

**ASPCA®** *Action*

Summer 2006

# Humane Communities

The ASPCA steps up efforts to find all adoptable pets a home.





Photo by Kristy Leibowitz

## 140 Years Ago

Try to imagine if you can the streets of New York City 140 years ago. It was exactly 140 years ago April 10 when socialite Henry Bergh first took to the streets in the name of animal welfare. And so

began the ASPCA. Gradually, the idea that animals should be protected from cruelty touched the hearts and consciences of many, many more people, and the ASPCA's unrelenting mission to prevent cruelty to animals is an effort that continues to this day.

Our 140th year is gearing up to be one of unprecedented growth and expansion as we continue to fight for the rights and welfare of companion animals. We will significantly advance a number of groundbreaking initiatives, most notably our mission to further Humane Communities across the country.

I can not thank you enough for helping us celebrate our 140th anniversary, and for the immeasurable support you give to the ASPCA and America's companion animals. Every step taken to improve the lives of this nation's animals is another step closer to creating a future where no animal is left to suffer and animal cruelty is a thing of the past. Here's to another 140 years of helping animals!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Edwin Sayres".

Edwin Sayres  
ASPCA President & CEO

### ASPCA Action

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# Humane Communities

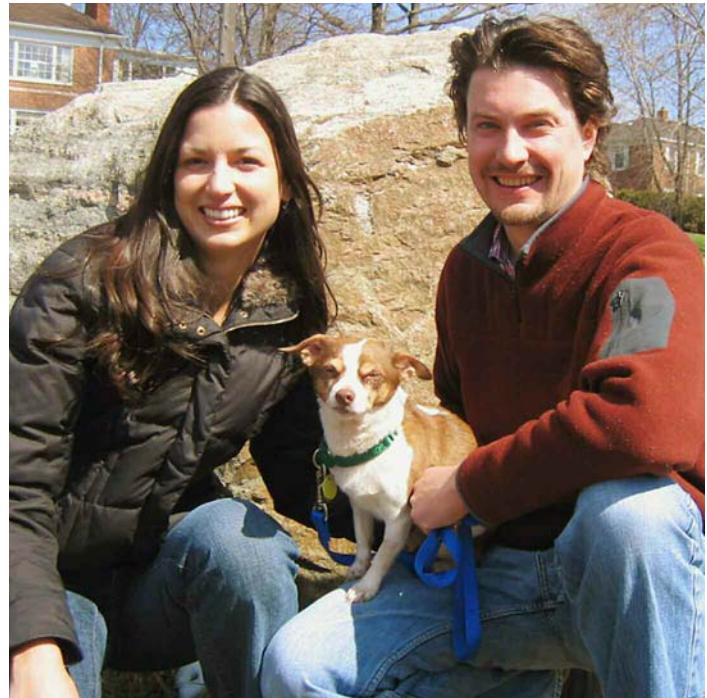
The ASPCA steps up efforts to find all adoptable pets a home.

Finding good homes for the countless animals abandoned across the country each year is a Herculean task. It's especially difficult when it comes to special-needs pets like Jack, an eight-year-old Chihuahua-Jack Russell mix found wandering the streets of New York with a cancerous tumor and painful tooth decay, or Fluffy Bee, a terribly shy tabby terrified of people.

Not so long ago, animals like Jack and Fluffy Bee might have been branded as un-adoptable and quickly euthanized. But thanks to Humane Communities, an ambitious initiative by the ASPCA to end euthanasia of all adoption-worthy pets, more and more animals are finding loving new homes. By teaming with community groups nationwide to expand the spirit of humane care and protection, the aim is to make all of the United States a Humane Community.

"If it weren't for the people at the ASPCA, Jack would have been put down," says pet parent Michael Brown, who with his fiancée adopted the affectionate and zesty pooch after ASPCA veterinarians, trainers, and adoption counselors set the dog on the road to recovery. "He's been an amazing addition to my life." The two recently spent time filming an *Animal Precinct* TV episode with the ASPCA Humane Law Enforcement agents who rescued the dog. "Jack's gone from wandering the streets with a tumor in his belly and sleeping on newspapers to being this TV star," says Brown.

Fluffy Bee's adoption was an equally remarkable success story. One of the first painfully shy felines that ASPCA veterinarians placed on anti-anxiety medication to calm her nerves, the timid cat came out of her shell, allowing potential adopters to see her lovely personality. "This was a kitty who spent her first few weeks hiding her face in the corner of her cage," says Dr. Katherine Miller, behavior counselor at the ASPCA Adoption Center. "Within just a day of being in her new home, she walked right up to her new mom to say hello. To hear that makes our spirits soar."



**Humane Communities means a second chance for older pets like Jack, shown with his new pet parents.**

## Loving Homes for All

In New York City, home to more than eight million people and five million pets, Humane Communities efforts gained momentum in the past year with the launch of Maddie's Fund (named for a beloved miniature schnauzer), a nonprofit family foundation dedicated to ending euthanasia of adoptable animals at city shelters by 2010. The ASPCA provided the initial lead grant in support of the initiative, promising \$1 million a year for five years to increase adoptions and raise public awareness about pet overpopulation. Dozens of local rescue groups and shelters have joined the effort.

"In addition to funds, the ASPCA continues to dedicate significant resources to support the Humane Communities movement with such services as free spaying and neutering, medical and hospital services, adoptions, and more," says ASPCA President & CEO Ed Sayres. "We are proud to be part of one common goal—to further the development of lifesaving projects for companion animals."



Finding a loving home for Fluffy Bee "makes our spirits soar."

The move to make New York a compassionate haven follows the model of San Francisco, which spearheaded a "no-kill" movement beginning in the 1990s and where Sayres served as Executive Director of the local SPCA before joining the ASPCA in 2003. The efforts are paying off. Euthanasia rates in San Francisco and New York have dropped dramatically in recent years and are among the lowest in the country, while two-thirds of the dogs and cats in both cities are now spayed or neutered.

