animals is linked to violence against humans, and they may be seeing the first warning signs. Veterinarians have a moral, ethical—and in some states, legal—obligation to advocate on behalf of animals. The ASPCA can help them to meet that obligation through the education and training that we'll make available through the ASPCA Anti-Cruelty Center, as well as at veterinary colleges and conferences throughout the U.S."



BMAH Performs Rare Medical Procedure

In January 2008, a Bergh Memorial Animal Hospital (BMAH) medical team headed by Dr. Louise Murray conducted an advanced laparoscopic biopsy to determine the cause of liver disease in a 10-year-old black Standard Poodle. The rare 15-minute procedure showed that the Poodle had a mild liver inflammation that was treatable with medication—and it prevented the dog from undergoing more complicated and risky surgery.

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Mission: Orange Update



Extending a Hand to Foster Humane Communities Nationally

The ASPCA invited communities nationally to apply to “Join ASPCA® Mission: Orange™.” Its aim: to select up to five communities in 2008 with whom it will work to identify programs or policy changes that will favorably affect animals at risk in those communities. Partner agencies in the selected communities will work with ASPCA coordinators and experts on data analysis, shelter operations and other disciplines to learn breakthrough strategies for increasing “live release” rates. The ASPCA announced the communities it chose at ASPCA Day on April 10, 2008. At the end of the year, the ASPCA will select the community or communities that will receive the full support of ASPCA Mission: Orange in 2009. To see the full list of nominees please visit www.aspc.org/missionorange.

ASPCA Mission: Orange was launched in early 2007 to create a country of humane communities, one community at a time. The ASPCA Mission: Orange campaign works to save animals most at risk by collaborating with leading community animal welfare agencies to establish a “save rate” of 75 percent or higher for unwanted pets entering shelters. During year one, the ASPCA selected five target communities as ASPCA Mission: Orange partners. The ASPCA made a three-year, \$200,000 annual financial commitment to each of these cities to foster capacity building and education, and to help drive increases in spay/neuter programs and adoptions. The program continues to expand. ■

Partner Community News

Austin: The ASPCA worked with the Town Lake Animal Center (TLAC) to create a program to educate city workers about how to recognize animal cruelty and to encourage them to report it when they see it. Several corporations have requested the training as well, and

TLAC does monthly training workshops at the shelter for citizens interested in learning more about what constitutes animal cruelty. ■



Gulfport/Biloxi: The Humane Society of South Mississippi implemented the ASPCA Meet Your Match™ adoption program in February 2008 to increase adoption rates and reduce return rates at shelters, and thereby lower the number of animals at risk. ■



Philadelphia: PAWS’ high-volume adoption center in the Old City has found “forever” homes for more than 200 of Philadelphia’s homeless animals. The adoption center has street-front windows, allowing potential adopters to look in and the animals to look out. PAWS, the Philadelphia Animal Welfare Society, is dedicated to saving Philadelphia’s homeless, abandoned and unwanted animals. Thanks to improved processes and partnerships with the ASPCA and the



University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine, the percentage of animals saved increased from 57 percent in January 2007 to 70 percent in January 2008. ■



Spokane: On February 14, 2008, Valentine’s Day, all three of Spokane’s partner shelters officially launched the ASPCA’s Meet Your Match™ “Canine-ality™” adoption program. Spokane is the first community to implement this program on a community-wide scale. Hippie-themed celebrations were held in all the shelters throughout the weekend, generating substantial media coverage before, during and after the event. All three shelters were featured on KHQ TV the day before the event, manning a live on-air “Help Center Line” and answering questions posed by the public. ■



Tampa: The Humane Society of Tampa Bay neutered 81 feral cats on February 11, 2008, certainly ruining the frisky felines’ Valentine’s Day plans! Meanwhile, the ASPCA and more than 20 rescue groups hosted the Pet Adoption Expo on April 12, 2008, at the Florida State Fairgrounds in Tampa, seeking to capitalize on last year’s success, when more than 200 animals were adopted. ■

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Simon Sez: Rescue Me!

Tough “Little Bruiser” of a Kitty Gets a New Home and a Fresh Start

The 2007 holidays were anything but merry for a couple of forlorn young cats in Staten Island, N.Y. A report came in to the ASPCA's Humane Law Enforcement (HLE) division the week after Thanksgiving that two kitties had been abandoned, tied up by their necks to a building grate and left in the bitter cold with no shelter. An ASPCA HLE Agent arrived on the scene and took the cats into custody from a woman living in the building who had reportedly had a “run in” with Child Protective Services (CPS). Though she denied tying up the young cats outdoors, she claimed that CPS told her that the cats had made her apartment an unclean environment for her seven children. The HLE Agent whisked the cats away to the ASPCA's Bergh Memorial Animal Hospital®, where they were promptly evaluated and treated, one for an eye injury.

Meanwhile, Slim's future pet parents, Neil and his partner Eric, were considering the merits of adopting a cat. They were, in fact, already seasoned pet parents. Neil had had fish, turtles, a frog, gerbils and a hamster, as well as two rescue dogs while he was growing up in his native England. Eric had adopted a cat in the late 1990s from the ASPCA, but the cherished kitty had recently passed away. They were both certain of one thing: They wanted to adopt from a shelter. “It made total sense,” says Neil. “There are so many animals that need a home. Why in the world would you go to a breeder?”

