

ASPCA[®] *Action*

WINTER 2008

Crusade Against Cruelty

The ASPCA has dedicated new experts, resources and technologies to aid its ongoing fight against animal cruelty in America.



Spearheading the anti-cruelty effort are Dr. Melinda Merck, Senior Director Veterinary Forensics; Annemarie Lucas, Supervisory Special Investigator; Dr. Robert Reisman, DVM, Coordinator of Abuse Cases.



THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS®

WINTER 2008

PRESIDENT'S NOTE



A NOTE FROM EDWIN SAYRES

I hope the New Year finds you happy and healthy! As a member of the ASPCA, you are part of a unique group of individuals who have chosen to act on their convictions—to help defenseless animals find peace, comfort and healing. I am truly grateful for your activism and compassion—highly commendable qualities that are truly inspiring.

Since 1866, the ASPCA has been working to bring an end to the senseless suffering of animals. As we embark upon this New Year, it gives me great pleasure to let you know that under the leadership of the ASPCA, our nation's capacity to combat animal cruelty improves constantly.

This year, dedicated ASPCA experts will gain deeper insights into animal behavior, develop better ways to care for shelter animals, and make new contributions to the fields of veterinary medicine and forensics, while launching new campaigns for tougher law enforcement and disseminating new educational tools to protect animals. The Mobile Animal CSI Unit and the Anti-Cruelty Institute are two new milestones in our ongoing fight against animal cruelty—and I hope this special issue of ASPCA Action encourages you to log on to www.fightcruelty.org today and learn more about the ASPCA's life-saving work and what you can do to help.

Together we can stop animal cruelty.

Edwin Sayres
President & CEO

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Crusade Against Cruelty

In the wake of a high-profile animal cruelty case, the ASPCA is leading the way in a new campaign to fight crimes against animals.

Dog fighting—which pits one dog against another in an often fight-to-the-death match—sounds like some brutal spectator “sport” from another century. Sadly, dog fighting is alive in America today, operating at several levels, from amateur to professional. Some experts estimate that tens of thousands of people are engaged in dog fighting around the country, despite the fact that it’s illegal in all states—and a felony everywhere except Idaho and Wyoming.

A spotlight has been cast on dog fighting in recent months due to the case of NFL quarterback Michael Vick and three co-defendants, all of whom recently pled guilty in federal court to operating a competitive dog-fighting ring. As a result of this and other cases, the ASPCA has ramped up its efforts to prevent crimes against animals. The ASPCA played a crucial role in the Vick case by leveraging the organization’s forensic competencies to assist the U.S. Attorney’s office and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (U.S.D.A.) in the investigation. These collaborative efforts resulted in prison terms for the defendants that were among the harshest allowed under federal sentencing guidelines. The ASPCA’s animal behavior experts also evaluated the dogs seized from the property and made recommendations on—and assisted in—their disposition.

ASPCA President & CEO Edwin Sayres says, “We’re proud to have played an instrumental role in this case, which we believe will change the way America regards and responds to the inhumane treatment of animals.” Sayres adds, “Animal cruelty occurs throughout our society, and it’s a crime that transcends all ethnic, income, religious and political groups. The ASPCA wants crimes against animals to be prosecuted to the maximum extent of the law and the perpetrators to be brought to justice. We are more committed than ever to providing the resources, training and technologies to stop these crimes, arrest the criminals, and make them accountable for their actions.”

As a part of the ASPCA’s renewed commitment, Sayres announced that the organization has launched a multi-faceted new crusade to fight cruelty against animals that further elevates the ASPCA’s longtime anti-cruelty stance. This new initiative capitalizes on the full range of ASPCA investigative, forensic, education and treatment capabilities, all of which will help the organization to fight cruelty even more effectively on a local and national basis.

Ending Dog Fighting **Once and For All**

This isn’t the first time that the ASPCA has battled dog fighting.

Henry Bergh, the ASPCA’s founder, was disgusted by the dog fighting he saw in New York and elsewhere. Bergh’s 1867 revision of the state’s animal cruelty law made animal fighting illegal for the first time, including bull, bear, dog and cock fighting. The involvement of regular police in dog fighting activities was one reason Bergh sought and received authority for the ASPCA to have arrest powers so that his own Humane Law Enforcement agents could enforce these tough new laws.

Throughout its history, the ASPCA has fought for stronger laws against all forms of animal cruelty. A 1981 report commissioned by the ASPCA entitled *Dog Fighting in America: A National Overview*, concluded that dog fighting was more prevalent than the public or law enforcement imagined and stronger laws at the state and federal levels were needed.

Today, the ASPCA incorporates information on bloodsports in the animal cruelty trainings it provides in police academies and law enforcement officials’ training classes around the country. It also trains animal control officers and veterinarians nationally on how to identify animal cruelty and how to assist in crime scene investigation. In addition, the ASPCA is collaborating with The U.S. Department of Justice Office of Community-Oriented Policing Services (COPS) to provide police and community groups with the resources they need to find, identify, investigate and prosecute those who conduct dog fights. Included in a new toolkit are guidelines for establishing a community task force for the prevention and reporting of this criminal activity. The toolkit will be downloadable from the COPS website, www.cops.usdoj.gov, produced as a CD-ROM, and available also in hard copy.



President & CEO Edwin Sayres and Dr. Melinda Merck in the ASPCA’s new Mobile Animal CSI Unit.

“Our new anti-cruelty initiative demonstrates that the ASPCA has zero tolerance for crimes against animals.”

Edwin Sayres,
President & CEO

Taking the Show on the Road

As part of this concerted effort, the ASPCA recently unveiled a sophisticated mobile van, the ASPCA Mobile Animal Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) Unit. The technologically advanced, customized vehicle—the first of its kind in the animal forensics community—is fully outfitted with state-of-the-art forensics tools and medical instruments that will facilitate the prosecution of perpetrators of animal cruelty and help to strengthen the cases against them by incorporating veterinary forensics into crime scene investigations. The equipment on board the new CSI unit includes medical examination and surgical equipment, such as digital microscopes and x-ray machines; evidence collection equipment, such as Tiger UV lights that detect trace evidence, blood and urine, as well as entomology kits for examining insect damage on corpses to determine time of injury or death; grave detection and exhumation equipment; computers; exam tables; and recording equipment for collecting and documenting evidence.

The CSI Unit provides a secure environment, which ensures that field evidence is collected properly, processed and preserved, maintaining the chain of evidence crucial to successful prosecutions. It also serves as a mobile triage, critical-care and surgical suite where abused animals can be stabilized with intravenous fluids and medications before they are transported to an emergency veterinary facility.

The \$220,000 advanced CSI Unit operates under the skilled supervision of the nation's premier forensic veterinarian and animal crime scene investigator, Dr. Melinda Merck. Dr. Merck expects to travel to a dozen or more animal cruelty crime scenes each year, examining victims, performing necropsies and collecting evidence. "There is a significant amount of evidence present on victims at any crime scene," says Dr. Merck. "In collecting this evidence, every moment counts. This new CSI vehicle enables us to examine these animals swiftly and efficiently, right at the scene, in a controlled environment."

