

ASPCA[®] *Action*

SPRING 2009



Helping
Build a
**HUMANE
FUTURE**
for All

Humane Education
GET INVOLVED!



THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS®
 ASPCA ACTION VOLUME 5 SPRING 2009

PRESIDENT'S NOTE



A NOTE FROM EDWIN SAYRES:

Preventing cruelty comes naturally to the ASPCA®; it's in our name, and it's our mission.

While we fight animal cruelty day in and day out, April, being Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Month, is a great time for us to take stock of our progress and celebrate the human-animal bond.

The unconditional love we get from our companion animals is one of the greatest gifts in life, and nothing is more essential to the future of America's pets than educating our children about animal awareness. The ASPCA's dedication to Humane Education remains at the forefront of our efforts as it helps to foster kindness, respect and empathy for all living creatures in a whole new generation. For every child we can reach and instill a reverence for animals, another animal's life may be saved.

As an ASPCA supporter, you can help change the face of the animal welfare movement. Together we can educate our children, cultivate those who are passionate about the movement but just don't have the resources to be more involved, and engage and inspire the entire country to go orange on behalf of animals, not just in April, but every day of the year. As the 16th president of the ASPCA, I am proud to have been given the honor of leading America's first animal welfare organization, and I am well aware of the critical role ASPCA members play in helping our organization save animals' lives. Thank you for making a difference.

Edwin Sayres
 President & CEO

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

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ASPCA® Humane Education

Promoting Compassion and Respect for All Living Things

For more than 143 years, the mission of the ASPCA® has been to provide effective means for the prevention of cruelty to animals throughout the United States. Key to fulfillment of this mission is the vast array of Humane Education programs the ASPCA offers—programs that provide relevant, high-quality materials and resources for educators, parents and students. Sheryl Pipe, Ph.D., ASPCA Senior Director of Humane Education says, “You cannot quantify the importance of humane education in advancing the ASPCA’s efforts. This organization recognized long ago how crucial it is to educate people—particularly our nation’s youth—about the humane treatment of animals and how to prevent cruelty.” Long ago is right: the ASPCA Humane Education Department was founded in 1916 when it encouraged students to give

their time, talent and treasures to support the horses who were serving in World War I. “The ASPCA’s early encouragement of people to perform community service to promote animal welfare is still very prominent in the work we do today,” says Dr. Pipe. “By reinstating service, we have, in no small way, returned to our roots.”

Service Learning: Getting People Involved

Dr. Pipe describes service learning as combining community service projects with academic and social learning. While it is just one aspect of Humane Education at the ASPCA today, it’s an important one, as evidenced by three exciting and creative partnerships the ASPCA formed in 2008. In one, the ASPCA joined with DoSomething.org (www.dosomething.org), an online com-



munity where teens gather to exchange ideas and make the world a better place. Animal welfare is one of the top concerns of teens today, and the partnership addresses those youngsters—who collectively visit the website 21,000 times a month—by providing teen-friendly resources and content about animal welfare, and empowering them

What is Humane Education?

Humane education teaches us how to care for the animals in our homes and communities. It fosters kindness, respect and empathy for all beings, and it teaches responsible stewardship of the environment and its diverse inhabitants. Humane education has one simple goal: to make the world a more humane place.

to “do something” to make a difference in animals’ lives. Through this partnership, the ASPCA has already awarded ten \$500 grants to young people across the country who have implemented animal welfare projects.

Another of the ASPCA’s service-learning partnerships is with Learning to Give (www.learningtogive.org), the curriculum division of The LEAGUE, a national service-learning organization. The new collaboration makes free educational resources available to schools nationwide via the Internet. One such resource is *Paw Prints to Learning*, a collection of lesson plans, literature guides, informational profiles and activities that teach children from preschool through high school about animals and their welfare. Interest in the program has generated 4,000 hits on the website per month, just five months into the program.

The ASPCA also collaborated with Cathryn Berger Kaye, M.A., and Free Spirit Publishing to create *A Kids’ Guide to Protecting & Caring for Animals*, a service-oriented workbook that teaches children in grade 6 and higher about animal welfare and provides resources for action. One reviewer called it “a wonderful guide to compassionate and responsible treatment of creatures who cannot speak for themselves.”

Promoting Humane Treatment Through Books

The ASPCA encourages the humane treatment of animals through a variety of other avenues as well, including the ASPCA Henry Bergh Children’s Book Awards.

“Books are an important way to get messages across in explicit and implicit ways,” says Dr. Pipe. “Combining good-quality children’s literature with a humane theme is a powerful way to impart our message.” The ASPCA Henry Bergh Children’s Book Awards honor books for children and young adults that promote compassion and respect for all living things. The ASPCA also publishes *Kids, Animals and Literature*, an

extensive, annotated listing of books that convey a humane message. In addition, it has established Henry’s Book Club, which helps teachers, parents and kids to form local book clubs by providing support materials and book recommendations.

Books also play a vital role in the ASPCA New York City-based *Paws ‘n Books* program, which encourages elementary school-age children to practice their skills by reading aloud to a registered therapy animal. Therapy animals don’t pass judgments, so the reading environment is secure and fun for the kids, and improves their confidence and skills. What’s more, the books—all ASPCA Henry Bergh Children’s Book Award winners—impart humane lessons to

the children. “Our long-range vision,” Dr. Pipe says, “is to bring the program to all of our ASPCA® Mission: Orange™ communities in the future.”

Educating Teachers and Parents to Carry the Message to Kids

The ASPCA also offers several programs that reach kids through the most influential people in their lives—parents and teachers. In New York City, ASPCA Mission: Orange communities and beyond, the ASPCA trains teachers and provides materials they can use themselves in their classrooms, thereby facilitating the dissemination of the ASPCA’s humane message across the country. A resource for about 10,000 teachers nationally





The ASPCA offers children, parents and teachers great lessons that promote the humane treatment of animals.

is a quarterly online newsletter entitled *AnimaLessons*®, aimed at teachers of grades K through 8, which contains information on a particular topic along with related national education standards-based activities in which the children can engage. The ASPCA has recently begun to devote one issue a year to such current subjects as Animal CSI and dog fighting, topics well suited for students in grades 3 through 8. In recognition of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Month in April, the ASPCA created a special issue on how to prevent animal cruelty for pre-K through grade 12. (You can sign up for an electronic subscription to *AnimaLessons* at www.aspcaeducation.org.) The ASPCA also reaches kids directly through *Animaland Pages*®, a full-color handout tied to the theme of *AnimaLessons*. Each issue contains stories and activities that entertain while they educate.

The ASPCA communicates with parents online through newsletters that offer tips on how to create fun projects with their children that encourage them to care for all animals. It also offers advice on issues such as helping kids cope with the death of a pet and how to nurture their humane choices.

Teaching the World to Be Humane

The ASPCA Humane Education Department also offers Pet Parenting Workshops designed for the new pet guardian. These

workshops are fun, interactive classes that cover such topics as the responsibilities of pet guardianship, dispelling myths surrounding pets, pet care and bite prevention. The ASPCA has customized this workshop as needed. For example, the Habitat for Humanity chapter in Austin requested an elective Pet Parenting Workshop for new Habitat homeowners who wanted to adopt a pet. The ASPCA not only created and conducted the workshop, it also arranged with local ASPCA Mission: Orange partners for Habitat homeowners to have adoption fees waived. The ASPCA has now taken the components of this workshop and “packaged” them for humane educators with the idea that they can be hosted in various communities across the country, thereby

extending the reach of the organization’s humane message.