Nationally, the number of pets euthanized annually has dropped from about 16 million in the 1980s to just 5 to 6 million today. Still, says Sayres, "Overpopulation

is the leading cause of death for dogs and cats."

### A Humane Future

Building humane communities furthers the ASPCA mission, since 1866, to provide effective means for the prevention of cruelty to animals throughout the United States. Much of the work of the ASPCA going forward will involve replicating successful programs in communities nationwide. Major ongoing initiatives include collaborative efforts to end euthanasia in other cities, such as Philadelphia; stepped up anti-cruelty training (see page 5); and an unprecedented region-wide spay and neuter campaign in the



## ASPCA Cares

### Dog Adoptions

2004: 420

2005: 498

**Up 19%**

### Cat Adoptions

2004: 1,541

2005: 1,638

**Up 6%**

### Spay & Neuter Surgeries

2004: 9,112

2005: 11,232

**Up 23%**

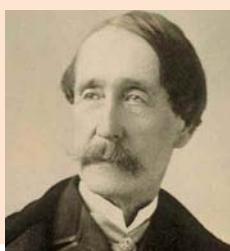
Adoptions and sterilizations are up at the ASPCA in NYC. The ASPCA shares funds and expertise with groups nationwide to stem overpopulation and find pets homes across the U.S.

hurricane-ravaged Gulf Coast.

"Whether for sheltering and adoptions or humane education, veterinary and behavioral care or animal advocacy, member support makes all this possible," says Jo Sullivan, ASPCA Senior VP of Development. "Together we are creating a brighter, more humane future for homeless animals everywhere." ■

## TIMELINE ASPCA: 140 Years of Progress

1866



Henry Bergh founds the ASPCA, the first humane organization in the country. At the time, carthorses were routinely beaten or left in the gutters to die when they became too lame to work. Dogcatchers, paid by the animal, rounded up pet dogs and drowned them in the East River.

1866-1894

The ASPCA quickly gets to work, prompting the nation's first effective anti-cruelty law, operating the first horse ambulance, building drinking fountains for animals and, in 1894, assuming the job of caring for stray animals from the local government.

# ASPCA: Fighting Cruelty Round the Clock



**Sheriff Bill Gootee (left) and deputies received ASPCA anti-cruelty training.**

Deputies in Columbia County, FL, are stepping up efforts to fight cruelty in their community. A key first step was attending a free, daylong anti-cruelty workshop offered by the ASPCA—one of hundreds of talks the ASPCA gives around the U.S. each year.

“The ASPCA is the industry expert on handling animal cruelty cases, and this was a great opportunity for our agency to learn more about the intricacies of these cases,” says Sheriff Bill Gootee, whose office covers 800 square miles in a fast-growing rural part of the state. “These are not easy cases, but very necessary.”

Since the training, the sheriff’s office has responded to hundreds of calls relating to animal abuse, ranging from household pets to

farm animals, and has educated residents on good animal care. “It’s been an eye opener,” Gootee says. “We’re getting very positive feedback from the community for investigating these kinds of crimes.”

The ASPCA has trained more than 3,000 law enforcement agents to date in animal cruelty laws and case handling. Many more officers, judges, prosecutors, and others will attend workshops in the coming months, as the ASPCA teams with such groups as the Mississippi Animal Rescue League, Indianapolis Animal Care, the Pennsylvania SPCA, and the Nashville Humane Association to offer anti-cruelty training nationwide.

“We continue to bring our expertise in law enforcement,

shelter outreach, and legislative services to towns across America,” says ASPCA Supervisory Special Investigator Annemarie Lucas, a workshop leader. “With education and training, more and more communities can effectively join the fight to end cruelty to animals.”

## Expanding through e-Learning

Anti-cruelty efforts are moving to the Internet as well for round-the-clock access. The ASPCA, along with the Illinois Regional Institute of Community Policing, recently launched an online continuing education course to assist law enforcement in effectively assessing and handling animal cruelty cases. The course, designed for Illinois law enforcement professionals, includes such vital topics as officer safety, animal abuse and community policing, evidence collection and preservation, and Illinois state laws.

“This is the first course of its kind to offer a comprehensive approach to enforcing animal cruelty laws,” says Rendi Williams, Director of ASPCA e-Learning. The online training is expected to reach thousands more professionals in its first year alone. “The ASPCA will soon add additional states and topics, such as equine cruelty prevention,” Williams says. ■

**1916**

### Humane Education

The ASPCA starts a formal humane education program for schoolchildren. Money is raised to help care for the 934,000 horses serving in World War I.

**1993**

### Population Control

The ASPCA teams with 10 other humane organizations to initiate the National Council on Pet Population Study and Policy, the first survey and census of shelter animals in the U.S.

**2005-present**

### Humane Communities

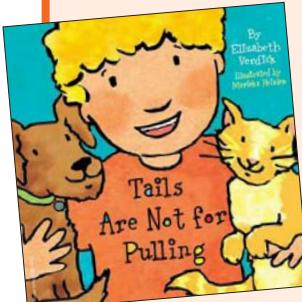
A \$5 million ASPCA grant helps launch Maddie’s Fund in New York in 2005, with a five-year goal to make homes available for every adoptable animal in the city. Today, millions more animals are helped nationwide through grants and educational outreach in all 50 states.

# Bergh Book Awards

An ASPCA-sponsored visit last fall by Corinne Demas, author of *Saying Goodbye to LuLu*, a 2004 ASPCA® Henry Bergh Children's Book Award winner, proved a memorable lesson in compassion for more than a hundred pupils at the Franklin Avenue Elementary School in Westfield, MA. "It was a day the young readers and writers in our school will never forget," says teacher Carly Bannish about the affecting tale of an ailing and elderly mutt.