Dr. Merck says that in the past she has transported evidence, including deceased animals, in the back of her car. She says the new vehicle is "invaluable" in terms of transporting, controlling and preserving evidence that will lead to successful prosecutions. The ASPCA says that the Mobile Animal Crime Scene Investigation Unit will travel wherever necessary to assist national and local law enforcement teams and prosecutors in their efforts to bring animal cruelty offenders to justice.

Expanding Capabilities at Home

Sayres also announced that the organization would break ground on the nation's first anti-cruelty center in New York in 2008. The ASPCA Anti-Cruelty Institute will be dedicated to providing veterinarians and law enforcement officials with the specialized training necessary to recognize and respond to animal cruelty. The facility, slated to open in 2010, will include a forensic laboratory and veterinary hospital, a treatment center for animals that are victims of cruelty and educational training facilities.

Animal Crime Scene Investigation

"The ASPCA Anti-Cruelty Institute 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 Sayres. "The Institute will bring together the best and brightest animal welfare respondents from around the world, in an environment where they can benefit from the ASPCA's unique breadth and depth of animal welfare/anti-cruelty expertise. The ASPCA Anti-Cruelty Institute will help us take the fight against animal cruelty to a new level."

Solving Puzzles: The Nation's Leading Animal CSI

As a pioneering forensic veterinarian, animal crime scene investigator, and author of the definitive book on animal cruelty, Dr. Melinda Merck is fully engaged in fighting crimes against animals.



Dr. Melinda Merck knew she was interested in forensic science in 2002, when she was running a feline-only veterinary clinic in the Atlanta area. "Crimes against animals had just become a felony in Georgia," says Dr. Merck, "and I knew there would be a need for forensics. But no one knew how to process an animal crime scene because the field had not yet emerged." With virtually no relevant resources at hand, Dr. Merck educated herself, tapping the expertise of traditional medical examiners and studying forensic textbooks.

Today, Dr. Merck is chief of the newly formed Veterinary Forensics unit of the ASPCA and the author of the first-of-its-kind textbook, *Veterinary Forensics: Animal Cruelty Investigations*. Dr. Merck travels the country investigating crimes and testifying at court proceedings. She and several senior ASPCA colleagues also speak at conventions and conferences to teach veterinarians and law enforcement officials how to diagnose animal cruelty, providing the information they need to construct strong cases for the prosecution.

In Dr. Merck's view, animal crimes have similarities with crimes against children. "Some of these crimes are so horrendous that they defy description," says Dr. Merck. "But animal cruelty is a surprisingly difficult crime to investigate and prosecute. We don't have victims who can testify, and we rarely have an eyewitness. That puts nearly all of the burden on the tangible evidence. So we need to apply our skills and resources to gather that evidence. These innocent victims cannot speak for themselves, so we must do it for them. We must be their voice."

Dr. Merck sometimes meets with resistance from local law enforcement authorities, who don't always feel that crimes against animals deserve their time and attention. This reluctance, according to Dr. Merck, is mostly due to their lack of understanding of just how much veterinary forensics can do for their case. "It's really just a matter of education," says Dr. Merck. "I show them what I can do to help their case—and I do it free of charge. That's very compelling."

Animal abuse is often linked to other crimes as well, Dr. Merck points out. "We regularly have multiple felonies associated with an animal abuse case," she says. "Drugs, guns, child abuse, gambling, domestic violence, gang activities, you name it, and the perpetrators often have outstanding rap sheets and warrants. It takes only one or two cases for law enforcement and prosecutors to understand the value of what we do." What's more, studies have shown that abusers of animals are much more likely to go on and commit violent crimes against people. "That fact provides additional incentive for local law enforcement and prosecutors to cooperate," says Dr. Merck.

"Why do I do what I do? I like to fight for the underdog. And I love to solve puzzles, which is what animal forensics is all about."



Dr. Melinda Merck with some of the sophisticated tools she uses in solving crimes against animals.

"These innocent victims cannot speak for themselves, so we must do it for them. We must be their voice."

Cruising for Animals

Family Donates Police Cruiser to Humane Law Enforcement

Prior to their marriage 35 years ago, neither Bruce nor Carolyn Silberstein could claim a particular closeness to animals. Though she longed for a pet, Carolyn had never been allowed one as a child, and though Bruce grew up with dogs he was not yet an avid animal lover. Two children, several special dogs, and an empty nest later, the Silbersteins are now passionate in their love for animals.

One dog in particular deeply touched the lives of the Silbersteins. Upon returning to New York City from college, one of their sons adopted a rescued Pit Bull, who quickly became a beloved member of the family. However, the Silbersteins' happiness turned to heartbreak when their son found himself on the losing end of a battle with his apartment building to keep the dog. Although they were ultimately able to find another loving home

for the Pit Bull, the family's experience of fighting for and then losing the dog made them realize the depth of the human-animal bond. "This experience really ignited our love for animals in recent years," remembers Carolyn. "Since then, Bruce and I have adopted a Maltese, and my older son and his wife have taken in a dog rescued from Hurricane Katrina."

Having long been generous philanthropists, the Silbersteins felt a growing commitment to designate some of their giving to animal causes. Carolyn, an avid fan of Animal Precinct notes, "Though what I see on the program often upsets me, it also strengthens my resolve to do something to promote the humane treatment of animals."

In August, the Silbersteins contacted the ASPCA to arrange a tour of the 92nd Street headquarters, and what they saw cemented this resolve. Bruce remembers, "I was shocked by what I saw on

our tour. I knew the ASPCA was doing good things for animals, but I had no idea that the shelter was as modern, efficient and well run as it was. That was a big selling point for me—I saw it as a reflection of the rest of the organization." Deeply touched by their experience, the Silbersteins decided that day to make a major commitment to the ASPCA—and in honor of Carolyn's love for Animal Precinct, they pledged to buy a new (and badly needed) police cruiser for the ASPCA's Humane Law Enforcement team.

Together with the ASPCA's Humane Law Enforcement team, the Silbersteins eagerly await the arrival of the new police cruiser, scheduled for delivery in 2008. Reflecting on their gift, Carolyn notes that love for animals sometimes has a snowball effect, and she is excited about how their story will help inspire others to do good for animals.



The Silberstein family with their dogs, Maggie, Nola, and Annie. (names of the dogs are from left to right)

Carolyn, an avid fan of Animal Precinct, notes, "Though what I see on the program often upsets me, it also strengthens my resolve to do something to promote the humane treatment of animals."

News Briefs

Hay Is for Horses

In October 2007, the ASPCA provided funding to the San Diego Humane Society for much-needed hay and other equine supplies following the California wildfire outbreak, which forced thousands of people and animals from their homes. While evacuees with smaller animals were welcome at pet-friendly shelters like the Red Cross, those with larger animals such as horses presented special challenges. The ASPCA's Senior Director of National Outreach, Sandy Monterose says, "We're glad that we could help to address the challenge of providing food for some of the larger animals." At least 15 wildfires destroyed hundreds of thousands of acres, forcing the evacuation of nearly one million people and their pets, destroying hundreds of homes and displacing wildlife.