What’s on the ASPCA Humane Education agenda for 2009? Dr. Pipe says that two of the chief goals for her department will be to update all educational materials and create new ones for educators. She says, “Our programs are important because they provide us with the opportunity to instill humane values across many venues, from homes to schools to libraries—even to houses of worship. We’d like to see humane education incorporated into all subjects in a school curriculum, and we think our programs and materials will help us to achieve that goal.” For more on the ASPCA Humane Education programs, please visit www.aspcaeducation.org. ■

“The ASPCA recognized long ago how crucial it is to educate people—particularly our nation’s youth—about the humane treatment of animals and how to prevent cruelty.”

—Sheryl Pipe, Ph.D.,
ASPCA Senior Director of Humane Education

Top 10 Ways YOU Can Prevent Animal Cruelty

You can help crack down on animal cruelty in your community! Read on for tips on making the world a safer place for animals.

1 **Be aware.** Preventing cruelty starts with YOU. Look out for the animals in your neighborhood and watch for signs of abuse.

2 **Learn to recognize the signs of cruelty.**

- Tick or flea infestation

- Patches of missing hair or thin, starving animals

- Animals who are limping or appear to have untreated wounds

- An owner striking or otherwise physically abusing an animal

- Dogs who are repeatedly left alone without food and water, chained up in a yard or kept outside without shelter

- Animals who cower or act aggressively when approached by their owners

3 **Know who to call.** At the ASPCA®, we have Humane Law Enforcement officers who arrest perpetrators of animal cruelty in New York. In other areas, you may have to call your police department, animal control officer or other municipal agency. To find out how to report cruelty, please visit www.fightcruelty.org.

4 **Provide facts.** The details you provide can assist the investigating officer. Note the type of cruelty that you witnessed and other details.

5 **Call or write your local law enforcement department.** Urge them to investigate crimes of animal cruelty.

6 **Know your state's cruelty laws.** You can visit the ASPCA online database at www.fightcruelty.org to see more than 550 animal cruelty laws—and their penalties—in all 50 states.

7 **Fight for stronger laws by joining the ASPCA Advocacy Brigade.** Stronger laws mean tougher penalties. As an ASPCA Advocacy Brigade member, you'll be asked to write letters encouraging your

legislators to pass these laws. Please join at www.asPCA.org/lobby.

8 **Set a good example for others.** If you have pets, show them the love and care they deserve. Take your pet to the veterinarian regularly and be sure he or she is altered.

9 **Talk to your kids about how to treat animals with kindness and respect.** Teach your children that animals are living creatures who have the ability to feel pain, joy and sadness.

10 **Support your local shelter or rescue organization.** You can find a list of shelters and rescue groups in your area in our National Shelter Directory at www.asPCA.org/adoption. ■



Photo courtesy: Animal Planet

ASPCA® Rescues 260 Dogs...



Many puppy mill dogs live crowded in wire cages and never see the light of day.

...from Miserable Life in Tennessee Puppy Mill



The ASPCA Mobile Animal CSI Unit collects evidence at the crime scene.

Early on February 11, 2009, the ASPCA®, along with the White County, Tennessee Sheriff's Department, launched a surprise raid on a large local puppy mill, seizing 260 small-breed dogs. The dogs, including Boston and Jack Russell Terriers, Dachshunds, Pomeranians, Shih Tzus, Chihuahuas, Poodles, Miniature Pinschers and Schnauzers, were suffering from a lack of fundamental care, such as little to no food or water, feces-encrusted pens and a lack of

proper ventilation. Physical problems such as matting, sores, mange, poor teeth and abscesses were common. Several of the dogs were pregnant.

Dr. Melinda Merck, ASPCA Senior Director of Veterinary Forensics, immediately examined animals in critical condition in the ASPCA Mobile Animal Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) Unit. Dogs needing emergency care were transferred to local veterinarians, while two local humane organizations arranged temporary sheltering of others. Along with evaluating the dogs, Dr. Merck collected evidence for the criminal prosecution of the puppy mill's owners. More than a dozen other ASPCA Disaster Response and legislative professionals were also on the ground to assist.

The raid demonstrated the vital role that the ASPCA Mobile Animal CSI Unit plays in the organization's battle against animal cruelty. Outfitted with advanced medical tools and equipment to process crime scene evidence, the ASPCA Mobile CSI Unit allows ASPCA forensic experts to ensure the integrity of evidence and provide a reliable chain

of custody. In just over one year of operation, the ASPCA Mobile CSI Unit has participated in a dozen investigations nationwide.

The raid also showcased the close working relationship the ASPCA has with the other agencies involved, including the White County Sheriff's Department, the Humane Society of the United States, the American Humane Association and the Nashville Humane Association. The raid's aftermath



Dr. Melinda Merck, ASPCA Senior Director of Veterinary Forensics, briefs the press.



An ASPCA staff member comforts Allie, a puppy mill rescue.



Barbara and Richard Sheirer of Staten Island cuddle Archie, an 18-month-old Dachshund.

showed the importance of follow-up assistance. Ten veterinary clinics donated their services to treat the animals, and PetSmart® Charities provided free supplies and food. The White County Sheriff's Office gave custody of the dogs to the ASPCA, which then worked to find animal welfare organizations to take in the puppies. Nine humane groups stepped forward to continue the dogs' care, provide transportation or place them in permanent homes. In addition to the ASPCA, these groups included the Humane Society of South Mississippi, Charleston Animal Society, Tailwaggers for Life, SPCA of Texas, A Place to Bark, South Paw Rescue, All American Dachshund Rescue and Dream Rescue.

43 dogs made the 13-hour journey to the ASPCA Adoption Center in New York City, and public interest in their welfare ran high. Gail Buchwald, ASPCA Senior Vice President of the ASPCA Adoption Center, warned prospective pet parents to be realistic. "These dogs need adopters who can take time to train, housebreak, socialize and teach them basic obedience," she said. "They have never lived in a home environment and will need extra care and patience." Jeff Eyre, ASPCA Director of Field Operations, echoed her cautionary words: "I doubt that any of these dogs have ever been walked on a leash; many have never been outdoors."

That wise advice did not deter potential pet parents: more than 300 prospective adopters



Travis Tuthill and Silvia Martin hold Pretzel, a six-month-old Shih Tzu.

lined up as early as 4:00 a.m. on adoption day. All of the adoptable dogs found new forever homes. Among the adopters were Silvia Martin and Travis Tuthill, who stood patiently in line to adopt a six-month-old Shih Tzu named Pretzel. Another adopter, Richard Sheirer, drove from Staten Island with his wife Barbara and son Paul to adopt Archie, an 18-month-old Dachshund. Richard, the former Commissioner of Emergency Management for the City of New York, worked closely with the ASPCA after 9/11 to help care for the search and rescue dogs who worked at Ground Zero. The ASPCA warmly thanks

everyone involved for helping to provide such happy outcomes for Pretzel and Archie—and for the other 260 needy dogs rescued in that early morning raid in Tennessee. For more information about puppy mills, our rescue efforts and how you can help fight animal cruelty, please visit www.asPCA.org/pupPymills. ■

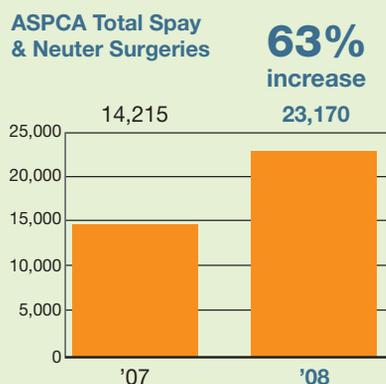
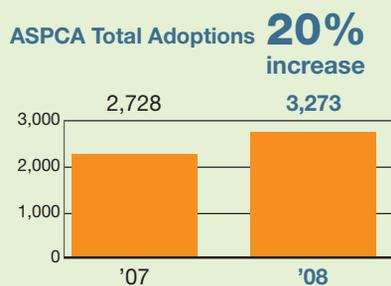


Ziggy meets his new pet parent, Jessica Garcia.