Neil and Eric paid a visit to the ASPCA with little intention of finding a cat that particular Saturday. In spite of the blustery

winds outside, they met a warm reception at the ASPCA's Pet Adoption Facility. “Everyone was just fantastic,” says Neil. “We didn't feel rushed. We made the rounds of the whole center, and we were told to take our time and get a feel for the cats. After many tries, we finally spotted Slim, a small, one-year-old neutered male. We picked him up, and he was soft and very playful. He made direct eye contact with us, and we knew he was the one. After filling out some paperwork, we made the adoption official. Up came a cardboard carry case, and in he went, waving his paws at us through the little holes. We jumped into a cab, and when we got him back to our apartment, we opened the case, and out he popped—full of confidence, tail straight in the air as he checked out his new home.”

Eric and Neil have had Slim—now named Simon—for about three months, and Neil says, “Simon is settling in really well. He is affectionate, playful, independent and inquisitive in equal measures, and he is a joy to have around. I expect he was the tough ‘little bruiser’ of his litter. We are so glad to be able to provide a happy home for Simon, especially since he didn't have the best start in life.”

Neil adds, “We wanted to say a huge thank you to everyone at the ASPCA's Pet Adoption Center. They all do an amazing job—they were exceptionally friendly, knowledgeable and helpful. The center is wonderful and it's great to know that it's there to help out animals who, for no fault of their own, have been mistreated or are unloved and abandoned.” Neil and Eric, thank YOU. We could not have said it better ourselves! ■

TOGETHER WE CAN STOP ANIMAL CRUELTY.



Each year the ASPCA® receives over one million dollars in support from donors who give through their workplace. The ASPCA® is truly grateful to all who gave to us at work in 2007. Because of your commitment to the animals we so proudly serve, the ASPCA® can continue its fight against cruelty to animals throughout the United States.

For information on giving through your workplace, please contact Nada Polanco at nadap@aspc.org or 212-876-7700, extension 4502.

ASPCA® WE ARE THEIR VOICE™

ASPCA 2008 ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

The ASPCA 2007 Annual Meeting of Members will be held at **The ASPCA, 424 E. 92nd St., New York, NY, at 9 A.M. on Wednesday, June 11, 2008**. All ASPCA members of record* are welcome to participate.

Please note: If you are unable to attend to vote in person, please mail your proxy (see below).

VOTING MEMBER PROXY | ASPCA ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS | WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11, 2008

**The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
The ASPCA Board of Directors Solicits this Proxy:**

The undersigned hereby constitutes and appoints Mr. Hoyle C. Jones, Mr. James W. Gerard, and Mr. Edwin J. Sayres, or each or any of them, with the full power of substitution, as proxies to appear and vote in the name of the undersigned, at the offices of the ASPCA, 424 E. 92nd St, New York, NY, on the day of June 11, 2008, at 9 A.M. and at any and all adjournments thereof; and the undersigned hereby revokes any other proxy heretofore given by him or her and instructs said proxies to vote upon any business that may properly come before the meeting or any adjournment thereof.

*You are allowed to attend and participate in the ASPCA 2008 Annual Meeting of Members only if you became a member of the ASPCA on or before the meeting record date of February 29, 2008, contributed \$25 or more, and are over 18 years of age.

If you do not plan to attend the meeting, please execute this proxy immediately. **Send to: The ASPCA, Attention: Annual Meeting Notice, 424 E. 92nd St., New York, NY, 10128-6804.** Only proxies received through the mail by the ASPCA on or before June 10, 2008 shall be counted. Proxies may also be submitted in person at the meeting.

MEMBER'S NAME

STREET ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

SIGNATURE

DATED

A Gift from the Heart, to the Heart

From an early age, Patricia Wagner recognized the prevalence of animal cruelty and felt a strong calling to alleviate such cruelty. Her early love for animals grew into a lifelong commitment to improving the lives of homeless animals through efforts both private (she shares her home with her own beloved shelter dog, Ian McGregor) to the very public. In her local town of Trenton, Mich., Ms. Wagner even embarked on a tireless five-year effort to persuade the City Council to construct a new animal shelter to replace the unheated, cramped two-car garage that was being used to house local homeless animals. Three thousand signatures and countless door-to-door solicitations and postcard campaigns later, a new home was built for Trenton's shelter animals.

Most recently, Patricia's passion to help animals-in-need culminated in a gift of extraordinary generosity to the ASPCA that will impact the lives of animals for years to come at the ASPCA's New York City shelter and Bergh Memorial Animal Hospital® (BMAH). Following the death of Patricia's beloved husband, Fred F. Wagner, she decided she wanted to honor him by making a gift to an organization that would have the greatest impact on the greatest number of animals. When she contacted the ASPCA, she learned that BMAH treats hundreds of animals with heart conditions each year, including the ASPCA's shelter animals and pets belonging to indigent and impoverished owners who turn to the ASPCA for charitable animal care. Many of these conditions, such as arrhythmias, murmurs, and other heart abnormalities, are not uncommon in dogs and cats, and they do not usually prevent the animals from living long, healthy lives. However, the traditional technology used to diagnose these conditions was often invasive and caused stress and discomfort to the animal being examined. Moreover, BMAH was not equipped to diagnose more complex cases and sometimes had to transfer animals to other facilities for treatment.

Patricia was deeply moved by the situation of these animal patients, and she decided to make a \$100,000 gift to the ASPCA in memory of Fred that would enable BMAH to acquire a GE Vivid 7 Dimension cardiovascular ultrasound machine. The Vivid 7 is a human-grade machine with 4D clinical real-time imaging capabilities. Generating detailed



and lifelike images that look like the actual heart, this cardiovascular ultrasound provides the ASPCA's veterinary cardiologist, Dr. Sharon Huston, with a clearer image of the animal's heart in real time. With so many animals arriving at BMAH without medical histories, the Vivid 7 has become an invaluable diagnostic tool.