10 "Hot Dogs" Win Second Annual Adopt-a-Shelter Dog Photo Contest

Out of nearly 2,000 entries, the ASPCA chose 10 winners of the 2007 ASPCA Adopt-a-Shelter Dog Photo Contest, in which pet parents were invited to submit favorite photos of their pooches. The ASPCA sponsored the photo contest to encourage pet lovers to consider adoption.

Judging was Traer Scott, a photographer and author of *Shelter Dogs and Street Dogs* (Merrell). She selected 10 stunning images of dogs, including Boomer, a shy Sheltie who loves the snow; Phoebe, a playful Pit girl; Journey, a master landscape artist; Max, a Schnauzer/Terrier Mix who likes to deconstruct his toys; Gracie, a Beagle and napper extraordinaire; Tippy, a spunky Chihuahua mix; Gigi, a brave Pit Bull survivor; Mattie, a loving Chihuahua; Skippy, a carefree Beagle/Dachshund mix; and New York City's own Bella, a happy-go-lucky Miniature Pinscher.



Winners received an ASPCA T-shirt, a copy of *Shelter Dogs*, a Harley dog plush toy, and an ASPCA wristband. Please visit www.aspcas.org/dogphoto2007_winner and aspcas.org/shelterdogphoto2007_winner to see the winning photographs and learn more about the dogs' proud pet parents.

ASPCA® Mission: Orange™ Update

The ASPCA continues to actively support ASPCA® Mission: Orange™ cities. The goal is to create a nation of humane communities, one community at a time, where animals receive the compassion and respect they deserve—a nation where there is no more unnecessary euthanasia of adoptable animals simply because of a lack of resources and awareness.

In recent news, the ASPCA hosted a free "Pet Stock" benefit concert to fight animal cruelty at the Biloxi Town Green in the **Gulfport-Biloxi** area. In **Philadelphia**, the ASPCA worked to support the Pennsylvania SPCA's efforts to promote its new website for kids. In **Austin**, the ASPCA helped to persuade the Austin City Council to vote in favor of the relocation of the Town Lake Animal Center and the retention of a satellite center at Town Lake. In both **Tampa** and **Spokane**, ASPCA experts trained shelter staffs how to implement the Meet Your Match™ program, which fosters permanent, successful adoptions.

New Resources for Local Spay/Neuter Services

Did you know that five to seven million animals enter animal shelters annually, and three to four million are euthanized due to a lack of space or resources? The ASPCA supports spay/neuter programs to curb growth in the companion animal population. These programs help to combat pet overpopulation, but they also have significant health benefits for all pets.

Spay and neuter programs are important components of ASPCA Mission: Orange. The ASPCA's new database will help pet parents to take advantage of spay and neuter services in their communities. Simply type in a zip code and the database will retrieve all nearby discounted service providers. The ASPCA is constantly adding to this database, so if you don't find any listings for your zip code, please check back often. Visit www.ASPCAspay.org to learn more.

142 Years of Experience...Online!

The ASPCA is getting set to launch the new Animal Behavior Lifeline™, a self-guided website on animal behavior issues that will serve as a resource for pet parents, behaviorists and veterinary professionals. The Lifeline is a searchable database of behavioral problems and solutions that the public will be able to access 24/7. For example, pet parents concerned about their dog chewing the sofa can soon visit the ASPCA Lifeline, enter some basic information about their dog, search key terms such as "my dog keeps chewing my sofa," and swiftly gain access to ASPCA expert information, possible causes and potential solutions. The ASPCA's Animal Behavior Center has five Certified Applied Animal Behaviorists whose expertise will help to build the organization's archive of animal behavior information. The new Lifeline will be available to the public in early 2008 at www.aspcas.org/lifeline.

ASPCA Rescue



It only takes one call from a concerned citizen to save a life and change others forever

Sacagawea, now Lea, enjoys her private spot under the staircase in Amy and Zach's Brooklyn home.

Changing Lives With Love

When it comes to animal cruelty and neglect, there's nothing that saves lives more often than a tip from a concerned citizen. In August 2007, one such call came to the ASPCA that not only saved one animal's life, but also changed the lives of a Brooklyn couple forever.

The tip was truly heartrending—a German Shepherd mixed-breed dog was tied by a rope around her neck in a yard in Queens, N.Y., with no food, water or shelter in the exceptionally hot “dog days” of August. ASPCA Humane Law Enforcement (HLE) Special Agents had visited the home before on a prior “no-shelter” complaint, which the homeowner had temporarily rectified. This time, HLE agents went to the home, removed the young female dog, and took her to the ASPCA for evaluation and clearance by shelter medical personnel. They also issued the homeowner a summons for his failure to provide shelter, an all-too-common complaint in humane law enforcement.

Once at the ASPCA, the dog was described as “a sweet but shy girl” who had had a “rough start in life and didn't know much about people.” Named by the staff “Sacagawea,” after Lewis and Clark's Native American guide, the ASPCA's behavior experts did an outstanding job of socializing her, and she gradually grew happier and more outgoing. Once Sacagawea was fully rehabilitated, the behaviorists declared her ready for adoption.

It didn't take long. Brooklyn resident, Amy Fox says, “My husband Zach and I knew we wanted a medium-sized dog with a nice temperament. We went to Manhattan that day with the idea that we would just have a look. I saw Sacagawea's description card and saw that she was just what we were looking for: ‘a shy but sweet girl!’ We then heard her story: how she had been neglected, how she was so resilient, and how she had slowly come out of her shell. It just felt right.” The ASPCA interviewed them, reviewed their application, and checked their

references—and Amy and Zach took Sacagawea home that very day.

Sacagawea, whom the couple has since renamed Lea, has adjusted well to her new life in Brooklyn. “She feels most comfortable in small spaces, so we moved her bed under the staircase,” Amy says. “She sleeps there unless she is on the rug beside our bed. She constantly buries her head in our laps,” she added.

Lea didn't know what to make of toys for about a month, Amy notes. “But after carefully studying other dogs play ball at the dog park, she's learned to retrieve along with the best of them,” she laughs. Lea is also extremely loyal. “She watched me go down into the subway one day, and it was all Zach could do to get her to budge until she saw me again!” Amy and Zach couldn't be happier, and Lea is finally living the comfortable life she deserves. A happy ending for all—just because a concerned citizen cared enough to make a single phone call.

Legislative Victories

from Coast to Coast

Lobbying for Animals

The ASPCA's state and federal legislative experts work every day to foster the passage of animal-centered, ASPCA-supported legislation at the national and state levels. The ASPCA is proud that 2007 was a banner year in terms of legislative victories on behalf of animals.

New federal legislation included a major victory with the passage of HR 147/S 261, the "Animal Fighting Prohibition Enforcement Act of 2007," which prohibits sponsoring or exhibiting an animal in an animal-fighting venture if any of the animals have been moved across state lines. The Act raises this crime from a misdemeanor to a felony and intends to deter people from engaging in the brutal "sport" of animal fighting.