News Briefs

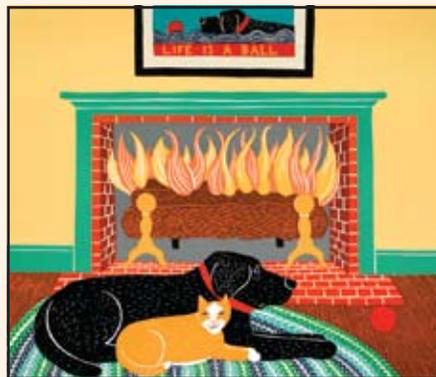
ASPCA® Drives Double-Digit Spay/Neuter and Adoption Increases in 2008

Spay/neuter surgeries and adoptions at the ASPCA® and its mobile facilities rose dramatically in 2008—by 63% and 20% respectively, according to ASPCA President & CEO Ed Sayres. He says, “The plight of homeless animals is still a significant concern in New York, but by focusing on increasing adoptions and preventing unwanted litters, we are increasing the number of lives we can save.” Sayres says that more animals were altered in 2008 than ever before in ASPCA history, due partly to the addition of a fourth mobile spay/neuter clinic to the ASPCA fleet in January 2008, which increased surgery capacity by 6,000 animals. The adoption growth rate is one of the largest the ASPCA has experienced in one year, success that is attributed in part to the \$5 million renovation of the ASPCA Adoption Center, which increased its adoption capacity by 40%. ■



Beloved Dog Artist Donates Portion of Sales Proceeds to ASPCA

Stephen Huneck, the nation’s best-selling dog artist, is donating 50% of the retail price of his unframed giclées and woodcut prints to the ASPCA through September 30, 2009. Huneck, whose charming and amusing modern folk style is instantly recognizable, is beloved by many for his depictions of dogs. He is also known for the whimsical Dog Chapel he built on Dog Mountain in St. Johnsbury, Vermont. The chapel, designed with a dog theme, is open to members of the public and their four-legged friends, and it will be featured in the June issue of *Architectural Digest*. Huneck says that the Dog Chapel is a “place where people can go and celebrate the spiritual bond they have with their dogs.” Of his



A classic design by Stephen Huneck

craft, he says, “I try to give my work an almost magical energy that makes the viewer feel good.” To order Huneck’s artwork, please visit www.dogmt.com. ■



Allison Cardona, Director, ASPCA Disaster Response, works with local Texas animal control.

ASPCA Concludes Disaster Training in 10 States

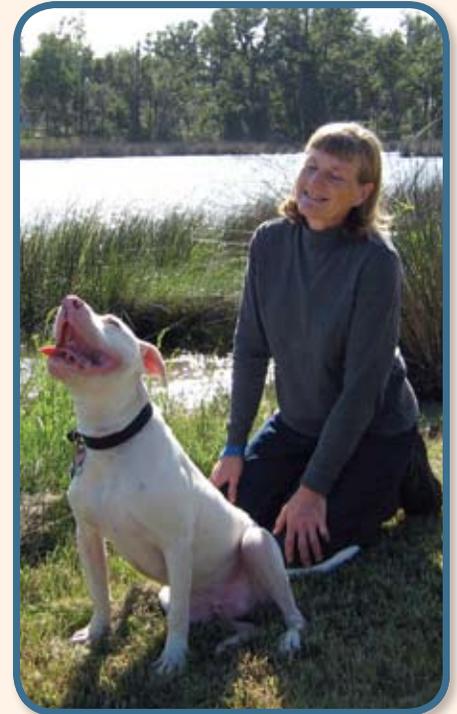
In disaster planning, many underestimate the importance of providing for the safety and welfare of companion animals. Although many pet parents would willingly endanger themselves to protect their animals, many individuals, communities and agencies are unaware of this fact—and many do not consider a disaster strategy for companion animals as necessary. The ASPCA and the University of Illinois Regional Institute for Community Policing (RICP) set out to change that in 2006, when they launched an initiative to encourage coordination of preparedness, response and recovery in a catastrophe. Over the next 31 months, the program educated officials, emergency personnel and community members in 10 states on disaster preparedness. Dr. Patricia Rushing, Director of RICP, says she was pleased to see participants’ attitudes change as they realized that aggressive pre-disaster planning for animals keeps families safe. For further information on disaster planning for your pets, please visit the RICP website at <http://ricp.uis.edu>. ■

ASPCA Mobile Animal CSI Unit Marks First Anniversary with Dog Fighting Raid

One year after it was unveiled, the ASPCA Mobile Animal Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) Unit was hard at work, assisting in a raid of a dog fighting operation in McGrady, North Carolina. The raid resulted in the seizure of 127 dogs and an array of suspected dog fighting paraphernalia. Dr. Melinda Merck, ASPCA Senior Director of Veterinary Forensics, was on the scene, assisting with the raid and evaluating the seized dogs, while Jeff Eyre, ASPCA Director of Field Operations, helped with the crime scene investigation and documentation. In its first year, the ASPCA Mobile CSI Unit, a



specially designed vehicle outfitted with sophisticated forensics tools and medical supplies, has traveled thousands of miles investigating numerous acts of animal cruelty. A forensics “first,” the CSI vehicle has advanced the prosecution of animal cruelty and helped to strengthen cases against offenders by incorporating veterinary forensics into crime scene investigations. ■



Gunther and Rebecca Hengen

New ASPCA Book Series Spotlights Children’s Special Bond with Animals

The ASPCA has forged an agreement with Howell Book House™ to create an exciting new series of books that celebrate the special connection that children share with animals. The new ASPCA Kids book series, which spotlights the relationship between kids and pets, will feature such titles as *Amazing Pet Tricks*, *Kids Making a Difference for Animals*, *Animals at Work* and *Having Fun with Your Dog*. “We are thrilled to have co-created this new series of children’s books for the animal-loving public,” says Ed Sayres, President & CEO of the ASPCA. “One of the best ways to achieve our vision of a humane culture and society is to continue educating youth about the importance of compassion toward animals. We hope these books will inspire many future animal advocates in this country.” The books can be purchased at www.aspcanlinestore.org and are also available at bookstores across the country. ■



Voters Pick Top Dog in Adopt-A-Bull Contest

In early February, the ASPCA asked animal lovers to vote for the Grand Prize Winner in the ASPCA® Meet Your Match® Adopt-A-Bull Contest. Voters picked a pet parent and Pit Bull duo from the contest’s quarter finalists. When the 23,000 votes were counted, Gunther, a gentle, deaf Pit Bull from Gulfport, Miss., and his pet parent, Rebecca Hengen, took top billing. In lieu of the grand prize of a photo shoot and bronze statue made in Gunther’s likeness, the pair will be donating the estimated value of the prize, \$1,500, to the Humane Society of South Mississippi (HSSM). In addition to this generous gift, HSSM, which made the match, wins a \$5,000 grant and a trip to the Big Apple for its staffers. The contest, sponsored by Animal Farm Foundation, was aimed at highlighting the positive attributes of the American Pit Bull Terrier and other so-called “bully breeds.” It was open to both pet parents and shelters who made adoptions through the ASPCA® Meet Your Match® Canine-ality™ adoption program. ■

HELPING PET PARENTS LIVE
BETTER WITH THEIR PETS, AND
HELPING ALL PETS LIVE BETTER!