Patricia is gratified that her gift will help the ASPCA to more accurately diagnose and establish courses of treatment for animals, and she is especially happy that the ASPCA's shelter animals with heart conditions can be assured of more knowledgeable and successful adoptions thanks to the diagnoses the Vivid 7 can provide. For Patricia, her gift is a profound expression of her humanity: "To be truly human, you have to care about life—whether in its human or animal form," she says. On behalf of everyone at the ASPCA, especially our furry friends, we thank Patricia for a lifetime of tireless efforts to eradicate cruelty and for her generous gift that will serve countless patients of Bergh Memorial Animal Hospital. Truly a gift from her heart to theirs!

If you are interested in changing the lives of animals through a major gift, please contact Jaime-Faye Bean in the Major Gifts Department at 212-876-7700, ext. 4506 or at jaimeb@aspca.org ■

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ATTENTION PET PARENTS!

The ASPCA® Collection of travel & safety products for your pets will be arriving in 1,400 Wal-Mart stores for a special limited promotion beginning June 25! Just in time for summer travel, select items from our line will be featured including: flashing safety leash, anti-spill travel bowls, collapsible bowls and carriers, reflective safety vest, safety seat belt, car safety harness, safety seat, car seat protector and pet tote – all affordably priced. Now, there's no reason to leave your pet home this summer!



Select products from the ASPCA collection of pet toys will also be available this summer starting mid June at 8,000 Family Dollar Stores throughout the United States! Stock up for the summer!

Additional items from the ASPCA collection can be purchased on aspcollection.org and at other select retailers. Check aspcollection.org for a retailer near you.

Don't forget - a percentage of the purchase price will benefit the ASPCA and products feature safety tips from our own Dr. Stephen Zawistowski (Dr Z). For additional summer time pet travel tips please visit aspcollection.org.

P.S. Make your purchases really count and be sure to do all your shopping using the ASPCA credit card. If you don't have one, please visit aspcollection.org or call 1-800-474-6581 to apply. Please note that Chase donates \$75 to the ASPCA for all new accounts that are used and kept open for at least six months!

Designed with your pets' comfort and safety in mind, the ASPCA® Collection - it's what they'd ask for if they could. Whether you choose LED collars or carriers, travel bowls or car harnesses, a portion of each purchase goes to support the ASPCA.

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ALCO Consumer Products Inc. and PetKing will pay the ASPCA a combined minimum guarantee of \$600,000. See product packages for details.

The ASPCA will receive 3 - 7% of the purchase price of each product. Shopping distance reference: archnold.com/utusp/auto.html

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News Briefs

And They Call It Puppy Love!

Le Doux, a swimwear company that specializes in bikinis, will donate 10 percent of the gross proceeds from sales of its Puppy Love bikinis sold between March and September 2008 to the ASPCA—all to fund the fight against animal abuse and neglect. The bathing suit sells on Le Doux's website, www.shopledoux.com, for \$145, as well as at two retail stores, Malibu Beach Club in Malibu, Calif., and Breeze Swim and Sport in

Brooklyn, N.Y. It's the perfect swimsuit for those dog days of summer wherever you hit the beaches! You'll look good and do good—all at the same time! ■



Bullish on Pit Bulls

Often exploited by individuals bent on abusing the breed, American Pit Bull Terriers

have gotten a bad rap in recent years. Pit Bulls, however, are loving and loyal dogs, and they often make excellent pets. To highlight the merits of Pit Bulls, the ASPCA has launched the Adopt-a-Bull contest, which salutes American Pit Bull Terriers. Sponsored by Animal Farm Foundation, the contest invites entries from the public and shelters for the perfect Pit Bull and adopter match made through the ASPCA Meet Your Match™ Canine-ality™ Adoption Program. Not only can the Pit-pet parents win—so can the shelter that placed the needy pup in a loving home! For more information on the Meet Your Match program, the contest, and on the outstanding Adopt-a-Bull prizes, visit www.aspc.org/adoptabull. ■

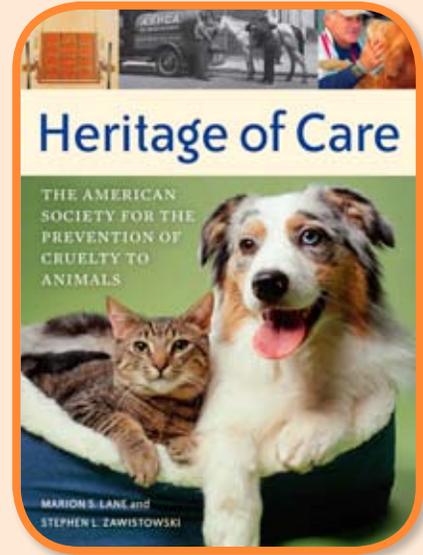


A New Chapter in Humane Education

At least 30 million children in the U.S. tap the Internet daily for information.

The online resources available to kids about

the strength of the human/animal bond expanded in February when the ASPCA launched Henry's Book Club. Named in honor of ASPCA founder Henry Bergh, Henry's Book Club is an interactive program that exposes young readers to quality humane literature and increases awareness of animal welfare. On the first Monday of every month, the book club features two books—one for ages five to eight, and another for ages nine and up—all selected by Henry, the club's dog mascot. For more information about Henry's Book Club, visit www.aspc.org/henrysbookclub. ■



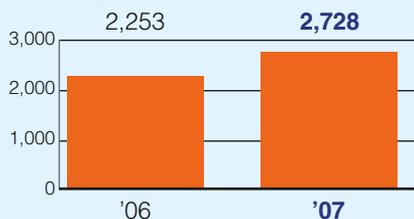
ASPCA History Chronicled in New Book

Since 1866, the ASPCA has been called upon to help prevent cruelty to animals. A new book, *Heritage of Care*, takes a look at the impact that Henry Bergh had on the anti-cruelty movement and the cultural shift in facilities from "dog pounds" to "animal shelters." Authored by Dr. Stephen Zawistowski, Executive Vice President for National Programs and Science Advisor to the ASPCA, along with Marion S. Lane, Special Projects Editor in the National Programs office of the ASPCA, the book features rare stories and photographs from the organization's archives, tracing the history of the organization that gave rise to the humane movement in the Americas. The book is available at www.aspc.org/store or at www.barnesandnoble.com. ■

ASPCA Cares

ASPCA Total Adoptions

21%
increase



ASPCA Total Spay & Neuter Surgeries

18%
increase



Adoption and sterilizations are up at the ASPCA in NYC. The ASPCA shares funds and expertise with groups nationwide to stem overpopulation and find pets homes across the U.S.