The ASPCA® Henry Bergh Children's Book Award, presented annually in honor of ASPCA founder Henry Bergh, recognizes exemplary children's literature relating to animals and the environment. This year's winners, to be honored at a ceremony at the American Library Association's annual conference in New Orleans on June 27, include:

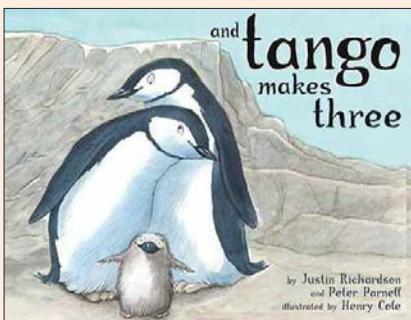
**A Dog's Best Friend**, by Gus Clarke. Lucky has everything a dog could need—plenty to eat, lots of friends, a warm bed, things to do. Everything, that is, except a human companion.



**Tails Are Not for Pulling**, by Elizabeth Verdick. "Fur is for petting, backs are for scratching, noses are for nuzzling ... and tails are not for pulling!" If pets could talk, what they would tell kids about being kind to animals.

**Martha**, by Gennady Spirin. Martha, a baby crow with a broken wing, becomes a saucy companion to one fictional family in Moscow.

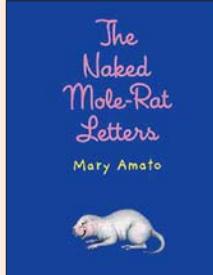
**The Least of These**, by Joan Harris. Hurlly, a fuzzy baby buzzard so ugly he's cute, is one of many inspiring true tales of wild baby bird rescues.



**And Tango Makes Three**, by Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell. Based on the true story of Roy and Silo, two male penguins in New York City's Central Park Zoo who hatch and care for their adorable adopted daughter, Tango.

**So What's It Like to Be a Cat?** By Karla Kuskin. "Do you have a kitty bed/ with your picture at the head?" a young boy asks, to which his feline companion replies, "I do not have a kitty bed/ to rest my kitty tail and head./ I'd rather sleep most anywhere/ that's warm and soft: a couch, a chair..." These charming poems capture the essence of being a cat.

**The Naked Mole Rat Letters**, by Mary Amato. A book for young adults: 12-year-old Frankie must navigate life changes and come to terms with her father's new companion, who is the keeper of naked mole rats at the National Zoo.



**Charm-school grad Tuffy.**

## ASPCA Charm School

Charm school graduates come in all shapes and sizes. But all share one trait in common: Impeccable manners that would make any family proud. At the ASPCA, a new Charm School training program means a whole new lease on life for dozens of dogs, many seized from abusive or neglectful owners. Knowing just a few simple commands, like "Sit," "Stay," and "Come," may be all it takes for even the most homely pooch to find a loving home with a new pet parent. It's one more way the ASPCA is working to find homes for all adoption-worthy animals.

## History Day Winner



Congratulations to Nessarose Schear of Cambridge, MA, National History Day finalist for "Henry Bergh: Taking a Stand for Animal Rights." The winning research project details the ASPCA founder's groundbreaking call in 1866 for recognition of the rights

of animals. "Teaching people not to abuse animals is so important," says the Kennedy-Longwood School eighth-grader, who shares her home with three rescued cats and their newest addition, an Australian shepherd pup.

## Eddie's Wheels

Hat's off to Eddie's Wheels for Pets ([www.eddieswheels.com](http://www.eddieswheels.com)), the Shelburne Falls, MA, outfitter of assistive carts for paralyzed pets. The company has donated several custom-fit devices to ASPCA dogs in need, including Baby, a disabled 8½-year-old beagle mix rescued by the ASPCA and up for adoption. Once equipped, Baby was eager to go on her afternoon stroll, where she took a classic canine interest in the park squirrels.



Baby with her new wheels.

## Ice Rescues

Firefighters and animal control officers from across the country braved the frigid waters of Ballston Lake, NY, the first weekend in March for an ice-rescue training seminar hosted by the ASPCA. The innovative program taught lifesaving techniques for safely rescuing a pet or other animal that has fallen



Trainees practice animal rescue, an all-season calling.

through thin ice into frigid waters. "An animal's protective instincts kick in when endangered," says Kelly Harrington, Director of New York State Disaster Response Services for the ASPCA. "A dog may actually swim away from you when you walk toward it, for example, so you should approach it from an angle that will make it swim toward shore." The training will no doubt save human lives as well. "Often the pet's parent, or a bystander, will attempt to rescue an animal in trouble and become a victim themselves," says Harrington.

## ASPCA Kids

NYC-area kids gathered for a weeklong ASPCA Kids Mini-Camp in February at the Staten Island Children's Museum. There they learned about the role of animals in our lives, good pet care, disaster

preparedness, shelter animals, training, and more. It's all part of an ongoing effort by the ASPCA to educate an up-and-coming generation of youngsters on the importance of animal welfare. "This program reaches kids in their communities and neighborhoods, not just in the traditional classroom setting," says Joanne Pentangelo, who runs humane education programs for the ASPCA. "They learn they can effect change and do things to help animals."

## In Memorium

In loving memory of Wendy Carhart, lifelong animal lover and ASPCA board member since 1987. The Board of Directors of the ASPCA honors Wendy's life and commitment to animals. She will be greatly missed.

# ASPCA 2006 ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

The ASPCA 2006 Annual Meeting of Members will be held at  
**The ASPCA, 424 E. 92nd St., New York, NY,  
at 9 A.M. on Wednesday, June 14, 2006**

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 14, 2006

### **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 14, 2006, 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 2006 Annual Meeting of Members only if you became a member of the ASPCA on or before the meeting record date of February 28, 2006, 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 13, 2006, shall be counted. Proxies may also be submitted in person at the meeting.