The ASPCA® Collection – now available at Walmart! The nation's largest retailer has partnered with the ASPCA to offer our line of high quality pet care products in the ASPCA Collection enabling people to take good care of their pets and enhance the human-animal bond. Just as the ASPCA is the voice for companion animals, ASPCA branded pet products are "What they'd ask for if they could"™. Furthermore, a percentage of the purchase price supports the ASPCA's important work in providing effective means for the prevention of cruelty to animals throughout the United States!

The ASPCA Collection at Walmart includes:

Pet Collars, Leashes and Harnesses to keep your pets safe and secure on walks.

Pet Gates that help keep dogs safely confined to one area of your home.

Dog Houses that provide temporary protection from the elements.

Pet Carriers, a safe and convenient way to bring your best friend with you when you travel.

Home Training Kennels that help to keep dogs safely confined while at home or away.

Dog Toys that will enhance your bond with your pooch through playtime.

Outdoor Kennels (at walmart.com), a great alternative for keeping your pets safe while outdoors when fencing your yard is not an option.



Each ASPCA Collection package features "Dr. Z's Pet Care Tips" from ASPCA's own certified animal behaviorist, Dr. Stephen Zawistowski, Executive Vice President of ASPCA Programs and Science Advisor.

Product selection may vary by store. Many are also available at walmart.com.



Owners are begging for
these products too.

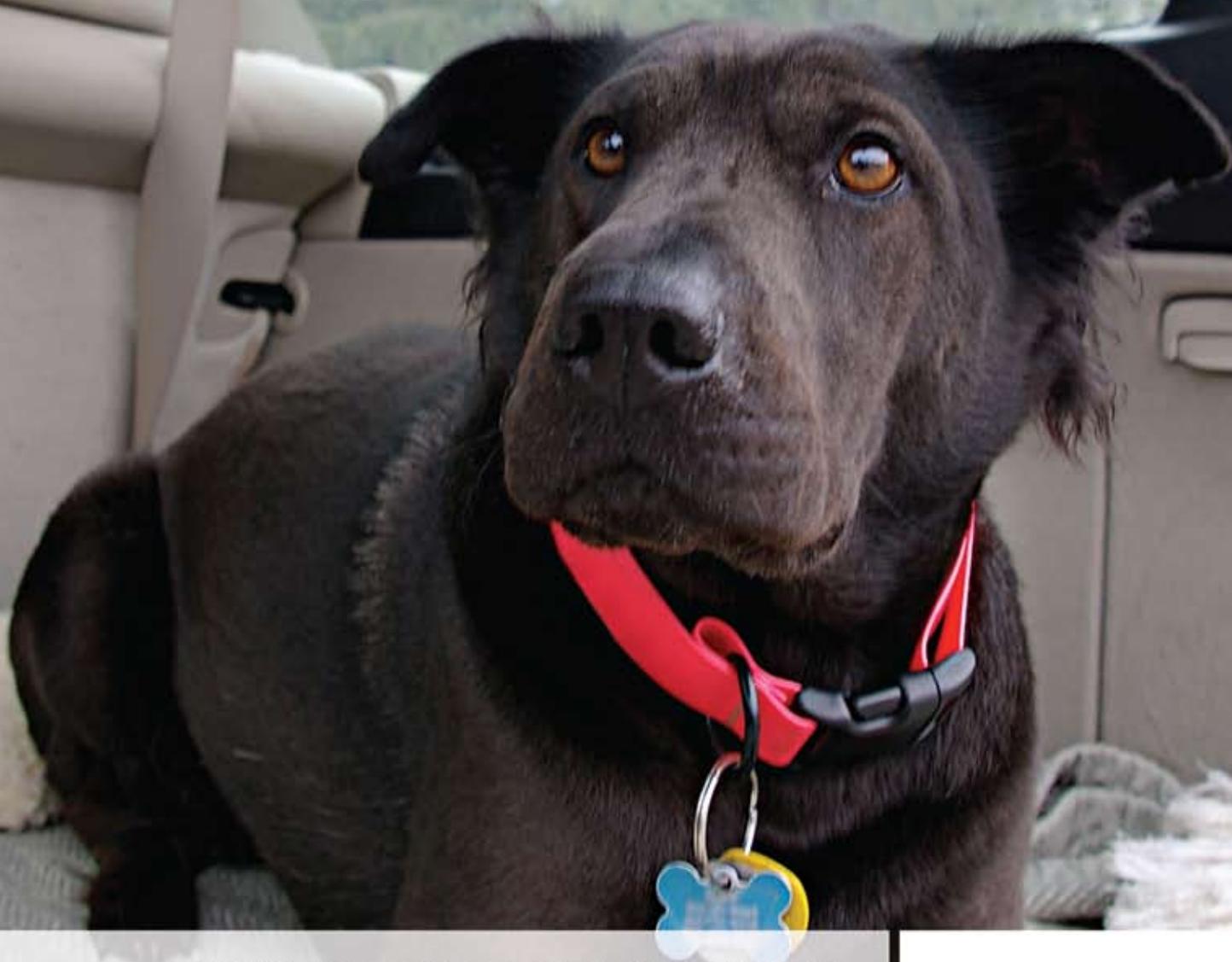


Now, there is a complete collection of pet accessories developed with ASPCA animal behaviorists and pet experts. From collars and leashes to carriers and shelters, toys to training kennels, the ASPCA Collection items help build positive relationships between you and your pet. Additional ASPCA Collection items are available at www.Walmart.com/pets.



A percentage of the purchase price supports ASPCA efforts to prevent animal cruelty in the US. Up to 4% of the purchase price of ASPCA Collection products sold at Walmart, for a minimum guaranteed donation of \$760,000.

Without dogs, how would we get rid of that new car smell?



Some things are just a natural fit. That's why we're pleased to announce that Subaru is now a proud partner of the ASPCA. Together, we'll help protect our four-legged friends. Because after all the affection pets have shown us, they deserve some back. **Love. It's what makes a Subaru, a Subaru.**



Learn more at subaru.com

The ASPCA® and Subaru recommend restraining your pet while inside a vehicle.

**BUY SOMETHING
BEAUTIFUL.**



**HELP SOMEONE
ADORABLE.**



Purchase a Teleflora bouquet, and 20% will go to the ASPCA®.
There are hundreds of bouquets. Best of all, you're supporting the ASPCA with every purchase.

www.ASPCA.flowerclub.com
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TOGETHER WE CAN STOP ANIMAL CRUELTY.



In 2008, the ASPCA received over two million dollars from donors giving through their workplace via payroll deductions and corporate matching gifts. With the help of thousands of individuals who have donated to us at work, the program is more successful now than ever before. It is because of your commitment to the animals we so proudly serve that the ASPCA is reaching new heights in our fight to end animal cruelty throughout the United States. Thank you to all of you who gave to us in 2008—we are truly grateful for your support.