Restricting the Importation of Puppies

Jack Russell Terriers from England. German Shepherd puppies from Germany. Russian Spaniels from Russia. Boerboel puppies from South Africa. Any one of these puppies—and dozens of other purebred and designer mixed-breed dogs—can be purchased today online in what has become a virtual global marketplace for some of the world's most prestigious pooches. What buyers may not recognize, however, is that in addition to the danger of importing dogs that may have been exposed to rabies, some of these animals originate in countries where diseases specific to these regions may be harmful to people and animals, including livestock, in the U.S. Furthermore, the ASPCA believes that the conditions under which many of these dogs are bred and raised are substandard at best and not subject to the same kinds of regulatory requirements and enforcement actions established under our federal laws (e.g., Animal Welfare Act, 7 U.S.C. 2131 et seq.) here in America.

Representatives of the domestic commercial breeding community and members of the public have informed the ASPCA that the U.S. market is being flooded with imported dogs that are often in poor health and/or may be

harboring diseases whose symptoms are not readily apparent when these animals enter the country. What's more, many of these dogs arrive in the U.S. with little or no information regarding health status or breeding history to indicate possible future congenital and hereditary conditions. Clearly, current practices warrant additional regulations that will better protect both imported animals and our domestic human and animal populations.

The ASPCA has worked hard in recent months to support legislation introduced by U.S. Senator Richard Durbin of Illinois and U.S. Congressman John Dingell of Michigan to prohibit the importation of dogs into the U.S. unless the dog is at least six months of age and in good health, with all necessary vaccinations. The ASPCA urges the support of its members for this important legislation. By restricting the importation of dogs in this way, the ASPCA will be fostering good animal husbandry practices abroad and better protecting the health of our domestic animal population right here at home.

For more information on this and other ASPCA legislative efforts on behalf of animals, please log onto www.aspca.org/lobby. ■



State Highlights

Legislation to Fight Cruelty

Illinois: Ban Use of Gas Chamber for Companion Animals

HB 4844, sponsored by Representative John Frichey, would make it a crime to kill a companion animal in Illinois using a decompression or gas chamber. Euthanasia by gas chamber (carbon monoxide poisoning) is inhumane to animals. It is a prolonged process that can take up to 45 minutes, during which many animals panic, and first attempts are occasionally unsuccessful.

Pet overpopulation is a tragedy. It is estimated that three to four million homeless animals are euthanized in the U.S. every year. If no homes can be found for the pets housed in Illinois' animal shelters, they deserve, at the very least, a quick, painless and stress-free death by lethal injection performed by a skilled technician.

Illinois: Let Animal Rescuers Do Their Jobs Without Fear

Representative Sara Feigenholtz introduced Illinois House Bill 5076, which contains "Good Samaritan" provisions for individuals who rescue or provide care for injured animals in emergencies or disasters. The bill also clarifies the statute of limitations for violations of the Humane Care for Animals Act.

The need for legislation like HB 5076 was seen in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, and 18 states already have Good Samaritan provisions that protect individuals who rescue or help animals during emergencies or disasters. The Land of Lincoln should encourage these generous actions by protecting animal rescuers from lawsuits.



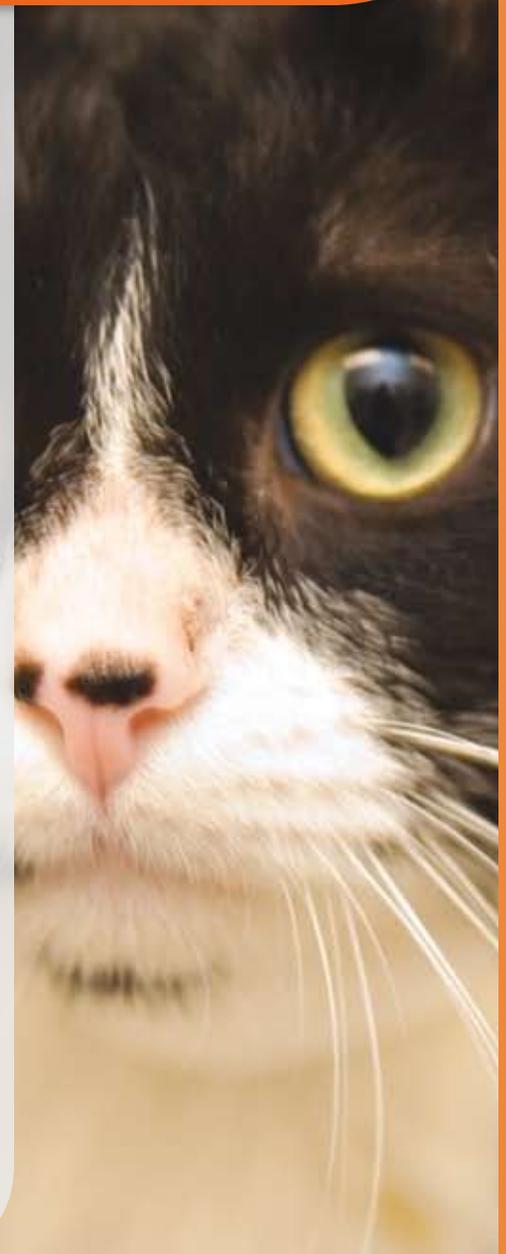
Missouri: SB 886 Regulates the Deed, Not the Breed

Sponsored by Senator Jolie Justus, SB 886 would allow any Missouri village, town or city to adopt regulations to control vicious or dangerous dogs, but the bill also prevents communities from discriminating against any specific breed of dog.