**MEMBER'S NAME**

**STREET ADDRESS**

**CITY**

**STATE**

**ZIP**

**SIGNATURE**

**DATED**

## Some things...



## ...are worth giving.

Our 140 years of history has shown us that animal cruelty is continual, so make sure your support of the ASPCA is too. By becoming a member of the Henry Bergh Legacy Society, your gift of stocks, annuities, life insurance, retirement plan or other bequest helps us keep animals safe from harm while it helps ease the tax burden on your estate. The ASPCA has always been there to ensure the health and safety of America's animals. You can make sure that we always are. **Contact Marsha Pierson, CFP, at 212-876-7700, x4505 or email [marshap@aspca.org](mailto:marshap@aspca.org) to find out how.**



Nothing has exposed the face of animal cruelty like the reality TV series *Animal Precinct* on Animal Planet. For one abused kitten, ASPCA rescue brought a whole new life.

## Just Rewards for Smokey

For the ASPCA's uniformed "animal cops," devoted to investigating crimes against animals and bringing abusers to justice, grim news can come on even the nicest of days. So when Special Agent Tina Salaks arrived for work at ASPCA Humane Law Enforcement headquarters on a sunny Saturday last spring, it was no surprise that she and partner Paul Romano soon had to hit the road. A call had just come in from a concerned citizen in the Bronx. A kitten had been badly beaten.

"The owner let us in, and I saw this adorable little gray kitten just sitting on the sofa," says Salaks. "He seemed dazed, and he didn't respond the way young kittens normally do." On closer examination, she was horrified to find that both of the quiet feline's fang teeth had been broken off at the gums. The American shorthair also suffered a smashed front paw and his whiskers had been singed, perhaps from a flame.

The kitten was rushed off to the ASPCA's Bergh Memorial Hospital, where veterinarians performed lifesaving intensive care to repair a fractured eye socket and jaw. Meanwhile, witnesses informed ASPCA agents that the owner had punched the cat in the face, thrown it down the stairs, and



**Smokey the Cat, rescued by the ASPCA, enjoys life with his new brother.**

hung it over a door as punishment. "My heart ached for this poor kitten," Salaks says.

The owner, a former Latin King gang member with a lengthy criminal record, was arrested for aggravated animal cruelty, a felony in New York. "As gentle as this poor kitten was, his owner was quite the opposite," says Salaks. He was sentenced to nine months in jail, with an additional five months for violating a parole for forgery.

### The Best to Come

"Justice was served, but the best was yet to come," says Salaks. Georgia Barker, one of the assistant district attorneys who

worked on the case, was so moved by the poor kitten's plight that she adopted him. She named him Smokey.

"I'm a big *Animal Precinct* fan. I watch it all the time," says Barker. "I'd never done an animal cruelty case before. But when this case came in, I jumped at it. Animal cruelty is something I take very seriously."

Today, more than a year after Smokey was rescued, he is "spoiled rotten," says Barker. "It took him a while to start trusting us, especially my husband. But now he's a little cuddle bug. I'm always catching him in our baby's bed. He's my other baby." ■





## \$240,000+

### HEART WORM TREATMENT

#### ■ From Colorado to the Gulf Coast

The Denver-based American Animal Hospital Association's Helping Pets Fund has reimbursed veterinarians more than \$240,000 to help more than 500 pets rescued from the Gulf Coast hurricanes become heartworm free. Donations came from the ASPCA, the Humane Society of the United States, the Humane Society of Greater Miami, and other animal welfare groups. Up to 80 percent of the thousands of dogs and cats rescued from the storms have tested positive for heartworm, an illness that can prove fatal if left untreated.



## 1,200

### NEWLY TRAINED RESCUERS

#### ■ California to New York

Up to 1,200 new Emergency Animal Rescue Service volunteers will be trained in 2006, thanks to a partnership

between the ASPCA and United Animal Nations. Disaster preparedness workshops in 15 communities, ranging from Orange County, CA, and Seattle, WA, in the West to New York, NY, and Ft. Lauderdale, FL, in the East, will prepare volunteers to respond to disasters and provide emergency sheltering. Community forums will also help citizens and shelters better prepare for disaster evacuations that include pets. For more info and a calendar of events, visit [www.aspca.org/disastertraining](http://www.aspca.org/disastertraining).



## \$3 MILLION+

### ANIMAL POPULATION CONTROL

#### ■ Louisiana and Mississippi

The ASPCA has pledged a minimum of \$3 million to stem cat and dog overpopulation in storm-ravaged Gulf Coast communities. Partners in the ASPCA-led effort include PETsMART Charities (with an additional \$1.3 million pledge), United Animal Nations, the International Fund for Animal Welfare, and the Humane Society of the United States. With the aid of local shelters and veterinary clinics, more than 25,000 companion animals and feral cats will be sterilized in the coming year alone. Along with millions of dollars already committed to rebuild shelters and re-home displaced pets, the program will provide lasting benefits throughout the struggling region.

# Your Dolla



# \$6,000

## EQUINE ADVOCATES

### ■ Upstate New York

Equine Advocates of Chatham, NY, continues its efforts to rescue, transport, and provide care and shelter to abandoned horses, aided in part by a \$6,000 grant from the ASPCA. "We're so grateful to the ASPCA for giving us the ability to help horses, particularly PMU (pregnant mares' urine) mares and foals that have been so abused," says president and founder Susan Wagner. In 2005, the ASPCA Equine Fund made over \$157,000 in grants to Premarin horse rescue organizations, wild horse rescue operations, and hurricane relief organizations spread over 17 states, building on a 140-year tradition of helping to protect all animals in need.



# \$5,000

## SUMMER CAMP COMPASSION

### ■ Virginia

A \$5,000 ASPCA grant is helping the Charlottesville-Albemarle SPCA in Charlottesville, VA, renovate the cat colony rooms at the shelter, which promotes adoptions for some 5,000 cats, dogs, and other animals each year. The funds will also provide Summer Animal Camp scholarships to low-income third- to sixth-graders so they can learn about kindness and caring for animals. Many of these young campers go on to become foster pet parents or junior volunteers for the shelter, working to improve the lives of animals in their community for years to come.