- For information on giving through your workplace, please contact Nada Polanco at nadap@aspc.org or 212-876-7700, extension 4502.
- Questions about corporate matching gift programs can be directed to Dea Taylor at deat@aspc.org or 212-876-7700, extension 4576.

ASPCA
WE ARE THEIR VOICE.™

YOUR BEST FRIEND DESERVES THE BEST PROTECTION

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

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

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



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

ASPCA[®]
**PET HEALTH
INSURANCE**

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

*Excludes Safety Plan.

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

Plans may not be available in all states. See coverage terms and conditions for a full description of the scope and limitations of coverage.

Plans are underwritten by the United States Fire Insurance Company.



\$3,500

◆ **Saugerties, New York**

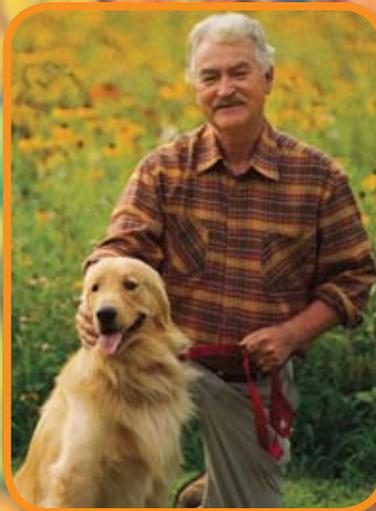
CATSKILL ANIMAL SANCTUARY



\$45,000

◆ **Austin, Texas**

AUSTIN HUMANE SOCIETY



\$1,500

◆ **Wickliffe, Ohio**

PETS FOR THE ELDERLY

Your Dollars at Work

◆ Saugerties, New York

A \$3,500 grant was made to the Catskill Animal Sanctuary for the rehabilitation of Little Bit, a 20-year-old pony seized in Brooklyn, N.Y. by ASPCA® Humane Law Enforcement agents. Her owner relinquished custody because Little Bit had severe laminitis and was no longer able to work. The grant will cover veterinary expenses and long-term care of the pony, now named Pippin. ■

◆ Austin, Texas

A \$45,000 grant was made for third-year funding of the Austin Humane Society's (AHS) Feral Cat Program, which advocates the trap, neuter and return (TNR) of feral cats. The ASPCA's funds have enabled AHS to add additional clinic days to meet the increasing need for the TNR of feral cats. ■

◆ Wickliffe, Ohio

A \$1,500 grant was made to support Pets for the Elderly, which brings together elderly people and unwanted animals. The group donates money to animal shelters across the country, enabling elderly people who cannot afford adoption fees to acquire a pet. The program has placed more than 29,000 animals with senior citizens since 1996. ■

◆ Tucson, Arizona

A \$5,000 grant was made to the Humane Society of Southern Arizona to support its anti-cruelty task force, as well as the work of the Animal Cruelty Taskforce of Southern Arizona (ACT). The funds will provide for the production of literature, professional training and the implementation of court-ordered classes and intervention services for adult and juvenile offenders. ■

◆ Salisbury, Massachusetts

A \$2,000 grant was made to Merrimack River Feline Rescue Society, Salisbury, MA to provide spay/neuter surgery on their "Catmobile"—a mobile clinic staffed by veterinarians and veterinary technicians. The Catmobile, which has a capacity to sterilize 8,000 cats per year, travels a local interstate and parks at host sites in communities that are underserved. The ASPCA grant will provide surgeries for feral cats in trap, neuter and return programs. ■



\$5,000

◆ Tucson, Arizona

HUMANE SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN ARIZONA



\$2,000

◆ Salisbury, Massachusetts

MERRIMACK RIVER FELINE RESCUE SOCIETY

Federal Highlights

ASPCA® Leads the Fight to End Puppy Mills

The ASPCA's battle to end cruel conditions in puppy mills went into high gear in early 2009. *ASPCA Action* recently sat down with Cori A. Menkin, Esq., ASPCA Senior Director of Legislative Initiatives, to find out more about puppy mills, what the ASPCA is doing about them, and what members can do to help.

What is a puppy mill?

CM: Simply put, a puppy mill is a large-scale commercial breeding operation where profit is given a higher priority than the well-being of the dogs.

What happens at puppy mills?

CM: At many puppy mills, sanitation is appalling. Illnesses, diseases and lack of socialization with humans and other animals are common among puppy mill dogs. A general lack of veterinary care leaves dogs to suffer, and indiscriminate breeding results in hereditary diseases in puppies. Puppies as young as eight weeks are sold through pet shops.



Cori A. Menkin, Esq., on the scene of the February puppy mill raid in Tennessee where 260 dogs were rescued.



Many puppy mill cages are overcrowded, with dogs standing in their own waste.

What are conditions like at puppy mills?

CM: Conditions at some puppy mills can be devastating, particularly for breeding mothers. Cramped cages are stacked on top of each other. The floors are usually wire, so urine and feces fall onto the dogs below, even if there are partitions. The breeding mothers never leave their cages; they spend their entire lives inside, and they seldom see the light of day. They are undernourished or even emaciated. A lack of grooming leads to overgrown toenails and severely matted fur. The breeding females are bred every heat cycle. When they can no longer reproduce, they are typically drowned or shot.

How has the issue of puppy mills been addressed at the federal level?

CM: The Animal Welfare Act, which was passed in 1966, requires breeders to be licensed by the U.S.D.A. if they have more than three female breeding dogs and sell puppies wholesale or to pet stores. However, the law does not cover anyone selling dogs directly to the public, which includes through the Internet. Thousands of high-volume breeders are neither regulated nor inspected. The ASPCA's goal is to strengthen laws to protect puppy mill dogs and enact new ones, such as the Puppy Uniform Protection Statute (PUPS), which

“It’s surprising how much opposition there is to simple commonsense changes that should be made in this industry, yet when we try to pass a law protecting dogs in puppy mills, all kinds of interest groups come out of the woodwork to fight us. It just doesn’t make sense to object to humane treatment of companion animals.”

—Cori A. Menkin, Esq., ASPCA Senior Director of Legislative Initiatives, Government Relations

was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives in September 2008. PUPS will require licensing and regulation of commercial breeders who sell puppies directly to the public, including those who sell online, and it will require dogs held by licensed breeders to be exercised daily. Though the legislation died last session, we expect it to be reintroduced in 2009, and we’ll take it on as a major federal initiative.

What is being done at the state level?

CM: There are state laws regulating commercial breeders in some states, but none in others. In states with laws, we usually see poor enforcement, so we are working with state agencies to step up enforcement. At the same time, we are trying to strengthen the laws themselves. We are also supporting legislation in certain states, such as Texas and California, where no one is currently inspecting breeders selling directly to the public, in order to improve conditions for dogs.

Where have you seen the biggest victories recently?

CM: We’re proud of our efforts in Pennsylvania, which now has one of the strongest

laws in the country. We’ve also worked with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, which has recently increased enforcement. Puppy mill dogs are much better protected now in Pennsylvania due to our efforts.

Why is it important for ASPCA members and all animal lovers to get involved in this battle as advocates?