Dogs are individuals: any dog can bite. Citizens should be protected from vicious and dangerous dogs of all breeds or mixes. Discriminating against certain breeds of dogs fails to protect the public and penalizes responsible dog owners.

Utah: Felony Protections Signed Into Law for Cats and Dogs

Senator Allen Christensen introduced SB 297 in the Utah Senate and Governor Huntsman signed this important felony provision into law on St. Patrick's Day, March 17, 2008. This law makes the deliberate torture of a cat or a dog a third-degree felony on the first offense and does NOT weaken the existing animal cruelty codes. For the first time in Utah's history, there is now felony-level protection available for cats and dogs, who are the most frequent victims of intentional torture and animal-related domestic abuse. ■





\$1,000
◆ **Minnesota**
SPONSORING EXPERTS SPEAKING ABOUT
EVALUATING PIT BULLS FOR ADOPTION



\$3,000
◆ **Pennsylvania**
MEDICAL SUPPLIES, VACCINES, TRAPS
AND OTHER SUPPLIES



\$20,000
◆ **New York**
NEW PADDOCK FENCING FOR
EQUINE ADVOCATES

Your Dollars at Work

◆ St. Cloud, MN

A grant of \$1,000 was made to the Minnesota Conference, St. Cloud, Minn. This grant sponsored the attendance of speakers Donna Reynolds and Tim Racer, experts with BADRAP, which helps Pit Bull Terriers and their pet parents find the support they need. BADRAP's daylong session "Evaluating Pit Bulls for Adoption," addressed many issues facing shelters in Minnesota, especially since there is currently a push for Breed Specific Legislation against Pit Bulls. A live demonstration of a dog assessment allowed for better understanding of the process.

◆ Tarentum, PA

A \$3,000 grant was made to the Pennsylvania SPCA and Philadelphia Community Cats Council for medical supplies, vaccines, traps and other supplies for a large-scale animal cruelty seizure case in Tarentum, Pa. The ASPCA responded in the case with three mobile veterinary clinics, including its Mobile Animal Crime Scene Investigation Unit, as well as several members of the ASPCA's disaster response team staff.

◆ Chatham, NY

A \$20,000 grant was provided to Equine Advocates for new paddock fencing for its model equine sanctuary and education center near Chatham, N.Y. Each spacious paddock is home to two to six rescued equines, including horses, ponies, donkeys and mules. Each paddock can be opened up and connected to an adjacent paddock to allow socializing between neighbors, thus doubling the space for them to run and exercise. Each of the animals is grouped according to temperament, age and type of situation they were rescued from: Pregnant Mares' Urine (PMU) production stock, Amish buggy horses, Amish work horses and mules, attractions from a local petting farm, wild mustangs rounded up by the Bureau of Land Management and slated for possible commercial sale and slaughter, etc. Each animal's story is told on a placard near the paddock.

◆ Asheville, NC

A grant of \$300,000 was made to Humane Alliance to support the National Spay/Neuter Response Team (NSNRT), one of the nation's most successful spay and neuter programs. More than 30 organizations have implemented the Humane Alliance model of a targeted, high-volume, high-quality, reduced-cost spay and neuter program. Over the last two years, more than 220,000 companion animals have been sterilized at these clinics. A key Humane Alliance goal is to develop training and professional guidance programs that assist smaller agencies in improving their management skills to ensure that their programs are sustainable over the long term.

◆ Hillsborough County, Tampa, FL

A grant of \$11,000 to "No More Homeless Pets" in Tampa supports Spring and Fall Adoption Expos for ASPCA® Mission: Orange™ partners to offer their animals for adoption by the public. Past Adoption Expos have attracted 2,000–3,000 attendees, who learned more about the shelters and rescue groups in the area. These events have greatly enhanced relationships between these groups and the general public.



\$300,000

◆ **North Carolina**
SUPPORTING THE NATIONAL
SPAY/NEUTER RESPONSE TEAM



\$11,000

◆ **Florida**
NO MORE HOMELESS PETS

Protect Your Pet from Perilous Poisons

ASPCA® Animal Poison Control Center Updates Top Toxins for Pets, Tips to Keep Pets Safe

National Poison Prevention Week was March 16 to March 22, 2008, and in recognition the ASPCA issued updated guidelines on the most common dangers pets may encounter and offered helpful advice for poison-proofing your home.

A Cautionary Tale

Stephanie W. of Keene Valley, New York, found out the hard way just how dangerous flea and tick preparations can be when they are not properly applied. Stephanie purchased a widely available liquid flea and tick preparation at her local grocery store, and she applied it to the neck of her beloved cat, Bea. What she didn't realize was that the preparation was formulated specifically for dogs—not cats. "I'm a caterer, and it was a busy holiday weekend," says Stephanie. "I was in a rush and didn't carefully read the label." The liquid dripped down Bea's fur, and she ingested it, sparking seizures that caused her death 36 agonizing hours later—despite valiant efforts made by Stephanie and her veterinarian. "I am passionate about my animals," says Stephanie, "and to think that I made a mistake like this just breaks my heart. I wanted to go public so that other people don't make the same error I did." Dr. Steven Hansen, Board-Certified Veterinary Toxicologist and Senior Vice President of the ASPCA® Animal Poison Control Center (APCC) says, "A key factor in the safe use of products that eliminate fleas and ticks is reading and following label instructions exactly. Some animals can be particularly sensitive to certain types of insecticides, so it's vital that you never use any product not specifically formulated for your pet." Our hearts go out to you, Stephanie, and we thank you for sharing your story.