Five states, including Connecticut, Nevada, Oregon, Texas and Virginia, passed bills addressing animals in disasters. These require state and local civil preparedness officials to create strategies to evacuate pets and service

animals in the event of a major disaster or emergency. This brings to 13 the total number of states with similar bills.

While three states (Maine, New York and Vermont) already had pet protection laws, states that followed suit in 2007 included California, Connecticut, Illinois, Nevada and Tennessee. The "Protection Orders for Pets" bills permit courts to issue orders of protection for animals owned or kept by victims of family violence. Seven other states introduced similar legislation in 2007. In Indiana, animal cruelty was added to the "Definition of Domestic Violence" with HB 1387, and includes crimes involving animal cruelty used to threaten, intimidate, coerce, harass or terrorize a family or household member.

Cockfighting was finally made illegal in New Mexico and has now been banned in all 50 states, with Louisiana's prohibition going into effect in August 2008. In Illinois, HB 3614 increased the penalty for all animal fighting to a felony.

Texas also increased the penalty for dog fighting to a state jail felony, and Texas and Tennessee both increased the punishment for attending a dog fighting exhibition to a Class A misdemeanor.

In two states, tethering laws were passed. In Tennessee, dogs can no longer be chained in a manner that results in the dog suffering bodily injury; and in Texas, HB 1411 prohibits the tethering of dogs outdoors between the hours of 10 p.m. and 6 a.m., and during extreme weather conditions.

A complete list of federal and state legislative victories for animals can be found at www.aspca.org/lobby_victories_2007. To find out how you can help, please log onto www.aspca.org/lobby.

The Henry Bergh Legacy Society

The following individuals have provided for the future of the ASPCA by participating in the annuity program or including the organization in their estate plans. It is with appreciation that we list them as members of the ASPCA Henry Bergh Legacy Society. For more information on becoming a member of the ASPCA Henry Bergh Legacy Society, please contact Marsha Pierson, CFP, at 212-876-7700 ext. 4505 or marshap@aspc.org.

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Ms. Lela Bishop	Ms. Laurie Dansby	Mr. Robert C. Gaskell	Ms. Virginia Jernstrom
Ms. Kathleen T. Blackman	Ms. Janey Dean	Allen and Judith Gehrig	Ms. Arlene Jerstad
Mr. Donald Blaha	Ms. Rayna Decotis	Ms. Irene Geller	Ms. Judy S. Johnson
Mr. Charles Blake	Ms. Sandra Deeble	Mr. James Gerhard	Mrs. Lincoln Johnson
Ms. Nadine Blancato	Ms. Irene DeFelice	Mr. and Mrs. Boyce Geverts	Ms. Marie Johnston
Mrs. Audrey A. Blough	Scott and Jennifer Devilleneuve	Ms. Deborah Gilbert	Ms. Frances A. Jones
Ms. Betty J. Boone	Mrs. Patricia R. Diamond	Ms. Henriette Gill	Ms. Ilse Junod
Mrs. Laurretta Borgman	Mr. B. Gordon Dickey	Ms. Donna Gilleece	Ms. Carol J. Kalvaitis
Ms. Pam Borns	Ms. Carol Dillon	Mr. Reynolds Girdler, Jr.	Mrs. Helen Karageorges
Ms. Cheryl Borows	Mrs. Dorothy V. Dillon	Ms. Nancy Glamore	
Mr. Rick Boston	Ms. Carol DiNolfo	Mrs. Betty I. Glass	
Mrs. Sheila Bowdish	Ms. Ellen Donahue	Ms. Eleanor Gochenaour	
	Ms. Kelly Donley	Ghislaine D. Godenne, M.D.	

