

ASPCA[®] *Action*

SUMMER 2009

The ASPCA[®] and Our Members
GO ORANGE to Celebrate Prevention
of Cruelty to Animals Month





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

PRESIDENT'S NOTE



A NOTE FROM EDWIN SAYRES:

Since 1866, the ASPCA® has been the voice for countless animals throughout this country. We speak for those who can't, because it's our duty and our calling to build a more humane future for all of America's animals. 365 days a year the ASPCA takes hands-on action to rescue, protect and safeguard animals. And it is the generosity and compassion of friends like you that keeps our lifesaving efforts going. Through the example you provide, your generosity multiplies in impact, encouraging others to take a greater role in the fight to end the cruelty, abuse and abandonment of helpless animals in our country.

As we make our way through the dog days of summer, enjoying that long-awaited vacation or time off from the daily grind, don't forget that this is a great time to get involved at your local animal organization. Volunteering is vital to the operation of virtually all animal shelters, and volunteers make a real impact in a variety of areas. There are opportunities to make a difference for animals in 15 minutes to a few hours with work that is both challenging and rewarding. Whether it's assisting in the care and placement of adoptable pets, educating the public or providing support for administrative programs, there's sure to be a perfect fit for you or somebody you know. Please visit our shelter database at www.aspca.org/findashelter to find a local shelter in your area.

Our goal is to help meet the needs of every animal across the United States, and the commitment of friends like you is doing just that. On behalf of the animals we serve, thank you.

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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April Was Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Month and Wow, Did We Celebrate!

April was Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Month, the most important month of the year for animals—and the most exciting for the ASPCA. Deeply rooted in its long-held mission to provide effective means for the prevention of cruelty to animals throughout the United States, the organization's April celebrations have grown over the past four years from a grassroots adoptions event in New York City into a nationwide bonanza of festivities that celebrate the human-animal bond, highlight the ASPCA's victories for animals and heighten awareness of animal welfare. This year, the ASPCA and millions of members, supporters and animal lovers everywhere pulled out all the stops to honor animals—and those dedicated to protecting them—in a bigger way than ever. What's more, two corporate sponsors stepped forward to help the ASPCA spread the word: Subaru® as Presenting Sponsor; and Fresh Step®, a supporter since 2000, as National Sponsor. This summer edition of *ASPCA Action* is dedicated to Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Month, to the events surrounding it—and to the many special people who helped to make it happen.



Ed Sayres, ASPCA President & CEO, welcomes the crowd at Union Square Park in New York City.



Go Orange for Animals!

While April was the month in 1866 that the ASPCA was founded, orange is the organization's official color, so the ASPCA centered its April celebration, as always, around the theme "Go Orange for Animals!" The concept of utilizing a bright, unifying color as a vibrant way for pet-passionate kids and adults, businesses, landmarks—and even animals—to show support for the ASPCA's anti-cruelty efforts caught on several years ago, and the celebration has since evolved into the largest animal welfare event in the country. This year, the ASPCA took the occasion to a whole new level, engaging in many activities from coast to coast throughout April, and encouraging pet lovers and animal-friendly businesses to get involved in the ASPCA's cause in a variety of creative ways. The enthusiastic participation of its valued corporate sponsors further extended the reach of this crucial campaign into mainstream consciousness in an unprecedented way. Melissa Treuman, ASPCA Manager of Grassroots Fundraising, says, "Public support and participation in this year's festivities helped the ASPCA and thousands of animal shelters and rescue groups shine a light on our efforts to improve the plight of animals in this country. If this year's celebration has made anything abundantly clear, it's the knowledge that cruelty to animals will not be tolerated by our society. With millions of devoted pet parents and animal lovers by our side, we will pave the way to

"We had such a huge wave of media attention during April that it convinced me that people are finally taking animal welfare seriously—and that the cause is becoming part of mainstream thinking. There's a transformation happening here, and we're proud to be leading the way."

— Jo Sullivan
ASPCA Executive
Vice President,
External Affairs



Young boy helps his dog Go Orange in style.



New York's Empire State Building goes orange.

a day when animals live free from pain and suffering.”

Iconic Buildings Go Orange

The celebration kicked off on April 7, when nearly 30 famous buildings and landmarks across the country demonstrated support for the ASPCA's lifesaving work by lighting their exteriors in the color orange. The

Empire State Building in New York City; The Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, Massachusetts; The Los Angeles Coliseum in Los Angeles; Graceland in Memphis, Tennessee; and The Pacific Science Center Arches in Seattle were just a few of the buildings that lit up orange in support of the ASPCA. For a complete list, please visit www.aspcaapril.org.