- 1. Just Say No to Drugs:** Pets and medications are a bad combination, and the ASPCA cautions pet parents never to give their four-legged family members any medication without first consulting a veterinarian. Prescription and over-the-counter drugs—whether for humans or pets—should be kept out of reach, in closed cabinets over countertops.
- 2. Bugged Out:** In our effort to battle pest invasions, our furry friends could be put at risk from flea and tick preparations, insect baits and spray killers. It's a good idea to consult with your veterinarian before beginning any flea and tick control program.
- 3. Don't Eat the Daisies:** Common household plants such as lilies, azaleas, kalanchoe, rhododendron, sago palm and schefflera can be harmful to pets. "Just one or two sago palm nuts can cause vomiting, diarrhea, depression, seizures and even liver failure," says Dr. Hansen. "Also, even in small amounts, lilies can produce kidney failure in cats."
- 4. Don't Take the Bait:** Mice, rats and other rodents are just a few of the critters that can invade our dwellings. But before you buy a chemical bait product, it's important to know the risks they can pose to your pet. "Some baits contain inactive ingredients meant to attract rodents, which can be attractive to pets as well," says Dr. Hansen. "That's why it's so important to place rodenticide in areas that are inaccessible to companion animals."
- 5. Mind the Mop:** While many cleaning products can be used safely in homes where pets reside, it's still important to take the necessary precautions to protect furry family members from accidental overexposures to common agents such as bleaches, detergents and disinfectants. Gastrointestinal distress and irritation to the skin, eyes or respiratory tract is possible if a curious animal encounters such products. "All household cleaners and chemicals should be stored in a secure location well out of the reach of pets," recommends Dr. Hansen. "As with any product, it's extremely important to follow all label directions before use."

For more information on potentially dangerous substances in the home, or to reach the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center, please call (888) 426-4435 or visit www.aspcapet.org/apcc. ■





Seizing the Day

The first time they saw them, the puppies were all lying on the floor. There were ten pups in the litter. As they were leaving the shelter, they decided to go back to see them a second time, and they were glad they did. Deidre, the mother—a gentle shepherd mix—was standing this time, and the puppies, five weeks old, were nursing and playing. Marsha Pierson, ASPCA Director of Planned Giving, was giving Jean van Buuren, a donor who had an ASPCA Charitable Gift Annuity, a tour at the ASPCA's state-of-the-art shelter in New York City when all of this occurred. They didn't have a camera with them, but they realized that they did have their cell phones, and they began to take pictures.

Mrs. van Buuren was delighted to see the work the ASPCA was doing and to hear about its national programs. She told Marsha that the ASPCA is in her will and has been for some time, but last year she decided that she did not want to wait to give the organization her gift. She realized that with a Charitable Gift Annuity, she could give right away and benefit by getting income for the rest of her life.

A Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA) is a popular planned-giving option. With an ASPCA CGA, you can:

- Receive fixed payments to supplement your income for life;
- Take a sizeable income tax deduction;
- Reduce your capital gains tax now (if you fund your CGA with appreciated securities); and
- Help to ensure that the ASPCA will be able to continue to speak for homeless and abused animals.

Annuity rates depend upon the annuitant's age and a CGA can be a versatile planned-giving option, meeting a variety of needs. Here are just two examples*:

- Carol is 75 years old, retired and a long-time donor to the ASPCA. She would like to make a meaningful gift to the ASPCA during her lifetime, but she is also concerned that she will outlive her income. With a \$25,000 gift annuity for the eventual benefit of the ASPCA, Carol will receive an annuity rate of 7.1 percent, which will give her an annual income of \$1,775. A portion of this amount is tax-free, and she can claim an immediate charitable deduction of about \$11,000.
- Dennis is 55 years old, still working and concerned about his future retirement income. He established a \$10,000 Deferred Charitable Gift Annuity that will start paying him a lifetime income when he is 65. The annuity rate is 9.9 percent with annual payments of \$990 and an immediate charitable deduction of about \$4,200. Dennis plans to establish a Deferred Gift Annuity each year for the next few years so that he can build up his retirement income. He will be able to claim a charitable deduction on his income tax each year a gift annuity is established.

An ASPCA Charitable Gift Annuity can be for one or two annuitants. The minimum age at which an annuitant can receive payments is 60, and the minimum amount is \$10,000. For a personal, confidential CGA proposal, please contact our Director of Planned Giving, Marsha Pierson, CFP® at (212) 876-7700, ext. 4505 or marshap@aspca.org. ■

**The examples provided here are based on calculations as of February 2008, and they are for illustrative purposes only.*

YOUR BEST FRIEND DESERVES THE BEST PROTECTION

You never know when that special member of your family might get hurt or sick. And vet bills can really add up fast. Even routine visits can be expensive. Why not get help paying those bills with ASPCA Pet Health Insurance?

- * **Save 10% by covering multiple pets***
- * **Easy online account access**
- * **Ability to use any vet in the US or Canada**
- * **Opportunity for higher reimbursements**
- * **30-day money back guarantee****

Plus, you'll be helping the ASPCA continue their lifesaving work when you protect your pet with us.