- Mr. George Karnoutsos
 Ms. Roberta Karsch
 Ms. Meredith Kattke
 Ms. Hildegard Katz
 Ms. Mildred E. Katzell
 Ms. Lorian Kazmercyk
 Mrs. Jean R. Kelley
 Mrs. Richard B. Kemp
 Ms. Mari A. Kennedy
 Ms. Joyce Ellen Kidd
 Ms. Audrey King
 Mrs. Doris J. Kirkwood
 Ms. Janet Klein
 Mr. Robert L. Klingenburg
 Mr. J. C. Knapp
 Mrs. Brigitte M. Knickelbein
 Ms. Shari Kochman
 Mr. Richard Koerner
 Ms. Carlene Koetz
 Mrs. Lueneska Kohne
 Ms. Wanda Kosinski
 Ms. Kathy Koteles
 Miss Jane C. Koutnik
 Ms. Grace Kroll
 Ms. Deborah Krotzer
 Ms. Donna C. Kulik
 Mrs. Giselle M. Ladd
 Mr. George Lafleur
 Ms. Angela Lamicella
 Ms. Margaret Land
 Ms. Claire Lang
 Mr. and Mrs. Dean T. Langford
 Ms. Toni Langland
 Ms. Joanne Langley
 Ms. Sharon Larando
 Ms. Billie Larsen
 Mrs. Beatrice Lawrence
 Ms. Angela Lennox-Kay
 Ms. Joan Leonard
 Mr. Donald Levin
 Ms. Michele E. Liana
 Mrs. Claire K. Lindgren
 Ms. Diane Lirhus
 Mr. David Litzinger
 Mrs. M.H. Lock
 Mr. Frank Logue
 Ms. Jeanne M. Lucenti
 Ms. Nancy Ludwig
 Mr. Chris Lynch
 Ms. Christie Lyons
 Ms. Marie Lyons
 Mr. Rodger R. Lysiak
 Ms. Zelta Mack
 Mr. Louis H. Mackey
 Mr. W. A. MacVay
 Mr. Tom P. Maenza
 Ms. Kathleen Maher
 Mr. Dion G. Makris
 Ms. Alice Maloney
 Ms. Cynthia Manseau
 Mr. R. Jennings Mangum
 Ms. Sandra Marcelle
 Anthony and Barbara Marcello
 Ms. Betty Marks
 Ms. Margaret H. Marshall
 Mrs. Pamela Martin
 Ms. Ann Martini
 Ron and Sheryl Martinson
 Mr. Garry Matney
 Mrs. Diane McCabe
 Ms. Jane McCune
 Ms. Suzanne McCune
 Ms. Jeanine R. McHugh
 Ms. Margaret McKay
 Ms. Nancy A. McLachlin
 Mrs. Courtney McMichael
 Ms. Maria H. McNally
 Mr. Ronald W. McNew
 Ms. Marianne McSwain
 Ms. Joyce M. Meader
 Ms. Ruth Medici
 Mr. John V. Meeks
 Ms. Allyssa Mefford
 Mr. Alvin L. Melka
 Ms. Marcia Meracle
 Ms. R. Rosalie Metzger
 Ms. Linda Miller
 Mrs. Monica Miller
 Ms. Paula Miller
 Mr. Stephen Mininni
 Ms. Nancy Minasola
 Ms. Rosalie Miranda
 Mr. Luis Monje
 Ms. Claire Montgomery
 Mr. Steven D. Montrouil
 Allen and Sandra Moon
 Ms. Patricia Morris
 Donald and Efi Moschette
 Karen Moschetto and Janice Raspen
 Mr. Alan W. Moseley
 Ms. Alma Mullins
 Mrs. Ethel Marie Muse
 Ms. Leda M. Myers
 Ms. Marie Myers
 Ms. Lorraine Odom Myrick
 Ms. Cathy Nagle
 Ms. Leslie Nahon
 Ms. Evelyn Nelson
 Ms. Gloria A. Nelson
 Ms. Gloria L. Nelson
 Ms. Annmarie Nemcek
 Ms. Barbara Newcomer
 Ms. Gaile Newman
 Ms. Barbara Niro
 Ms. Catharine U. Noel
 Ms. Peggy Ogden
 Ms. Martha Oldstrom
 Ms. Norah Olivastro
 Ms. Christine Oliveri
 Ms. Lynne Olivieri
 Mr. and Mrs. Richard Osborne
 Ms. Margaret E. Otto
 Ms. Michelle Palonis
 Mr. William F. Pane
 Ms. Antoinette Panico
 Ms. Susan Pappalardo
 Mrs. Selma Pariser
 Miss Melissa Parker
 Mrs. Patricia Parker
 Ms. Catherine Parks-Grauer
 Joan Paul
 Ms. Melissa Paul
 Ms. Carol Ann Payne
 Annette and Jay Pennock
 Ms. Theresa A. Perenich
 Ms. Lisa Perniciaro
 Ms. Camille Perrin
 Ms. Olga Peters, R.N.
 Rich and Corinne Peters
 Mrs. Verna Peterson
 Ms. Denise Petski
 Mr. Edgar Pfarre
 Mr. Robert F. Pikor
 Miss Jacqueline G. Pippin
 Ms. Mary Pitts
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert Poignant
 Ms. Sharon Polo
 Mr. Norman Pos
 Ms. Linda Powell
 Ms. Evelyn E. Powers
 Ms. Emma R. Proto
 Mr. Neale A. Quinn and Miss Kelly Quinn
 Ms. Janet A. Rabe
 Mrs. Edna Randolph
 Mrs. G. Raumann
 Ms. Eileen Rawitz
 Mrs. C. Thomas Read
 Dr. Danita Reese
 Ms. Tierney Reis
 Ms. Carol Remy & Mr. Nasir Wajihuddin
 Ms. Valerie Retter
 Ms. Elizabeth A. Reuper
 Mr. Art Reynolds
 Ms. Marilyn Richman
 Mrs. Gloria Riddall
 Ms. Grace A. Riggelman
 Mrs. Gloria Ripple
 Ms. Adela Rivas
 Ms. Esther D. Roberts
 Miss Shirlee A. Roberts
 Mrs. Mary Ellen Robinson
 John and Joanne Rodwell
 Ms. Clorinda Romano
 Ms. Carol J. Ross
 Mr. Donald G. Ross
 Miss Michele Ross
 Ms. Patricia B. Roth
 Mrs. Carmen St. Claire-Rourke
 Ms. Melissa Ruck
 Daniel J. Ruiz and David Jones
 Ms. Mindy Ruzumna
 Ms. Mary Ann T. Salamone
 Ms. Gertrude Salzer
 Mr. Edward Sandrow
 Ms. Paula Santen
 Ms. Nicole Sapp
 Ms. Karen Schaffer
 Mr. Stanley Scheller
 Ms. Valerie Schey
 Ms. Evelyn Schiesl
 Mr. Kenneth A. Schlenker
 Mrs. Joan F. Schmidt
 Ms. Tara Schmitt
 Mrs. Violet M. Schultz
 Ms. Helen Schwartz
 Ms. Evelyn Scimone
 Jack Scott, M.D.
 Jeff and Tracy Sebben
 Mr. William Secord
 Ms. Joan B. Seibert
 Ms. Dina M. Sena
 Ms. Margaret Seneshen
 Ms. Sandra Seubert
 Ms. Dian K. Sharma
 Ms. Sally Sharp
 Mr. Donald Shea
 Ms. Kathryn E. Shepard
 Ms. Carole Shepherd
 Ms. Nina Shilling
 Ms. Daisy Silveira
 Ms. Gretchen R. Sills
 Mrs. Stephen M. Simons
 Ms. Jo-Ann Slater
 Ms. Marie Smith
 Mr. Bruce Sokoloff
 Ms. Benita Somerfield
 Ms. Barbara E. Soper
 Mr. John A. Soubik
 Ms. Carol Spickler
 Sally Spooner
 Ms. Penny Sprenkle
 Ms. Regina Spurgin
 Ms. Carolyn N. Stafford
 Ms. Marian Stanley
 Mrs. Vesta Stearn
 Mr. and Mrs. Jay Steinberg
 Ms. Elisabeth Stewart
 John and Laurie Stilwell
 Mrs. Cora G. Stoll
 Ms. Barbara Stott
 Maria and Edward Street
 Ms. Phyllis R. Strickler
 Ms. Emma J. Stuart
 Ms. Alice Stuart
 Mr. and Mrs. John M. Suarez
 Ms. Mary Sullivan
 Mr. Brian K. Sullwold
 Ms. Marilyn Suthers
 Mr. Charles Suttoni
 Mr. John Tarkov
 Cathy and Dennis Terrill
 Mr. John L. Thomas
 Mr. Michael L. Thornton
 Ms. Jennie Tichenor
 Mrs. Mary E. Tierney
 Ms. Nilsa Torres
 Mr. Scott E. Troy
 Ms. Barbara V. Tufts
 Mrs. Simone Turbeville
 Mrs. Audrey Tuteur
 Mrs. Helen Unterleitner
 Mrs. Greta Uphouse
 Ms. Tilla Van Biema
 Mrs. Jean van Buuren
 Ms. Elizabeth L. Van Duzer
 Dr. Robert K. Vartanian
 Ms. Ann Marie Verbsky
 Ms. Kristina Verna
 Mr. Jayvee Viger
 Ms. Catherine V. von Schon
 Ms. June J. Vuyk
 Ms. Janet A. Waked
 Ms. Lesley K. Walls-Grant
 Ms. Sheila Wallworth
 Ms. Barbara Ward
 Ms. Cherry L. Ward
 Mrs. Mildred Ward
 Ms. Nan Warren
 Miss Nancy Warren
 Mr. Herbert Wasserman
 Mr. Gerald Watson
 Ms. Andria Watson
 Ms. Patricia A. Webb
 Ms. Carrie J. Webster
 Ms. Judy Weissman
 Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Weisz
 Ms. Barbara Westall
 Ralph and Christine Westerhoff
 Ms. Annah White
 Mrs. Florence K. White
 Ms. Elizabeth Whitehill
 Mrs. Marie Whitlatch
 Mr. and Mrs. Richard Wickworth
 Ms. Brenda J. Williams
 Ms. Regina Williams
 Mr. Charles C. Williams
 Ms. Gail Wilson & Mr. Tim Archibald
 Ms. Pamela Winter
 Ms. Vivian Winterman
 Ms. Nancy Wintner
 Ms. Susan D. Wisniewski
 Ms. Deanna Wistling
 Ms. Dorothy Wolf
 Mr. Alan Wood
 Mr. and Mrs. Peter Wulff
 Ms. Charlotte R. Yater
 Ms. Lorraine Young
 Ms. Marilyn Young
 Mrs. Patricia Zajec
 Ms. Maria Zhorella
 Ms. Barbara Zikos
 Ms. Kristin Zimmerman
 Mr. Lawrence Zolotorof
 Ms. Monika F. Zuckermann