Three Cities Are “Party Central”

The ASPCA continued its commemoration of the month with three major events that drew thousands of pet lovers. There was a boisterous celebration in New York City's Union Square Park on April 7, featuring adoptable animals, live music and refreshments. In addition, ASPCA experts from humane law enforcement, animal behavior and veterinary care were on hand to greet the crowd and answer questions. On April 18, in Austin, Texas, animal lovers and their four-legged friends joined the

ASPCA and Austin ASPCA® Mission: Orange™ partners at Zilker Park. Attendees were treated to a festival that featured adoptable animals from Town Lake Animal Center and the Austin Humane Society, discounted services from emanciPET and Animal Trustees of Austin and offered a



Austin pet parents lead their furry friends through an obstacle course.



Pups and their proud parents strut their stuff at the Venice Beach, California Wag-n-Walk.

variety of pet-friendly activities. And on April 25, in Venice Beach, California, West Coast animal lovers and their pets joined in a celebration featuring adoptable animals from Bark Avenue Foundation, a Los Angeles rescue group. The fun included a remote broadcast and giveaways from local radio stations KOST-FM and KTLK-AM, free advice from ASPCA experts, refreshments and other festivities. Both the Austin and Venice Beach events also featured the first annual ASPCA “Wag-n-Walks.” Aside from raising awareness, participants in the “Wag-n-Walks” helped raise the necessary funds for the ASPCA and its lifesaving programs.

ASPCA Ambassadors™ Show Their Colors

New to this year's celebration of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Month was the involvement of the ASPCA Ambassadors™ Program, a new online program that gives ASPCA supporters nationwide the opportunity to be an ASPCA Ambassador by either registering to participate in an ASPCA event, by holding a private event in their community that generates

“Public support and participation in this year’s festivities have helped the ASPCA and thousands of animal shelters and rescue groups shine a light on our efforts to improve the plight of animals in this country. If this year’s celebration has made anything abundantly clear, it’s the knowledge that cruelty to animals will not be tolerated by our society. With millions of devoted pet parents and animal lovers by our side, we’ll pave the way to a day when animals live free from pain and suffering.”

—Melissa Treuman
 ASPCA Manager of Grassroots Fundraising,
 Member Communications



ASPCA Humane Law Enforcement Supervisory Special Investigator Annemarie Lucas celebrated with supporters across the country, including Kinky Friedman.

donations for the ASPCA, or by creating a tribute page at www.aspcambassadors.org, where pet parents, friends and family can create pet memorials or make donations to the ASPCA in lieu of birthday or wedding gifts. During Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Month, the ASPCA used its Ambassador Program to recognize one special community leader chosen from many Ambassadors who had planned exceptional “Go Orange for Animals” events. After evaluating many extraordinary efforts, the ASPCA selected Alanna DiGregorio of animal-friendly Salem, Massachusetts, who persuaded her town mayor to proclaim an official “Salem Goes Orange Day.” Alanna



Three young animal advocates share hugs with a rescued poodle.

held a raffle of gift baskets she solicited from 25 local merchants, and she invited her local shelter to provide information about adopting or fostering animals, donating and volunteering. The event yielded about \$2,000 in ticket sales, which she donated to the ASPCA. As the winner of the ASPCA Community Leader Award, she received an

American Express Gift Card and a \$1,000 grant to her local shelter.

Going Orange with Corporate Sponsors

As Presenting Sponsor, Subaru showed its support for our “Go Orange for Animals” campaign by raising awareness for the cause, including on-site participation at the ASPCA events in New York City, Austin and Venice Beach. In New York City, Subaru unveiled a brand-new custom-wrapped 2009 Subaru Forester that was donated to the ASPCA. Five other Subaru vehicles were also delivered to local animal welfare facilities across the United States. In addition, dealers across the country held local events and dressed up their showrooms with new ASPCA-themed point-of-sale advertising, including banners, posters and balloons in select markets. In Los Angeles, beginning April 25, Subaru also started to sponsor weekly *Pets 2 Love* segments on *CBS 2 News*, featuring



One of the many cats and dogs featured in the ASPCA Adopt-a-Van at Union Square Park.





ASPCA Senior Manager of Corporate Partnerships, Allison Allen and ASPCA Director of Creative Services, Rosemary O'Toole, work the Fresh Step booth at Union Square Park.

adoption tips developed in conjunction with ASPCA experts and behaviorists. The 30-second segments can be viewed at www.aspca.org/subaru.

During April, the ASPCA also partnered with Fresh Step to promote Cat Care Month nationally to raise awareness of the number of cats currently in shelters and to educate cat parents on the health benefits of keeping felines indoors. Three million specially marked packages of Fresh Step cat litter “went orange” in April, with a percentage of sales going to the ASPCA. Other promotions and advertising, including an essay contest, also took place in support of this unique program. Sandi Payne from Poplarville, Mississippi, won the VIP trip to the ASPCA New York City “Go Orange for Animals” celebration for her contest essay on the work she is doing to rescue cats in need.