# 100+

## VETERINARIANS FIGHTING CRUELTY

### ■ Florida

More than 100 veterinarians, vet techs, and students learned about "The Role of the Veterinarian in Investigating Animal Cruelty" at the North American Veterinary Conference in Orlando, FL, in January. The workshop was presented by the ASPCA's Dr. Lila Miller, a pioneer in shelter veterinary care who was recently elected President of the Association of Shelter Veterinarians. Educational outreach allows the ASPCA to share expertise with veterinarians, police officers, shelter professionals, and others involved in animal protection across the U.S.



# rs At Work

# Save America's Horses

Join the ASPCA Advocacy Brigade and help stop slaughter-for-profit



Last year, with your help and support, Congress overwhelmingly passed legislation to prohibit the use of federal funds to inspect horse slaughterhouses. This measure would have effectively stopped the shocking slaughter of thousands of horses in the U.S. every year for human consumption. Although the measure was temporary, it would have stopped the killing until the American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act (HR 503 and S 1915), currently pending in Congress, could be enacted to permanently ban this practice.

Despite a clear Congressional mandate, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) issued regulations approving a petition by

the owners of the three horse slaughter plants currently active in the U.S. to fund their own inspections. This "fee-for-service" arrangement allows horse slaughter for human consumption to continue.

In February, the ASPCA, along with a coalition of animal welfare groups across the country, sued to stop the USDA from proceeding with its plan and to reinstate the 2006 ban on horse slaughter. Unfortunately, the judge hearing the case dismissed our motion.

The ASPCA has not given up the fight. We have joined with other organizations to file another motion for reconsideration and will notify you of developments.

Animal welfare has come a long way since the severe beating of a New York City carthorse prompted Henry Bergh to found the ASPCA in 1866. But there is still much work to do. The ASPCA Government Affairs and Public Policy Department works tirelessly to protect horses and all animals from abuse. Horses have been our trusted companions and assisted us throughout history. They deserve a more humane and dignified end to their lives.

Join our ASPCA Advocacy Brigade ([www.aspca.org/lobby](http://www.aspca.org/lobby)) to receive updates on this and other important legislation and help protect America's animals. Thank you for your support. ■

# State Highlights

## Connecticut:

### Animal-Friendly Kids

Good news! House Bill 5443, spearheaded by the ASPCA and Animal Welfare Advocacy to bring humane education into school curricula, is advancing in the CT legislature. Humane education is cost-effective. It enhances children's learning experience and fosters kindness in children, reducing disciplinary problems and other forms of aggression and violence. And, it teaches kids to act responsibly toward animals, the environment, and other people. Urge your state senator to support this humane legislation; visit [www.aspca.org/lobby](http://www.aspca.org/lobby).

## Illinois:

### Take Action to Ban Dog Fighting

The mistreatment of animals is often linked to other violent crimes. Penalties for animal cruelty should reflect this link. House Bill 4711 would make it a felony if a person 18 years of age or older brings someone younger than 13 years of age to a



dog fight. It would also require law enforcement agencies to train peace officers to recognize violations of dog fighting. Urge your IL state representatives to support this measure; visit [www.aspca.org/lobby](http://www.aspca.org/lobby) for contact information.

## Louisiana:

### Protect Pets in Emergencies

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, it's become shockingly apparent that provisions must be made for our trusted companions in major emergencies. The Louisiana Animal Evacuation Bill (SB 607), drafted by the ASPCA's Stacy Wolf, Senior Director of Legislative Services & Anti-Cruelty Training, would help ensure that disaster plans take into account the needs of residents with household pets. Protect our pets in the future should disaster strike; write your LA state representatives and show your support at [www.aspca.org/lobby](http://www.aspca.org/lobby).

## Mississippi:

### Kindness to Cats, Dogs, & Hogs

Thanks to your efforts, Governor Haley Barbour has signed humane animal welfare legislation that prohibits the malicious or mischievous killing, maiming, wounding, or injuring of a cat. Currently, only dogs were covered under this statute. The Bill (SB 2210), sponsored by MS state senator Bob Dearing, also bans so-called "catch" events or "hog-dog rodeos," in which dogs and hogs are brutally pitted against one another and injured, maimed, or killed. Thank the Governor and your legislators for supporting humane protections.

## New York:

## NYPTLVR

"Our Best Friends," the colorful NY State license plates designed by pop artist Peter Max, is helping make New York a Humane Community. Proceeds from the annual registration fee go to the state's low-cost spay and neuter fund and Animal Population Control Program. Spay and neuter services for low-income pet parents will also be expanded beginning in August. To order your plates call (518) 402-4838, go online at [www.nysdmv.com](http://www.nysdmv.com), or visit any New York State DMV office.



## Washington:

### Call of the Wild

The ASPCA believes that appropriate pets that are properly cared for are fully justified and of enormous value to human health and well-being. However, it is the position of the ASPCA that no animal taken from the wild should be kept as a pet. House Bill 1151 will prohibit future ownership of large cats, wolves, bears, non-human primates, alligators, and other potentially dangerous wild animals kept in private possession. Washington is one of fifteen states that currently have no regulations prohibiting private possession of dangerous wild animals.

## 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](http://www.aspca.org/lobby).

# Top 10 Nutrients Your Pet Needs



Pets, like people, need a nutritious diet for optimal health. If pet parents are using high-quality pet foods, there is usually no need for extra supplementation of vitamins, minerals, or oils in healthy animals. Excesses of certain nutrients (such as vitamins A or D) can be potentially detrimental to a pet's overall health, so pet caregivers are better off selecting a high-quality pet food product that already contains a balanced amount of nutrients and supplements.

Pet parents should discuss their pet's nutritional health with their veterinarian or veterinary technician. They can assess the pet's nutritional health and make specific product recommendations

catered to individual pet's needs.

With that in mind, the top 10 nutrients your pet needs are:

**1. Water**, essential to life, is the most important nutrient for pets. Provide fresh, good quality water at all times.