\$4,000
◆ **Washington**
MENTORING ANIMAL AGENCIES



\$300,000
◆ **California**
OVER THREE YEARS
WILD HORSE PROTECTION



\$1,000
◆ **New Mexico**
REST FOR THE WEARY

Your Dollars At Work

◆ Washington

A grant of \$4,000 has enabled the Washington State Federation of Animal Care and Control Agencies to pursue a number of mentorship efforts. In 2007, animal welfare professionals joined forces in several meetings and venues to review opportunities that the Federation provides, as well as the Mentorship Program. The grant also helped to fund a meeting between new directors in the field, as well as visits by Board members around the state to assist animal welfare organizations in need of professional guidance.

◆ California

The Return to Freedom Wild Horse Sanctuary in Lompoc, California, has protected the American Wild Horse for more than a decade, and it currently offers safe haven to more than 200 wild horses and burros. Through providing sanctuary, education and conservation, it is pioneering solutions to preserve these magnificent creatures, as well as the open spaces that serve as their habitat. A \$300,000 grant from the ASPCA's Equine Fund over a three-year period will help it to continue to protect America's remaining wild horses by educating the public, setting up new wild horse sanctuaries and improving existing ones, initiating a dialogue with government land management agencies to help them to implement ethical and humane wild horse management policies, and informing horse owners about responsible horse stewardship.

◆ New Mexico

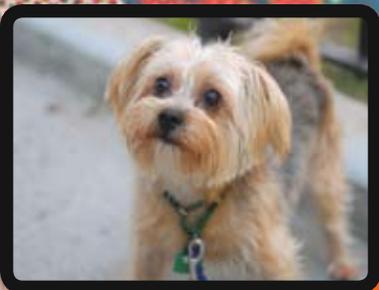
A grant for \$1,000 to the Kindred Spirits Animal Sanctuary (KSAS) near Madrid, New Mexico helps them to fulfill their mission of providing lifelong care and hospice for older, unwanted dogs, horses and poultry in a peaceful and serene sanctuary. KSAS focuses on the beauty of animals as teachers of unconditional love, regardless of age or infirmities. Sanctuary education programs offer an opportunity for better understanding and acceptance of our own human aging process, as well as the process of aging in our animal companions. KSAS offers this love and care to the most vulnerable members of its community.

◆ Louisiana

The "New Leash on Life" program, sponsored by the Humane Society of Louisiana, Southwest Chapter, got a jumpstart, thanks to this \$1,000 grant. Working with dogs from Calcasieu Animal Services, teens at a juvenile detention center learned how to train and care for the dogs. All serving time for one reason or another, the teens say their time with the pooches is rewarding. "We thought if these two groups of neglected and at-risk populations could work with each other, well, let's see what happens," explains Beth Zilbert, Pet Therapy Project Coordinator for the Humane Society of Southwest Louisiana. Among the lessons learned by these teens as part of their new leash on life: "I'm hoping that working with the dogs is going to help me to learn some patience and will give me something to work on while I'm in jail," said Sherlock's handler.

◆ Florida

Animal welfare work can be stressful for those providing services to animals and communities. Workers tend to feel guilt and helplessness in terms of stopping the steady flow of animals, sad stories and their outcomes. Thanks to a \$5,000 grant, approximately 80 staff members from animal services, humane societies, veterinary emergency services and clinics were able to attend a "Coping with Compassion Fatigue" workshop in Tampa in October, where they experienced much-needed mental pampering by Dide Clement from the Humane Society University. During the workshop they learned how to lower their own stress levels so they could better care for animals and address the community issues associated with them.



\$1,000
 ◆ **Louisiana**
NEW LEASH ON LIFE



\$5,000
 ◆ **Florida**
STRESS BUSTERS FOR ANIMAL WELFARE WORKERS

ASPCA Pet Care



Beating the Winter Chill

Brrrr...it's cold outside!

These guidelines will help to protect your companion animals when the mercury dips.

- Keep your cat inside! In low temperatures, outdoor felines can freeze.
 - During the winter, some outdoor cats sleep under car hoods. When the motor is started, the cat can be injured or killed by the fan belt. If there are outdoor cats in your area, bang loudly on the car hood before starting the engine to give the cat a chance to escape.
 - Don't let your dog off the leash on snow or ice, especially during a snowstorm—dogs can lose their scent and get lost. Make sure your pooch always wears ID tags.
 - Wipe off your dog's legs and stomach when he comes in out of the sleet, snow or ice. He can ingest salt, antifreeze or other dangerous chemicals while licking his
- paws, and his paw pads may also bleed from snow or encrusted ice.
- Leave your dog's coat long in winter, as it provides more warmth. Brushing your dog helps to remove dead hairs and keeps the fur fluffy so it provides better insulation. When you bathe your dog in the cold months, dry him before taking him out for a walk. Consider getting a coat or sweater for shorthaired breeds.
 - Never leave your dog or cat in a car during cold weather. A car can act as a refrigerator, causing the animal to freeze to death.
 - Puppies don't tolerate cold well, and they may be difficult to house-break during the winter. If your puppy is sensitive to the weather, you may opt to paper-train him inside. If your dog is sensitive to
- the cold due to age, illness or breed, take him outdoors only to relieve himself.
 - Does your dog spend a lot of time engaged in outdoor activities? Increase his supply of food, particularly fats, to keep him—and his fur—in tip-top shape.
 - Antifreeze is poisonous to dogs and cats. Be sure to thoroughly clean up any spills from your vehicle, and consider using products that contain propylene glycol rather than ethylene glycol. Visit www.aspca.org/apcc for more information.
 - Make sure your pet has a warm place to sleep, off the floor and away from all drafts. A cozy bed with a warm blanket or pillow is just purr-fect!

ASK OUR EXPERTS



Louise Murray, DVM, Diplomate ACVIM, is the Director of Medicine at the ASPCA Bergh Memorial Animal Hospital.

liver issues

Q My two-year-old, six-pound Maltese has been having seizures. The vet wanted to check his liver, but he drew blood the morning after the dog received his annual shots. The vet said the liver function was not good, and he now wants him to have a sonogram.

Could the blood work results have been affected by the shots the dog had the day before?

J.S.

A Probably not. The liver function test, a bile acids test, assesses the liver's ability to function properly. This test is often used to evaluate pets for a problem called a portosystemic shunt, in which an abnormal blood vessel causes the blood flow to detour around the liver. Because the blood is not properly filtered, toxins build up, causing symptoms such as seizures. This condition is often seen in young, small-breed dogs, though it can occur in any dog or cat. Surgery is generally required to close the abnormal blood vessel so that blood will flow to the liver.