CM: From a legislative perspective, we’re simply asking for decent and humane treatment for puppy mill dogs. It’s common sense. But some legislators discount our efforts because they see us as “crazy animal rights” people. Legislators listen to their constituents, so the more they write to them in a factual and respectful way, the more likely we are to see results. From a consumer perspective, it’s important that people know not to buy dogs in pet stores or over the Internet. Doing so perpetuates the puppy mill industry and condemns the parents of that puppy to a lifetime of misery in a puppy mill. Check your local shelter first. If you can’t find the dog you want there, try a breed rescue group. If you’re still unsuccessful, learn how to recognize a responsible breeder! For more information on how to assist in this effort, please go to www.aspc.org/pupmills. ■



A trio of rescued puppies awaiting evaluation by ASPCA staff.



Norm and Paula Bell with the rescued puppy Bernadette.

State Highlights

ASPCA® Scores Numerous State and City

California

With the Election Day passage of Proposition 2, The Standards for Confining Farm Animals Act (effective: January 1, 2015), the State of California received an overwhelming public mandate to stop some of the worst abuses in factory farming. The Standards for Confining Farm Animals Act will ban the practice of confining veal calves, breeding pigs and laying hens in cages and crates so small that they cannot turn around, lie down, stand up or fully extend their limbs. This legislation champions the principle that all animals deserve humane treatment, including those raised for food. ■

Illinois

H.B. 198/S.B. 53—“Chloe’s Bill,” a bill that will strengthen the laws regulating commercial dog breeding, was introduced by State Representative John Fritchey and State Senator Dan Kotowski. Its passage is vital if Illinois is to improve conditions for dogs kept in commercial kennels and to prevent Illinois from becoming a puppy mill haven. The bill is named for Chloe, a puppy mill survivor who was rescued last year in Illinois. The new bill will:

- Raise the standards of care for dogs in commercial kennels by increasing their required cage size;



The ASPCA’s Cori A. Menken, Esq. kisses Chloe, the inspiration for Chloe’s Bill in Illinois.

- Prohibit the use of wire flooring and require kennels to be sufficiently heated and cooled; and
- Ban anyone convicted of felony-level animal cruelty from acquiring a dog-breeding license.

The bill will also require Illinois pet stores and breeders to disclose information—including where their puppies came from—to prospective dog buyers.

The legislation will not regulate any hobby breeders who keep fewer than six breeding female dogs, and it will not require people who show dogs, or train them for sporting or hunting events, to meet unreasonable standards. ■

New York

NYC Intro. 658-A—On January 30, the ASPCA® went before the New York City Council Committee on Consumer Affairs to support Intro. 658-A, a full ban on carriage horse operations in New York City, and to oppose a competing bill, Intro. 653-A, that seeks to eliminate stable inspections by City agencies and the ASPCA. More than 200 animal advocates attended the public hearing where Dr. Stephen Zawistowski, ASPCA Executive Vice President, National Programs and Science Advisor, and Michelle Villagomez, ASPCA Advocacy and Campaigns Senior Manager, provided expert testimony. The ASPCA has concluded that neither New York City’s environment nor the current law can provide horses with the fundamental necessities to ensure their safety and well-being. The ASPCA opposes Intro. 653-A. This bill puts the health and safety of New York City’s carriage horses at risk by eliminating the authority of the Departments of Health and Mental Hygiene and Consumer Affairs, the New York City Police Department and ASPCA Humane Law Enforcement to inspect carriage horse stables. The ASPCA continues to lobby on these issues and urges New Yorkers to get involved and put an end to New York City’s outdated carriage horse industry.



If passed, Chloe’s Bill will strengthen the laws regulating commercial dog breeding in Illinois.

Victories for Animals

NY-CLASS—The ASPCA is also a supporter of New Yorkers for Clean, Livable & Safe Streets (NY-CLASS), an organization dedicated to improving New York City’s quality-of-life through education and advocacy. NY-CLASS believes there are viable alternatives to carriage horses that will not only relieve the City government from its financial burden, but will also avoid the safety and quality-of-life issues caused by horse carriages. Over time, NY-CLASS supports replacing horse carriages with “green” replica classic cars. These cars can provide rides for tourists, offer jobs to workers currently in the carriage horse industry and maintain the historic feel of the tours. The ASPCA’s long-term goal of a ban will take time and hard work. In the short term, New York City needs to take immediate action to improve conditions for carriage horses, enhance the safety of the carriages and protect passengers. ■



Dr. Stephen Zawistowski, ASPCA Executive Vice President, National Programs and Science Advisor, speaking at a carriage horse ban press conference.

To help the ASPCA score even more victories for animals, go to www.aspc.org/lobby.

ASPCA 2009 ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

The ASPCA 2009 Annual Meeting of Members will be held at **The ASPCA, 424 E. 92nd Street, New York, NY, at 9 A.M. on Wednesday, June 10, 2009**. All ASPCA Members on 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 10, 2009

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

The undersigned hereby constitutes and appoints Mr. Hoyle C. Jones, Mr. Franklin Maisano, 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 10, 2009, at 9 A.M. and at any and all adjournments thereof; and the undersigned hereby revokes any other proxy herefore given to 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 2009 Annual Meeting of Members only if you became a member of the ASPCA on or before the meeting record date of February 28, 2009, 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 9, 2009, shall be counted. Proxies may also be submitted in person at the meeting.

MEMBER'S NAME

STREET ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

SIGNATURE

DATED

Mission: Orange Updates

Austin

The Austin ASPCA® Mission: Orange™ partners set out to encourage cat adoptions by launching their “Summer of Cats” promotions. Town Lake Adoption Center and Austin Humane Society served as “catalysts” for adoptions by reducing or even waiving adult cat adoption fees as a part of the special cats programs. Adoption events attracted local media coverage and helped more than 617 cats find loving homes. Public interest in cat adoptions rose throughout the year, as evidenced by an increase in the adoption rate to 31.3% from 22.4% in 2007. Kitten adoptions increased to an impressive 74% from 38.2% in the same period last year. ■

Charleston

Charleston Animal Society established and expanded a volunteer program to support the placement of animals in the community. The Volunteer Coordinator, a position funded through ASPCA Mission: Orange, organized more than 4,500 hours of volunteer time from 350 individuals, which was valued at \$75,000. ■

Gulfport/Biloxi

The ASPCA provided \$26,000 in funding to hire a counselor for the Humane Society of South Mississippi’s (HSSM) “Forever Home” program. The HSSM program, which includes a “Behavior Help Line,” is aimed at helping pet parents overcome pet-related behavior and care issues—and keeping their pets out of shelters. ■

Philadelphia

The ASPCA provided a grant of \$15,000 to Forgotten Cats of Greenville, Pa., for a low-cost spay/neuter program for feral and free-roaming cats, as well as for the pets of low-income residents of Philadelphia and surrounding areas. The funds will help trap/neuter/return (TNR) 900 cats from the area. They will also assist Forgotten Cats in developing an infrastructure to provide long-term assistance to other smaller TNR groups, enabling them to become even more effective in their missions. ■

Spokane

The ASPCA Mission: Orange partnership is making progress for animals in Spokane. Significant improvements in the quality of animal care and health protocols in the partner facilities, the transfer of more than 1,000 animals between the partners, and the increased utilization of foster homes for underage kittens increased the number of animals placed into loving homes by 17.6% in 2008. ASPCA Mission: Orange-supported programs, including free or affordable spay/neuter with a focus on felines, helped 2,000 more animals and their caretakers in 2008 than in the prior year. ■

Tampa

Mission Meow, a feral cat organization working with apartment complex and commercial property owners to support trap/neuter/return (TNR) management, has incorporated technology to further its mission. Its software database, which includes 95 registered caregivers, lists 136 feral cat colonies and tracks the location of those colonies on Google maps. ■



The Love of his Life

Brandy is a lovable Chow mix, adopted from an Oregon shelter more than five years ago. Kurt Sandman describes Brandy as the “love of my life.” Kurt walks Brandy a mile a day. He says that every night, “I brush and comb her, massage her and brush her teeth.” Like so many of us, Kurt loves animals, and he firmly believes in the work of the ASPCA®. To demonstrate that support, he participates in the ASPCA Charitable Gift Annuity Program.

