



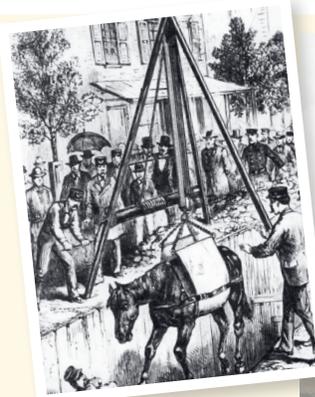
160 Years. Millions of Lives Changed.

For 160 years, the ASPCA® (American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals®) has worked to protect animals from harm and create a more compassionate world. As we celebrate this milestone, we look back at where we started — and how far we've come — **thanks to supporters like you.**

Cruelty & Disaster Response

Then: In 1866, ASPCA founder Henry Bergh stopped a cart driver from beating his horse, resulting in the first successful arrest for horse mistreatment. He went on to introduce horse-drawn ambulances to rescue injured animals — a revolutionary idea at the time.

Now: Our National Field Response team deploys nationwide to rescue animals from hurricanes, wildfires, floods and cruelty cases. Our forensic veterinarians and legal teams work tirelessly to advocate for victims and bring abusers to justice.



Advocacy & Policy

Then: Henry Bergh's advocacy laid the foundation for animal welfare laws in America, ensuring animals had legal protection for the first time. Within a few weeks of the ASPCA's founding in 1866, Bergh brought a legal case against a sea captain for his horrific treatment of sea turtles. One of the arguments made by the defendant was that the turtles were not subject to New York's anti-cruelty statute because they were "fish" and not "animals."

Now: The law has come a long way in 160 years, but our fight continues. From banning puppy mills to improving conditions for farm animals, we work to create lasting change in courtrooms and legislatures across the country.

Direct Care & Rehabilitation

Then: The ASPCA's New York shelters offered basic care for homeless animals — a groundbreaking concept when few resources existed for pets in need. In 1917, the ASPCA began spay/neuter surgeries for all cats and dogs adopted from its shelters. Over the next two decades, the number of unwanted pets being born was greatly reduced, and other cities and states adopted this practice.

Now: We provide advanced veterinary treatment, behavioral rehabilitation and relocation to thousands of animals each year from coast to coast, giving them a second chance and helping them find a loving home. From lifesaving surgeries to cross-country transports, we turn hardship into hope every day.



A Life of Love and Generosity

Shirley Ray's heart belonged to animals. From the majestic elk of the Smokey Mountains to the cats who shared her home, she believed every creature deserved care and respect. She celebrated the successful reintroduction of elk to the mountains she loved, even traveling to Colorado, to witness their autumn rut. Nature wasn't just scenery for Shirley, it was part of who she was.

At home, her devotion was just as strong. Cleo, her beloved Siamese cat, was more than a pet, she was family. And when a relative passed away, Shirley didn't hesitate to welcome their five additional cats into her home. At one point, Shirley cared for nine cats, creating a "Cat O Rama" on her porch. Each would be honored with a backyard grave marked by a handmade cross, a physical reminder of their enduring love.

Shirley's compassion extended far beyond her own animals. She supported organizations that shared her values, including the ASPCA, because she believed in protecting and nurturing animals everywhere.



Her generosity reflected a lifelong mission to make the world kinder for those who cannot speak for themselves. Whether comforting a friend through the loss of a pet or advocating for animal welfare, Shirley gave from the heart.

Although she had long retired from teaching, there is so much to learn from Shirley's legacy. In remembering her, we honor a woman whose love and generosity for animals have truly made the world a better place.

We are so grateful to Shirley and to all our Legacy Society members. Celebrate your legacy — or start one today by visiting aspc.org/legacy.

Secure your legacy!

If you have any questions about including the ASPCA in your estate plans or making a plan for your pets, please reach out to our Planned Giving team or visit: aspc.org/plannedgiving

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