The results of a bile acids test should not be affected by vaccinations. If the test result was abnormal, a board-certified radiologist or internist should perform an abdominal ultrasound exam (sonogram) to look for a portosystemic shunt or other reason that the liver may not be functioning properly. An ultrasound exam is completely painless and noninvasive, so it is nothing to be feared.

a bad case of the hiccups

Q My three-year-old domestic short-haired cat has developed what sounds like the hiccups over the last couple of days, especially when she starts to purr. She stills eats well, drinks and is not lethargic.

Is this an unusual occurrence with cats?

D.M.

A Hiccups are unusual in cats, but they can occur. In some cases, they are caused by a problem inside the chest, such as feline asthma or another issue. You may want to ask your veterinarian to perform radiographs (x-rays) of the lungs. Is your cat really hiccupping, or could she be coughing or gagging? Cats can cough from asthma or heart disease, and they can gag from various problems including viral infections and polyps. If possible, make a video of the episode, and then if you see your veterinarian you will be able to show her or him exactly what is happening.

People & Events

ASPCA Honors Humane Heroes

2007 Awards Presented November 1, 2007, at the Rainbow Room

The annual ASPCA Humane Awards recognize individuals who have worked on behalf of animal welfare, as well as animals who have engaged in acts of heroism, during the past year.



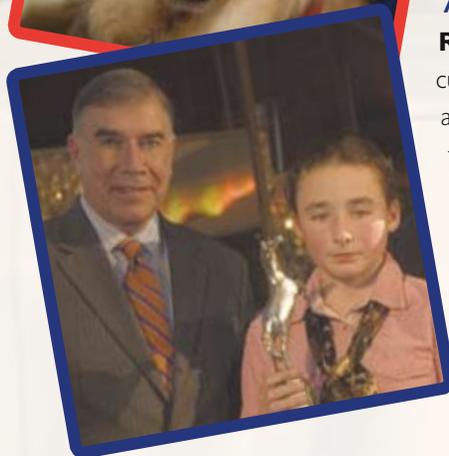
ASPCA Cat of the Year

Winnie, a 14-year-old domestic shorthair cat, saved Cathy, Michael and young Michael Keesling from carbon monoxide poisoning by waking Cathy in the middle of the night. Paramedics rescued all three, who soon recovered thanks to Winnie's heroic efforts. Cathy Keesling found Winnie when she was just days old, abandoned at a neighboring farm. Cathy, who nursed her with milk from an eyedropper, says, "We saved her life, and years later, she saved ours."



ASPCA Dog of the Year

Debbie Parkhurst, a jewelry designer in suburban Maryland, was choking on a piece of apple when her two-year-old Golden Retriever, **Toby**, alarmed by her distress, pushed her to the ground and jumped on her chest until the apple came up. Debbie says she owes her life to Toby, whom she rescued from a dumpster in 2005. Toby enjoys life with Debbie and her husband, Kevin, and he is inseparable from his canine sidekick, a Bassett Hound named Fred.



ASPCA Kid of the Year

Rachel Distefano, a 12-year-old girl, co-founded Amaryllis Farm Rescue, which has rescued more than 50 horses and ponies from slaughter since 2005. Rachel works long hours at her mother's side all summer, and before and after school during the year. Every year, the Distefanos rescue horses destined for slaughterhouses across the country, and work to find them permanent, loving homes on ranches and farms. By giving her heart and soul to horses and the needs of animals, Rachel is a role model for everyone she meets.

ASPCA Firefighter of the Year

On June 24, 2007, New York City Firefighter **William H. Smith III** of Ladder 58 emerged from the flames and impenetrable smoke of an apartment fire at 230 East 196th Street. In one arm, he carried a frightened, small, mixed-breed dog and in the other, a soot-covered cat. Firefighter Smith's act of saving the lives of two helpless animals is clear evidence of his commitment to preserving and protecting the people and pets of New York City.

ASPCA Law Enforcement Officer of the Year

One day after Champ, a five-year-old Palomino, was shot and killed in his pasture in Palmerdale, Alabama, **Deputy Dwight Sloan**, Animal Cruelty Investigator for the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, launched a full-scale investigation. Deputy Sloan solicited the help of an evidence team, veterinarians and county workers to investigate the crime. He also helped raise more than \$10,000 in reward money for information leading to the arrest and conviction of Champ's killer. Deputy Sloan's hard work and dedication led to the confession and arrest of the teenager who fired the fatal bullets.

ASPCA Henry Bergh Award

In 1991, during a particularly competitive game between the Oakland Athletics and the New York Yankees, an orphaned cat darted on the field during play. The A's then-manager, **Tony La Russa**, hurried out onto the diamond to rescue the kitten. Soon after, La Russa and his wife Elaine co-founded the Tony La Russa's Animal Rescue Foundation (ARF), which is committed to the well being of companion animals and educates the public about the human-animal bond, pet overpopulation and homelessness.

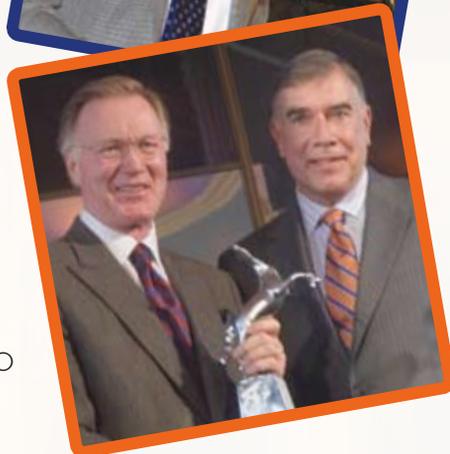
ASPCA Lifetime Achievement Award

Two years ago, **Bill Smith** watched helplessly as a young dog bred in one of Lancaster County's most notorious puppy mills died from a congenital disease caused by inbreeding. The incident spurred Smith to start a billboard campaign aimed at commercial breeders to help educate the public about puppy mills and to push the Pennsylvania state government to enforce kennel laws. Using creative images, such as a Beagle sitting in a dishwasher, Mr. Smith's visual campaign has helped pressure public officials into addressing this urgent issue.

ASPCA Presidential Award

A long-time friend and supporter of the ASPCA, **Chuck Scarborough** is an award-winning anchor at WNBC-TV Channel 4 in New York City. In addition to his popularity on television, Chuck and his wife Ellen are devoted animal lovers and are passionate about making pet adoption their first option®. Their cat Stanley and their dog Oliver were both adopted from the City's Animal Care and Control.

"The Humane Awards Luncheon is our way of recognizing the important role animals play in our lives, the significance of the human-animal bond, and the people who make animal welfare a central part of their lives," says ASPCA President & CEO Edwin Sayres. "These winners are the best of the best."



People & Events

Celebrity Corner: Peter Yarrow, Folk Musician, Peter, Paul & Mary

Q: What was the name of your first pet?