**2. Proteins**, the basic building materials for cells and organs, are essential for growth, maintenance, reproduction, and cell repair. The building blocks of proteins are called amino acids and are divided into two groups.

\*Non-essential amino acids are produced by the animal and not needed in the diet.

\*Essential amino acids cannot be synthesized by the animal in sufficient quantities and MUST be supplied in the diet. They include arginine, methionine, histidine, phenylalanine, isoleucine, threonine, leucine, tryptophan, lysine, taurine (for cats), and valine.

Proteins can be obtained from a number of sources. Animal-based proteins, such as chicken, lamb, turkey, beef, and eggs, have complete amino acid profiles; fish is also a very good protein source. Protein is also found in vegetables, cereals, and soy; these are considered incomplete proteins.

**3. For cats only!** The essential amino acid **taurine**, a protein building block, is an essential nutrient for companion cats. Unlike dogs, cats cannot synthesize enough taurine to meet their needs. Taurine is required for the prevention of eye and heart disease and is only found in foods of animal origin, such as meat, eggs, and fish.

**4. Fats**, the most concentrated form of food energy, provide your pet with more than twice the energy of proteins or carbohydrates. Fats also help your pet utilize certain vitamins and insulate and protect under the skin and around the internal organs.

**Essential fatty acids** must be provided in a pet's diet because

## Foods to Avoid

Pet parents should avoid the following foods, as they have been known to cause illness or toxicity in some species of pets.

Alcoholic beverages

Chocolate (baker's, semi-sweet, milk chocolate)

Coffee (grounds, beans, chocolate-covered espresso beans)

Moldy or spoiled foods

Onions, onion powder

Garlic, garlic powder

Salt

Yeast dough

Macadamia nuts

Raisins and grapes

Avocado

Hops (used in home brewing)

Fatty foods

Bones

Milk

Raw eggs

Raw or undercooked meat

dogs and cats cannot synthesize them in sufficient amounts. A deficiency of essential fatty acids may stunt growth or contribute to skin problems.

**5. Linoleic acid** is an essential fatty acid for both cats and dogs, while **arachidonic acid** (important for healthy skin, coat, and kidneys) is an essential fatty acid for cats only.

**6. Omega-6 and omega-3 fatty acids** play a vital role in healing inflammation. Replacing some omega-6s (found in vegetable oils) with omega-3s (found in fish oils, for example) can lessen an inflammatory reaction—whether it is in the skin (from allergies), the joints (from arthritis), the intestines (from inflammatory bowel disease), or even in the kidneys (from progressive renal failure).

**7 & 8.** Recent studies suggest that **carbohydrates** and **fiber**

play a vital role in the health of the intestine and are likely important for reproduction.

**9. Vitamins** are essential for a healthy metabolism in both dogs and cats—though only in tiny amounts. Too much vitamin A, for example, may result in bone and joint pain, brittle bones, and dry skin, while excess vitamin D may result in stiff joints and kidney problems.

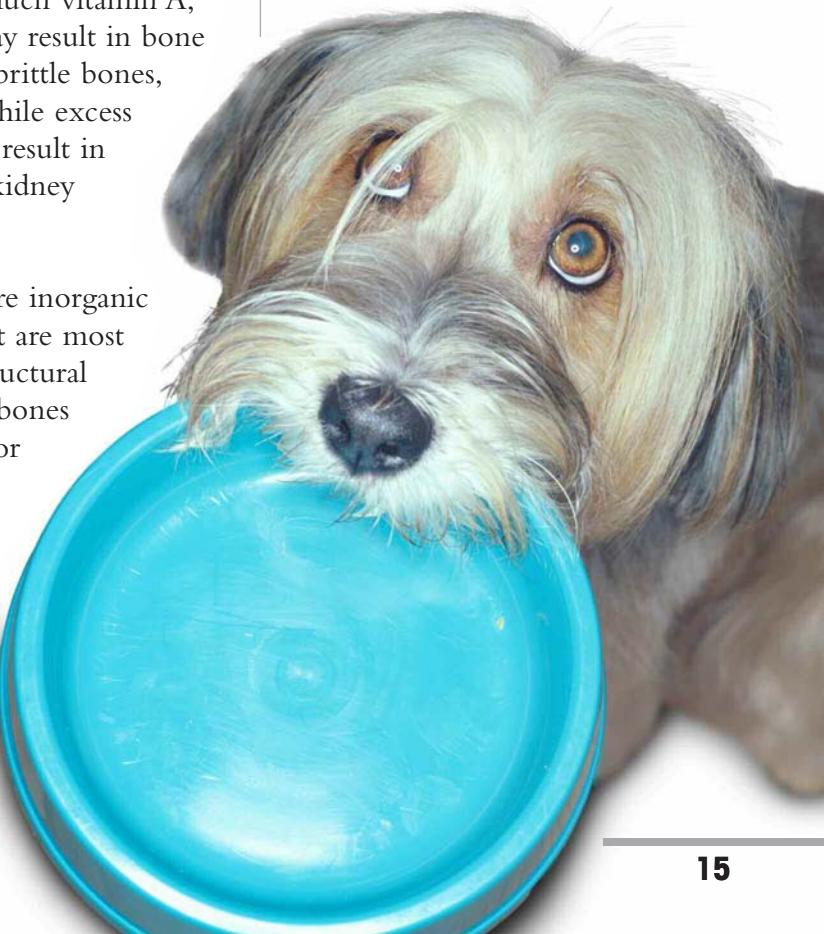
**10. Minerals** are inorganic compounds that are most important as structural constituents of bones and teeth and for maintaining a healthy fluid balance and metabolism. Minerals cannot be synthesized by animals and must

be provided in the diet.

## Pet Snacks

If pet parents would like to add healthy treats to their pet's diet, they should ensure that the caloric intake from the treats is less than 5–10% of the pet's daily caloric requirement. Some healthy treats for dogs may include lean meats, whole grain breads, carrot sticks, apple slices (without seeds), green beans, and cantaloupe. Cats may enjoy the juice from canned tuna packed in water.