CALL 1-866-861-9092 OR VISIT WWW.ASPCAPETINSURANCE.COM FOR A FREE QUOTE!

ASPCA[®]
**PET HEALTH
INSURANCE**

The ASPCA has been protecting animals for over 140 years. Who else would you trust to protect your pet? Call one of our pet health insurance specialists at 1-866-861-9092 to choose a plan that's right for you and your pet!

*Excludes Safety Plan.

**Provided no claims have been filled (not applicable in all states).

Plans may not be available in all states. See coverage terms and conditions for a full description of the scope and limitations of coverage. Plans are underwritten by the United States Fire Insurance Company.

Ask Our Experts



Pamela Reid, Ph.D., CAAB
Vice President, ASPCA Animal Behavior Center

Q: My one-year-old dog is growing increasingly wary around strangers. How do I know if he might bite?

A: Knowing when your dog is going to bite is an important skill. Most will exhibit some combination of the following: staring, pulling, barking, growling, snapping and lunging forward. The extent to which your dog engages in these behaviors depends on his individual personality, prior experiences, and the threatening stimulus. Let's assume that your dog exhibits this wariness toward strangers he encounters during walks. We suggest that you walk him on a head halter so you have more control if he does react aggressively. It's also a good idea to carry his favorite treats with you; when you see a stranger approaching, you can use the treats to get his

attention and distract him until the stranger passes. In time your dog will associate the presence of oncoming strangers with good things—food! The main thing to keep in mind is never to put your dog in a situation in which he is uncomfortable and has the opportunity to bite. ■

Q: Why are cats always grooming themselves?

A: When it comes to personal hygiene, cats are the epitome of cleanliness. They are naturally equipped with everything they need to groom themselves: a barbed tongue with which to lick, forepaws they moisten with saliva and use as surrogate washcloths, and teeth to dig out tougher debris. Adult cats may spend as much as half of their waking hours grooming themselves, their relatives and friends.

Mothers begin licking their kittens right after birth—to clean them, stimulate the release of urine and feces, rouse them to suckle, and provide comfort. Kittens usually begin grooming themselves when they are about four weeks old. At five weeks of age, kittens also begin grooming their littermates, as well as their mothers. Mutual grooming amongst littermates, called “allogrooming,” often continues into adulthood. Allogrooming is a social activity that serves to strengthen the bond between cats. ■



Emily Weiss, Ph.D., CAAB
Senior Director, ASPCA Shelter Behavior Programs

Q: What causes a horse to colic?

A: Horses' digestive systems are delicate, so there are many causes of colic or abdominal pain usually associated with intestinal disease. Colic can be brought on if a horse eats moldy or spoiled feed, eats too much grain without a balance of roughage, if her feed is changed too quickly, if she is infested with parasites, or if there is an infection. If your horse shows any signs of colic, your equine veterinarian should be contacted immediately. ■



Louise Murray, D.V.M., DACVIM
Director of Medicine, ASPCA Bergh Memorial Animal Hospital

HAVE A QUESTION? ASK OUR EXPERTS E-mail: ASPCAAction@aspc.org, or write: *ASPCA Action*, 424 East 92nd Street, New York, NY 10128

People and Events



Your Vote Counts!

As Americans get to the polls during the Presidential primaries, the ASPCA is asking the public to cast another ballot—to nominate extraordinary pets and people for its annual Humane Awards program. If you know a fabulous feline or precious pooch with a knack for saving human lives, or a heroic human who has improved the lives of animals, the ASPCA wants to hear from you. Nominations began on April 1, 2008, at www.aspc.org/nominate. The deadline for entries is Tuesday, July 15, 2008 at 12 p.m. (EST). A committee selected by the ASPCA will choose the winners, who will be invited to attend the Humane Awards Luncheon on Thursday, October 30, 2008 at the Rainbow Room in New York City, where the awards will be presented. So remember to cast your ballots—every vote counts! ■



“Jazz” Captures “Best in Show” at Annual Talent Contest

The ASPCA celebrated February as “I Love NYC Pets Month” by giving shelter dogs a chance to take center stage at the third annual “Best in Show” competition on February 15, 2008. Held at the ASPCA’s Pet Adoption Center in Manhattan, the competition featured 10 adoptable dogs who displayed their talents to a panel of

celebrity judges, including Emmy award-winning *Third Rock from the Sun* actress Kristen Johnston; legendary actress and singer Maureen McGovern; HOT 97 DJ Angie Martinez; Lonke Engel, the face of Ralph Lauren’s HOT perfume; and the ASPCA’s Supervisory Special Investigator, Agent Annemarie Lucas. The talented pooches scored on overall presentation, attentiveness to their handlers and creativity of their tricks. But it was Jazz, a three-year-old mastiff mix, who took top honors when, wearing her special fire-fighting T-shirt, she demonstrated the three rules of fire safety: Stop, Drop and Roll. All the dogs were rewarded with treats, resounding applause and television coverage, and the following weekend, Jazz really did get first prize—she was adopted! ■



A Friend in Need Is a Friend Indeed

The Louisiana SPCA bid a reluctant farewell in November 2007 to Kate Pullen, whom it regards as the “best of the best” among shelter professionals. The ASPCA had “loaned” Pullen to the LA/SPCA to assist in restoring day-to-day operations after Hurricane Katrina. The LA/SPCA says it was like getting a four-star general dispatched to the camp to help rebuild an army surrounded by rubble. Pullen, the ASPCA’s Senior Director of National Outreach, has a deep knowledge of animal shelter operations, and she skillfully applied her experience in helping the LA/SPCA to recover, including consulting on the construction of a brand-new LA/SPCA

campus. Pullen also benefited in two ways from her assignment: She emerged with a profound love for New Orleans and for her giant, gangly adopted dog, Crispy—so named because he once had such an extreme case of mange that he looked like a “crispy critter.” Bravo Kate, on a job well done! ■