A: Epes, a Hungarian Puli mix, my companion through college.

Q: What's your fondest pet memory?

A: My most joyous memory was playing with Epes, which put each day's challenges into perspective.

Q: Why are groups like the ASPCA important?

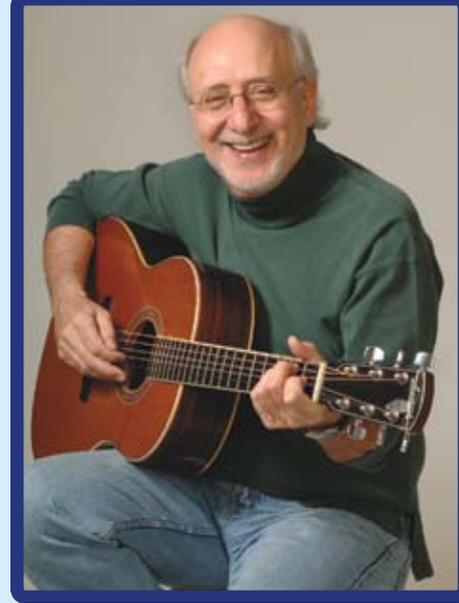
A: These groups provide a model for humane treatment of humans by one another. There is considerable evidence that the humanity with which people treat one another is directly related to how they treat their pets. The ASPCA helps animals, but it also helps us to be better human beings.

Q: Do you share your life with pets?

A: Yes, and joyously so.

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

A: I don't own a pet any more than I own the earth. Instead, we have a relationship based on mutual understanding and appreciation. I appreciate things that are real, that have substance, that have value, and that focus me on life's moments that ultimately make living a delight. Without those moments of fun and communication with my dog, Zach, I would be like any other businessman who has little time for love and family. In short, Zach brings me closer to the essence of life.



There's No Place Like Home

On Saturday, October 27, 2007, more than 75 guests joined actress Vanessa Williams and HomeAgain to launch the "Bring Pets Home Campaign," a national initiative to microchip and enroll two million pets in the HomeAgain Proactive Pet Recovery Service by the end of the year. In return, HomeAgain pledged to donate up to \$250,000 to the Bring Pets Home Foundation, which benefits animal shelters across the country. At the event, Steve Shell, Vice President and General Manager of HomeAgain, presented a \$10,000 check from the Foundation to the ASPCA for its dedication to animal welfare. To date, more than 5.4 million pets have been enrolled in the program.

Love Is in the Air

Calling All Dog Lovers



On Tuesday, February 12, 2008, there will be a Pre-Valentine's Day celebration with dog lovers and their four-legged friends! Come celebrate with Leashes and Lovers at the Crash Mansion at 199 Bowery in New York City from 7:00 p.m.–10:00 p.m. Admission: \$30 in advance, \$40 at the door. There will be fabulous raffle prizes with 100 percent of the proceeds benefiting the ASPCA. You can also get up close and personal with some of the ASPCA's most lovable, adoptable dogs. There will be, of course, much more, including the opportunity to meet fellow dog lovers. Love is in the air! For more information, go to www.leashesandlovers.com.

Love the One You're With

On Friday and Saturday, February 1–2, 2008, New York's renowned "photograph-fur" Geoff Tischman will shoot studio-quality photographs of people and their beloved pets—all for a minimum \$75 donation to the ASPCA. Individual thirty-minute photo sessions—usually valued at \$500—will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. each day at ASPCA headquarters at 424 East 92nd Street in Manhattan. Proud pet parents get a 5" by 7" photo of their choice, with an option to order more photos, custom prints and cards. What's more, Geoff, who is donating his services, will also contribute 50 percent of the proceeds of any additional orders to the ASPCA. To book a photo session, call (212) 876-7700 x 4586. For more information or questions, contact Claire McCabe at (212) 876-7700, ext 4500.



Giving Unconditional Love



Kristen Johnston, the Emmy Award-winning actress, spotted Cookie, a Pit mix, at a recent ASPCA Mobile Adoption event in New York's Hell's Kitchen neighborhood. Cookie had been rescued by Special Agent Adam Gankiewicz, and she underwent surgery to repair a broken hip at the ASPCA's Bergh Memorial Animal Hospital. Kristen gladly adopted Cookie and promptly renamed her Pinky. She writes:

"Pinky's doing great—She's a great snuggler, and she lounges on the couch at night making little joyful sounds. I've never rescued a dog who was this sweet from the very start."

A star of the stage and screen, Ms. Johnston received her Emmy Award for her role as Sally on "3rd Rock from the Sun," and she continues to delight audiences in such comedic turns as Lexi Featherstone in "Sex in the City" and as Drew Barrymore's older sister Rhonda in the romantic-comedy "Music & Lyrics." She is an avid and compassionate supporter of animal rescue, having rescued several lovable, homeless pups in the past.

Your Stories

Billy's Legacy of Love

Valerie J.C., Washington Heights, New York

My dog Billy was, for most of his short life, an unlicensed therapy dog. I toyed with making Billy legit by enrolling us in an ASPCA certificate class, but I didn't think he needed more training. Though we would have liked for him to visit nursing homes and hospitals, we decided "Billy therapy" would be relegated to the streets of Washington Heights, where he was officially "on duty" whenever we stepped out of our apartment building. Billy coaxed smiles, hugs and kisses while we were out and about. In return, he gave mega doses of love.

Billy, a.k.a. the Love Dog, lapped up every attention-filled moment. Everyone loved Billy. Guys liked hanging out with him because he was cool; women liked him because he was sweet. But no one loved Billy more than I—his constant companion.

The entire neighborhood shared our pain when we found out that Billy, our lovable Bernese Mountain Dog, was diagnosed with malignant histiocytic sarcoma. Billy ended his fight in May 2007, but not before more than 100 friends and family gathered to celebrate him at a party in his honor. Donations totaling \$1,750 were collected at Billy's Bash and given to the ASPCA.



Mending Broken Hearts

Nancy N., Sheboygan, Wisconsin

Our hearts were broken when we had to put down our 12-year-old Old English Sheepdog/Lab mix after he became ill. Soon after Jeb died, I began to visit a local animal shelter. I wasn't looking for another dog; I just wanted to be near them. On one visit, however, I saw him—sad, skinny and depressed. The staff told me he was a "runner" who had been there before. He had fleas and his ears were infected. The shelter told me that they were waiting for his current owner to come claim him.

My husband and I visited him regularly, taking him for walks. On one visit, we learned that his owner didn't want him. He had to be neutered, and he had some skin problems. Every time we went to see him, however, he was calm, and he finally snapped out of his depression.

We've now had "Shoobie" for a year. My husband took him to obedience school, mainly for bonding. He's smart, gentle and gets along well with our cat, Max, and our grandchildren. He did need to be taught some manners because he didn't know what was expected of him. I was also told that he didn't play with toys. He now does, and even brings them to us! Shoobie is a great dog and a wonderful addition to our home.



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

E-mail us: ASPCAAction@aspc.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.aspc.org for more information.

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