Pet parents should remember that some pets are very sensitive to dietary changes. These pets generally do better if only one quality pet food product is given consistently and no other foods are added.



**ASPCA®** Call for Nominations for

# The Annual Humane Awards

The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals® is issuing a Call for Nominations for its Annual Humane Awards. The ASPCA is asking the public to help identify extraordinary animals as well as people who have furthered animal welfare in the United States over the past year. Winners will be chosen by a committee of animal welfare professionals selected by the ASPCA.

## **The Categories for Nomination are:**

- **The ASPCA Dog of the Year** (for the dog who has performed a heroic act in the past year).
- **The ASPCA Cat of the Year** (for the cat who has performed a heroic act in the past year).
- **The ASPCA Fireman of the Year** (for the member of a fire department or rescue squad that has made a heroic effort to save an animal in the past year).
- **The ASPCA Law Enforcement Officer of the Year** (for the member of a municipal police force or other public service officer who has made a heroic effort to save an animal in the past year).
- **The ASPCA Community Activist of the Year** (for the local community activist who has done something extraordinary for an animal).
- **The ASPCA Lifetime Achievement Award** (for the person over 50 years of age who has spent many years in the service of animal welfare).
- **The ASPCA Henry Bergh Award** (named after the ASPCA's founder, Henry Bergh, the medal recognizes individuals who dedicate their lives to making the world a kinder, more humane place for animals).

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Nominations can be submitted either via the ASPCA website ([www.aspca.org/nominate](http://www.aspca.org/nominate)) or in writing to:

**ASPCA Humane Awards Nomination Committee**  
Special Events Department  
Attention: Arielle Greenberg  
110 Fifth Avenue, Second Floor  
New York, NY 10011





## Prozac for Pets?

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

**Q.** Can I give antidepressant pills to my high-strung pet? S.J., Louisville, KY

**A.** Veterinarians sometimes prescribe Prozac or other antidepressant drugs to pets, because these medicines may help to manage problem behaviors like aggression and anxiety in dogs or urine spraying in cats. However, it is important that pet parents never administer any drug without first consulting a veterinarian. The ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center manages hundreds of cases of antidepressant overdoses in animals each year, due to either accidental ingestion or because pet owners give their animals an inappropriate dose. Keep medications well out of reach, as dogs and other animals can easily chew open even childproof bottles.

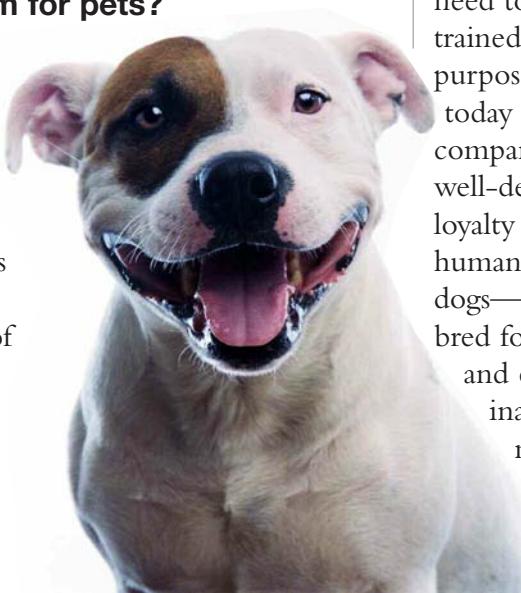
With many antidepressants, symptoms of overdose can develop quickly, often within 30 minutes of ingestion, and can include lethargy, loss of coordination, vomiting and diarrhea, hyperactivity, or other signs. If you suspect your pet may have ingested an antidepressant, contact your local veterinarian or the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center (**1-888-426-4435**, fees may apply) for immediate assistance.

## Yew Take Care

**Q.** I'm thinking about planting some yew bushes in our backyard. Are yews a problem for pets?

K.S., Kent, CT

**A.** Yew (*Taxus* species), commonly planted as a border hedge, can certainly be toxic to pets. Depending on the circumstances, ingestions can produce such symptoms as vomiting, diarrhea, tremors, difficulty breathing, loss of coordination, convulsions, even death. Horses in particular have been known to eat large amounts of bush clippings, resulting in poisoning. Visit [www.aspca.org](http://www.aspca.org) to learn more about a pet-safe lawn and garden.



## Born to be Bad?



**Stephen Zawistowski, Ph.D.**, Sr. VP and science advisor of the ASPCA, is a certified applied animal behaviorist.

**Q.** Are pit bulls really a dangerous breed? Or is the problem with people who raise them to fight?

R.F., Tampa, FL

**A.** Research in a variety of species, including dogs and humans, indicates that behavior results from a complex interaction between genetics and environment. We know that many different breeds of dogs were developed to perform particular tasks, whether herding, retrieving, guarding, or fighting. In each case, the dogs that would be used in that context need to be bred, socialized, and trained to fulfill their intended purpose. The majority of pit bulls today are bred and raised to be companions. These dogs have a well-deserved reputation for loyalty and affection for their human families. In cases where dogs—regardless of breed—are still bred for fighting and aggression, and either not socialized or inappropriately socialized, we need to have some concerns about their behavior around friends, family, and neighbors.

## Big Apple Goes Orange for Animals

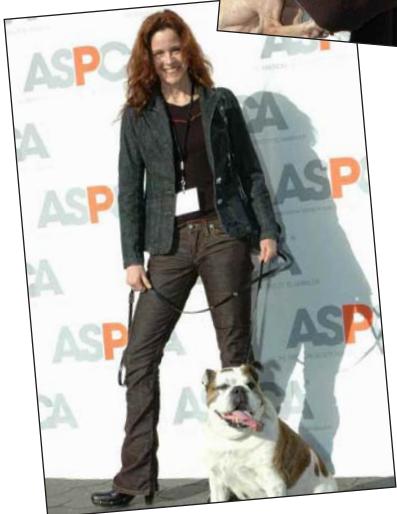
New York City mayor Mike Bloomberg declared April 10, 2006 "ASPCA Day," as celebrants and celebrities turned on the orange in Manhattan's Union Square Park to "Enlighten America for Animals." The Empire State Building, Central Park's "Balto" Sled Dog sculpture, and other city landmarks glowed ASPCA Orange, as did buildings in Chicago, Miami, Los Angeles, even Niagara Falls.