Best Pet Vet of the Year

Dr. Steven R. Hansen, a Veterinary Toxicologist and Senior Vice President of the ASPCA’s Animal Poison Control Center (APCC), received the 2007 Veterinarian of the Year designation at the Purina® Pro Plan® Show Dogs of the Year Awards in February 2008. Dr. Hansen was lauded for the ASPCA’s service to pet parents, veterinarians and the public during the 2007 pet food recall crisis. “It’s our hardworking team that really deserves these accolades,” says Dr. Hansen. That team included Dr. Louise Murray and the veterinarians from Bergh Memorial Animal Hospital (BMAH), and Dr. Melinda Merck, the nation’s premier forensic veterinarian and “animal CSI.” The team interpreted information from the ASPCA’s proprietary database, AnTox™; clinical information from BMAH; and testing information from veterinary diagnostic, corporate and FDA laboratories on an ongoing basis to keep the public abreast of breaking information. The ASPCA created a steady information flow and released timely recommendations that guided the actions of pet parents nationwide, thereby saving countless pets’ lives in the process. ■

Celebrity Corner

Crusader Against Animal Cruelty

Jason Taylor
Miami Dolphins
Defensive End



Photo by: Carrie Bradburn

Ed Sayres, Danny Robertshaw, Hoyle C. Jones,
and Ron Danta

In Support of Horses

The Fifth Annual ASPCA Equine Fund Luncheon took place on Sunday, February 3, 2008, during the Grand Prix of the 2008 Winter Equestrian Festival at the Palm Beach Polo Club in Wellington, Florida. Ron Danta and Danny Robertshaw were this year's honorees, recognized for their work in animal welfare. The weather was beautiful, and the event raised more than \$200,000 for the benefit of the ASPCA! ■



LEASHES AND LOVERS

50 Lovers with Leashes

Take a Stroll

More than 50 dog lovers skipped the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show and braved some wintry weather to attend the Leashes and Lovers bash at the Crash Mansion on the Bowery in New York City on February 12, 2008. Featured that evening: Pre-Valentine's cheer, spicy Brazilian music, gourmet dog biscuits, ASPCA adoptable dogs on parade and a contest called *Best in Show—For the Love of Your Dog*, celebrating those special dogs that deliver unconditional love all year long. All contest proceeds benefited the ASPCA—and a barkin' good time was had by all! ■



Q What was the name of your first pet?

A Deli—She was a Shepherd mix.

Q What's your fondest pet memory?

A When Deli had puppies.

Q Why are groups like the ASPCA important?

A It brings to light the cruel circumstances that are endured by animals in our society. Nobody and no animal should be treated cruelly. The ASPCA teaches respect for all living things.

Q Do you share your life with pets?

A Yes, Bear, my 11-year-old Akita.

Q What is the most rewarding part of owning a pet?

A Having a pet means always having a friend. Whether you won or lost a game, they are always happy to see you.

Your Stories



Nursing an Indomitable Spirit

Ann P., Huntington, N.Y.

I wanted to tell you the story of Foofie, a purebred Shih Tzu I purchased from a pet store a year ago. I had had an urge to get a companion for Bear, my adopted dog. I walked into a pet store, and I saw many adorable puppies—but I really wanted a Shih Tzu. As soon as I started playing with Foofie, I fell in love. The next day I took her home, where I noticed she was coughing a bit. I took her to my veterinarian, and I was told she was suffering from a common ailment: kennel cough. It didn't improve, however, and when I took her back a few days later, I discovered that the kennel cough had evolved into pneumonia. I took Foofie to New York City for treatment at a well-known veterinarian, who told me that Foofie was so sick that she couldn't believe she was still standing. My mother tended to Foofie for two months, nursing her back to health with nebulizer treatments twice a day, and antibiotics. Through it all, Foofie never lost her spirit—she played, “smiled,” and had a great time. Today, she is the most adorable sweet baby, and I love her so much. Bear has also fallen in love with Foofie,

and they are inseparable. My point is that even though I didn't adopt Foofie from a shelter, I still saved her life. She could have died at the pet store, or been bought by someone who simply would have given up on a sick puppy. Though it cost me thousands of dollars to get her health back, it was worth every cent! ■

Rescuing the Innocent

Maria L., Los Angeles, Calif.

I was pulling up to my sister's house one afternoon, and I saw a rabbit hopping around the front yard. I thought, “how odd,” so I followed the rabbit. When it stopped, I saw four grey and white kittens, about one-and-a-half weeks old, sitting in a row. As the rabbit hopped away, one of the kittens began to meow. They all had gloppy eyes that were sealed shut, and they looked hungry and scared. I asked my sister if she'd noticed the kittens and she said no, but that she had seen

an adult cat—probably the mother—lying dead nearby. I called every no-kill shelter in our area and none had room for these kittens. So my husband and I took them home, gave them flea baths, and asked the veterinarian to make a house call. The vet examined them and gave us some medications to treat their leaky eyes and runny noses. Meanwhile, I bought kitten formula, and for several weeks I made a batch every three hours, feeding them with kitten-sized bottles until they were old enough to move onto solid food. It was difficult in the beginning because new ailments always cropped up, such as ear mites and worms. After spending a tidy sum on veterinary bills and formula, however, the kittens finally grew happy and healthy. We ended up keeping a male we named Buttons and a female named Avery. The other two were given to close friends, so I am still able to see them. We are now one big happy family. My husband was never a cat person, but after having these babies, he's in love! ■



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.

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