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

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

A CGA can be a versatile planned-giving option, meeting a variety of needs. What's more, annuity rates depend upon the annuitant's age. Here are two examples:

- Carol is 75 years old, retired and a long-time donor to the ASPCA. She would like to make a meaningful gift to the ASPCA during her lifetime, but she is also concerned that she will outlive her income. With a \$25,000 gift annuity for the eventual benefit of the ASPCA, Carol will receive an annuity rate of 6.3 percent, which will give her an annual income of \$1,575. A portion of this amount is tax free, and she can claim an immediate charitable deduction of about \$11,000.*



Kurt Sandman with the “love of his life,” Brandy

- Dennis is 55 years old, still working and concerned about his future retirement income. He establishes a \$10,000 Deferred Charitable Gift Annuity that will start paying him a lifetime income when he is 65. The annuity rate is 8.0 percent with annual payments of \$800, and he can claim an immediate charitable deduction of about \$3,700. Dennis plans to establish a Deferred Gift Annuity each year for the next few years so that he can build up his retirement income. He will be able to claim a charitable deduction on his income tax each year he establishes a gift annuity.*

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

**The examples provided here are based on calculations as of February 2009 and are for illustrative purposes only.*

Ask the Experts



Kristen Collins
Certified Pet Dog Trainer
ASPCA Animal Behavior Center

Q: We have a Labrador Retriever who doesn't like it when the vet cuts her nails. I have started filing her nails down slowly. Is this a good idea? Alyssa

A: Many dogs fear nail trimming after they've had a painful experience, like getting a nail cut too short. But hand filing the nails will probably take too long. There is a mechanical grinding tool on the market called the Peticure®, which might suit your needs, but you'll need to help your dog get used to the new grinder gradually. The trick is to associate the grinder with things your dog loves, like small pieces of cheese, chicken or hot dogs. The Peticure comes with instructions that explain how to introduce the grinder. ■



Katherine Miller, Ph.D.
Certified Applied Animal Behaviorist and
Certified Pet Dog Trainer
ASPCA National Programs

Q: I recently adopted two four- to five-month-old kittens from our local shelter. They are shy and run from me. What am I doing wrong? Pauline

A: Cats who are shy around people typically didn't get much attention from humans between two and seven weeks of age. Just take things slowly and reward social behavior by consistently pairing human contact with scrumptious treats. Chicken baby food, anchovy paste or tuna are healthy goodies for most cats. Use these treats as demonstrations of how rewarding it is to be with you. This will begin to help develop a lasting bond. ■



Lila Miller, B.S. D.V.M.
Vice President
ASPCA Veterinary Outreach

Q: We have a six-year-old cat. During the spring and summer, her ears get bumps on them, and she scratches them raw. She also sneezes frequently, and her right eye matters up quite a bit. What's going on? Earl

A: It sounds like a seasonal allergy, so you should see your vet. If treating it with chlortrimeton is unsuccessful, you might look for a veterinary dermatologist. You might also try to find a holistic veterinarian who deals with alternative and natural treatments. ■

BeBop:

On the Road Again for New York City's Cats and Dogs

Abandoned on a busy roadside in France, a matted, skinny and scruffy little terrier that would come to be known as BeBop had an amazing stroke of luck. Barbara and her husband Claude rescued him and took him into their animal-loving family of several dogs and a cat who had also been saved from desperate situations elsewhere in the world. BeBop enjoyed many loving years with his new family, playing in their beautiful garden, savoring walks in the countryside and swimming tirelessly whenever he was near water.

When BeBop passed away in the spring of 2008, Barbara struggled with how she could adequately honor his intrepid spirit. As a native New Yorker who had volunteered at the ASPCA® for several years in the early- and mid-seventies, she decided it would be fitting to honor BeBop by doing something transformational for the animals of New York City. She approached the ASPCA to ask whether there were any suitable projects available for funding.

Thanks to Barbara, in February the ASPCA unveiled her tribute to BeBop: a new 685-square-foot mobile spay/neuter clinic, bringing the number of vehicles in the ASPCA's spay/neuter fleet to five. The new mobile clinic, which has been informally dubbed "The BeBop Van," will allow the ASPCA to perform a total of 30,000 free and low-cost spay/neuter surgeries annually through the ASPCA Mobile Clinic Program. The ASPCA Mobile Clinics visit low-income neighborhoods throughout the City, providing services to members of the public as well as to independent rescuers and managers of feral cat colonies. The work of the spay/neuter fleet is an essential part of the ASPCA's efforts to end the tragic euthanasia of healthy animals in New York City.

As the BeBop van went on one of its first rounds in a Queens neighborhood, Barbara and Claude went along to watch the admissions process, the prepping of animals and the spay/neuter surgeries. Each animal was handled with loving care, and Barbara and Claude knew that each surgery meant that fewer dogs and cats would end up homeless and hungry on a busy roadside. The words that they had inscribed next to BeBop's picture on the side of the van said it all: "BeBop: On the Road Again"—this time in triumph for all of the animals of New York City.

If you are interested in learning more about major gift opportunities like this, please contact Jaime-Faye Bean, Director of Major Gifts, at jaimeb@aspca.org or by phone at (212) 876-7700, ext. 4506. ■



BeBop's image as it appears on the side of the ASPCA Mobile Clinic.



The BeBop Van in action out on the streets.

People and Events

Eleven Vie for “Best in Show” at Fourth Annual ASPCA Talent Competition



Maggie Rizer



Candice Bergen

Eleven precious pooches, each eager for adoption, participated in the ASPCA Fourth Annual “Best in Show” competition at the ASPCA Adoption Center on February 13. The talent show helped celebrate “I Love NYC Pets Month,” which featured adoption events by various New York City animal welfare and rescue groups throughout February. The pups and their handlers displayed their considerable talents for a panel of celebrity judges, which included film and television actress and ASPCA supporter Candice Bergen; high-fashion model Maggie Rizer; President and Founder of DeLuca Dog and Friends, Greg DeLuca; and ASPCA Humane Law Enforcement Assistant Director, Joseph Pentangelo. The dogs were judged on overall presentation, attentiveness to the handler and creativity of the commands learned. “Super” Tiger, a brindle Pit Bull mix, earned first prize, winning over the judges with his ability to crawl and take a nap on cue! To learn more about about our adoptable animals, please go to www.asPCA.org. ■



First Prize winner “Super” Tiger

ASPCA® to Fund First Veterinary Forensic Studies at UF

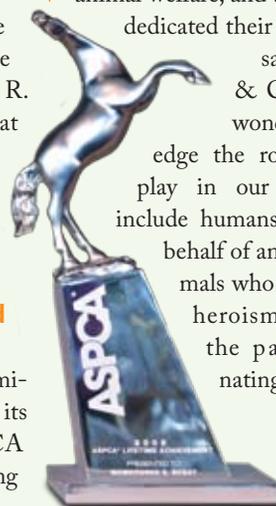
At the North American Veterinary Conference in January, the ASPCA® announced that it would work with the University of Florida to develop the nation’s first Veterinary Forensic Sciences Program within an educational institution. The ASPCA program, funded with an initial gift of \$150,000, will enable the application of forensic sciences to veterinary medicine and aid in the understanding, prevention and prosecution of animal cruelty. “The ability to offer a joint forensic science and veterinary medicine education at the bachelor’s degree and master’s degree levels is unprecedented,” says Dr. Melinda Merck,

ASPCA Senior Director of Veterinary Forensics. “We’re creating ‘one-stop shopping’ for veterinary forensic science needs.” Forensic toxicologist Dr. Bruce Goldberger, Director of the William R. Maples Center for Forensic Medicine at the College of Medicine, says, “We are translating our knowledge of forensic science to a new field devoted to solving crimes against animals.” ■

Calling All Remarkable Pets and Animal Lovers!