Photos by Vincent Majia

People and pets celebrated the ASPCA's 140th in NYC, including (left to right) ASPCA President Ed Sayres and Broadway star Bernadette Peters; *Seinfeld*'s John O'Hurley with wife Lisa; emcee Jo Sullivan of the ASPCA with comedian Sandra Bernhard; and Richard Belzer of *Law and Order: Special Victims Unit*.

(Right) Heidi Bressler of *The Apprentice* and (below) actress Ally Sheedy join ASPCA 140th festivities in New York.



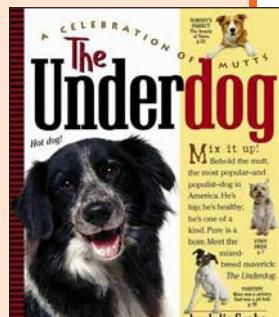
## Readers' Choice

### The Underdog: A Celebration of Mutts

From acclaimed pet writer **Julia Szabo** comes *The Underdog*, the ulti-mutt guide to everything mutt lovers need to know about mutt loving, care, and adoption. With celebrities like **Jennifer Aniston**, **Drew Barrymore**, **Julia Roberts**, **Jake Gyllenhaal**, and **Hilary Swank** all adopting mutts, it's no wonder these "underdogs" are the new purebreds. This book lets you:

- Check your mutt's lineage with the mutt family tree.
- Prepare your mutt for his walk down the aisle as a member of the wedding party.
- Research mutt-friendly hotels, restaurants, and attractions across the country.
- Find out how your mutt can help

you find true love (actor **Brendan Fraser** met his wife-to-be through her mutt at a party).  
• Learn all you need to know before adopting a mutt of your own.



Szabo lives in New York City with her four fabulous mutts. She writes the "Pets" column for the *New York Post* and the "You and Your Pet" column for *Country Living* magazine.

# June

## Is Adopt-a-Shelter-Cat Month



Help spread the word to Make Pet Adoption Your First Option® and make this June the most successful Adopt-a-Shelter-Cat Month ever. Adopt a cat from your local shelter, and join the more than 60 million American families who have experienced the joy of bringing a pet into their homes and lives. Did you know?

- Cats are the most popular pets in America, numbering about 75 million; dogs follow at 60 million. Parakeets run a distant third, at 14 million.
- Two in five pet parents say they have more photos of their pets than they do of their spouses.
- 94% of pet parents say their animals make them smile at least once a day.
- The life expectancy of a cat has gone from 8 years in 1930 to 16 years today.

To learn more about feline care and the joy of adopting a shelter pet, go to [www.aspca.org](http://www.aspca.org), and visit your local shelter or animal rescue group.

## Horse Lovers Unite



The ASPCA's Hoyle Jones and Ed Sayres greet Equine Fund supporters in Wellington, FL.

A filled-to-capacity crowd of 380 horse lovers gathered under the tents at the third annual ASPCA Equine Fund benefit luncheon, held January 29 at the Palm Beach Polo Equestrian Club. Kudos go to luncheon chairs **Joanie**

**Goodman, Frances Lindner**, and **William Secord**, backed by Vice-Chairs **Janice Aron**, **Penelope Ayers**, **R. Bruce Duchossois**, **Sheila Johnson**, and **Michael F. X. Murdoch**.

ASPCA President & CEO **Ed Sayres** and Chairman **Hoyle Jones** briefed guests on the history of the ASPCA, formed in 1866 by wealthy socialite Henry Bergh to protect workhorses in New York City from cruel treatment. Money raised goes directly to the ASPCA's Equine Fund, dedicated to improving the lives of abused and neglected horses through rescue, grants, education, and lobbying. Thanks to all of you who support the ASPCA Equine Fund.

## Young Celebrity

### Briianne Goutal

Junior Equestrian,  
Age 17

ASPCA Maclay  
Champion

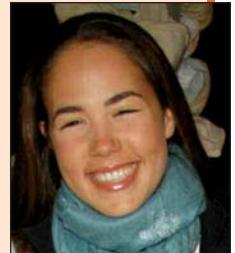


Photo by Patrick McMullan

**Q. What was the name of your first horse?**

**A.** A pony named Go Fish.

**Q. How many horses do you have now?**

**A.** Four: Onira, Casar, Mon Gamin, and Wait & See. We also have a dog, a 3-year old mutt named Max.

**Q. What is your fondest riding memory?**

**A.** Winning the ASPCA Maclay National Championship. The competition has always meant a lot to me, coming from New York.

**Q. Why are groups like the ASPCA so important?**

**A.** The foundation of this sport relies on protective agencies like the ASPCA to prevent mistreatment of animals. Sometimes people go to extreme ends to win, which is not always conducive to the proper treatment of horses.

**Q. How can young people get involved?**

**A.** Volunteer at an agency such as the ASPCA in your community. You can also raise awareness about animal abuse through your friends and school. And certainly, report any incidents of animal abuse you witness.

**ASPCA** YOUR PETS

# CELEBRATING 140 YEARS

Thanks to the thousands of ASPCA supporters who celebrated the ASPCA's 140th anniversary on April 10—marking 140 years of compassion for animals. For more photos, visit our Web gallery at [www.aspca.org/140](http://www.aspca.org/140).



Valentino, San Diego, CA



Mirabelle goes orange all year round.



Duke and Kashi, adopted from the ASPCA.



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

E-mail us: [ASPCAAction@aspca.org](mailto: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.

**ASPCA**

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](http://www.aspca.org) for more information.

American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

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