The ASPCA has invited the public to nominate extraordinary pets and people for its 2009 Humane Awards. “The ASPCA Humane Awards is our way of recognizing

those who have gone above and beyond for animal welfare, and animal heroes who have dedicated their lives to helping others,” says ASPCA President & CEO Ed Sayres. “It’s a wonderful way to acknowledge the role companion animals play in our lives.” Those eligible include humans who have worked on behalf of animal welfare and animals who have engaged in acts of heroism in the U.S. during the past year. The nominating period begins April 1 and ends July 15, 2009. Winners will be selected by an



ASPCA-appointed committee and announced in mid-October. Winners will be invited to attend the ASPCA Humane Awards Luncheon on October 29 at the Pierre Hotel in New York City, where the awards will be presented. For more information, please visit www.asPCA.org/nominate. ■

Go Orange, Prevent Cruelty

For its 2009 “Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Month” celebration, the ASPCA spread its “Go Orange for Animals” message by growing the campaign bigger and better than ever. Look out for the next issue of *ASPCA Action*, where you can see how people and their pets went orange in every corner of the country. But don’t forget that the ASPCA needs your help to prevent cruelty and spread the Go Orange message not just in April, but every day of the year. For tips on the many ways you can “Go Orange for Animals,” please visit www.ASPCAAmbassadors.org. ■



ASPCA supporters “Go Orange for Animals”



Preparation for a spay/neuter surgery

A Cut Above: Snip-Snip Sundays a Major Coup

The ASPCA has been providing spay/neuter services through mobile clinics since 1997, when a veterinarian in a converted RV performed 14 surgeries a day on an irregular basis in low-income neighborhoods. Today, the ASPCA has a fleet of five state-of-the-art Mobile Spay/Neuter Clinics that hit the road every single day. Its 2009 goal is 30,000 spay/neuter surgeries—a goal that it is hoping to exceed by extending the mobile spay/neuter services to ASPCA Bergh Memorial Animal Hospital on one Sunday a month, when the hospital is usually closed. The program, which targets feral cats on a trap/neuter/return basis, has been a resounding success. Since September, more than 700 feral cats have been altered under the program, leading the ASPCA to lay the groundwork to establish a permanent spay/neuter facility at its headquarters in New York City. Ed Sayres, ASPCA President & CEO, says that the addition of the new facility will increase the organization’s current 30,000 annual surgeries to 66,000—a major landmark in the ASPCA’s goal to end the needless euthanasia of animals. ■

Celebrity Corner

Blaine Trump



Blaine Trump is an animal lover and a fundraiser who adores her Yorkie, Pearl.

Q What was the first pet you ever had?

A My first pet was a Siamese cat named Ping. I loved her, she followed me everywhere, and she slept curled up in my bed at night. I now have an adorable 10-year-old Yorkshire Terrier named Pearl—she’s a huge part of my life!

Q Why are your pets important to you?

A Pets add unconditional love to a home. They make us fall in love with them, and they become beloved family members. I love knowing that when I come home to my apartment, Pearl will be waiting by the door, barking with joy and full of kisses!

Q What was your most memorable experience with your pet?

A One memorable moment was when I decided Ping needed a whisker trim. I had no idea that cats’ whiskers gave them balance. I trimmed her whiskers, and she wobbled around bumping into everything until her whiskers grew out. I felt terrible, but I learned never to cut a cat’s whiskers!

Q Why should people care about animal welfare?

A Caring for animals should be second nature to everyone. Some animals are helpless, and we have to contribute to their well-being and protection. It is inhumane not to feel for the animals in our lives.

Q Why are organizations like the ASPCA important?

A The ASPCA has done such wonderful work protecting and caring for animals. Without it, I’m not sure what would happen to the animals that are in need of a home or good care. Thank you, ASPCA, for being a guardian angel to so many animals that need you! ■



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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Your Stories



Loyal Scrapy followed Nick everywhere in Korea—even aboard a helicopter.

A Brave and Scrapy Little Dog

Lynn Starkey, Ohio

I have a nice story about my son and the dog that he rescued. My son, Staff Sergeant Nicholas Starkey, is in the Air Force, stationed in Korea. When he arrived, there was a little dog that was going to be left behind by another airman, so my son took him in. The dog, whose name was Scrapy, went everywhere with him. In fact, one day Scrapy even went on a training exercise with my son to the top of a three-story building. Scrapy tried to jump onto the edge of the building and missed, falling about 60 feet to the ground. When my son got to Scrapy, the dog was unconscious and injured. The base vet said that he had a broken distal femur, and he wouldn't be able to fix it. Next stop for Scrapy was the University of Seoul, where they wanted to amputate the leg. My son said no—he would rather send him home to the States. So I called the Ohio State Veterinary Clinic and discussed Scrapy's situation with Dr. Dyce, the head surgeon, who agreed to see the little dog when he arrived. My son then had Scrapy flown from Seoul, Korea to Columbus, Ohio, where we picked him up and took him to the clinic. Dr. Dyce and his team repaired the fracture as good as new. These days he lives with us at our home in Ohio—a very happy outcome for this little dog named Scrapy. ■

Saving Kemo

D. A. Olson, South Dakota

As I drove home last summer in South Dakota, I saw a black cat stagger across the road and collapse. I slowed down and peered out my window for a better look. "Hi cat," I said. "Merrowwww..." he wailed back at me, without rising. I stopped the truck and walked over to him. He lay there on the road-shoulder grass and met my eyes. "Merrowwww..." Holding my gaze, he reached over and pulled a dried-up grasshopper to him and crunched it up. Right then, I squatted next to him and said, "I'll be back." I raced home where I grabbed my old dog carrier. When I returned, I could see that the cat was severely starved, so I got him in the carrier and brought him home. He was dehydrated; he could hardly eat or drink. I was reluctant at first to hold him, but he insisted on climbing into my lap. He rubbed his bony head on my arm, purred and looked at me adoringly. As the days went by, Kemo slowly recovered. He went from barely two pounds to 16 pounds today! His devotion to me has never wavered. He greets me each day when I come home from work, and he watches over me when I sleep. He loves me unconditionally. His coat has gone from a mottled black and grey to a silky, shiny black. The only thing that has not changed is the light in his eyes. Some people say you can't save the whole world. But you CAN save a little piece of it, and don't all the pieces fit together to make a whole? ■



Kemo (right) has a friend in his forever home

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

email 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.