We Are Their Voice®

Public awareness of the ASPCA is crucial to the success of its efforts because it helps to heighten the visibility of its cause and communicate its values cost-effectively to a vast audience that would be otherwise difficult to reach. The ASPCA’s “Go Orange for Animals” program usually generates strong local media interest, but the more intensive April 2009 program garnered unparalleled coverage that was national in scope. Led by ASPCA Executive Vice President of External Affairs, Jo Sullivan, the ASPCA was featured during the month in a multitude of print and broadcast interviews across the country, which provided information about

what the public could do to “Go Orange for Animals.” The extensive coverage included interviews on *The Today Show*; *The Martha Stewart Show*, on which Sullivan talked about the ASPCA’s partnership with Fresh Step; and *Home Shopping Network*, on which Sullivan launched the ASPCA’s jewelry line in partnership with the IBB Group of

Companies. When asked about her high-profile role, Sullivan says, “We can’t change



Jo Sullivan, ASPCA Executive Vice President of External Affairs, rallies attendees at Union Square Park in New York City.



ASPCA events throughout April helped raise awareness about the plight of homeless animals.

the fate of animals all by ourselves—the media gives us an opportunity to tell millions of people how they could be helping animals. It’s rewarding to be involved with the media in this way because of the impact it can have. But we also truly believe in what we do. We’re speaking on behalf of animals—we’re giving them a voice—and that’s a very cool thing.”

For more information about Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Month, please visit www.aspcaapril.org and consider participating in 2010, when the ASPCA predicts that the related events will be bigger and better than ever. But you don’t have to wait until next year to start making an impact on animals’ lives. Visit www.aspcaambassadors.org to get involved today! ■

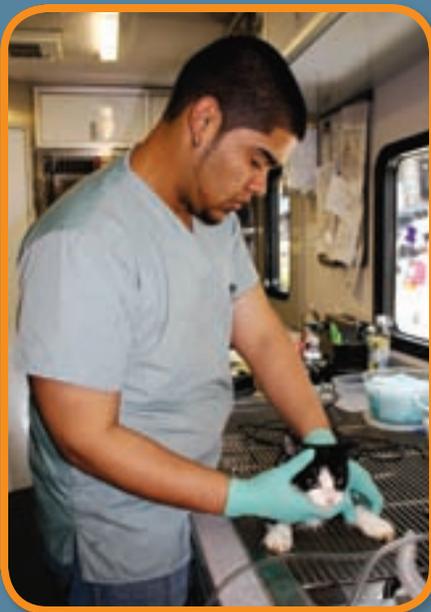
DID YOU KNOW THAT...

- ...approximately five to seven million companion animals enter shelters nationwide every year, and about three to four million are euthanized— 60 percent of dogs and 70 percent of cats?
- ...only 50 percent of animals received by shelters have been spayed or neutered?

ASPCA Gets Down in Harlem with One of the Most Successful Single-Day Spay/Neuter Events in ASPCA History



On April 18, the ASPCA continued to celebrate Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Month by hosting the festive, first-ever ASPCA Harlem Community Block Party and inviting the entire community to take advantage of its full range of services—for free! The fun event encouraged pet parents to help reduce the number of unwanted animals and increase awareness of the importance of spaying or neutering their pets. Free spay/neuter surgery was offered to all pets, in addition to free microchipping and free vaccinations for Pit Bulls and Pit mixes.



The event, held on 125th Street in the heart of Harlem, brought together all five of the ASPCA state-of-the-art mobile veterinary clinics, which are custom-built spay/neuter “hospitals on wheels.” ASPCA veterinarians and staff worked tirelessly all day to spay/neuter, vaccinate and microchip 114

animals. In addition, the ASPCA booked appointments to serve over 250 more animals in the weeks that followed. Celebrities who helped draw a crowd included HOT 97 DJ Angie Martinez and KISS FM’s Lenny Green and Shailla—helping to make the ASPCA Harlem Community Block Party one of the most successful one-day spay/neuter events in ASPCA history.

In 2008, the ASPCA spayed or neutered more than 23,000 cats and dogs; in 2009, that figure is projected to exceed 30,000. “We have the capacity to do more,” says Dr. Steve Hansen, ASPCA Senior Vice President of Animal Health Services. “Spaying and neutering exponentially reduces the number of unwanted animals in our community. It also reduces many common issues such as spraying, roaming and heat behaviors. The health benefits are tremendous: pets live longer and remain healthier, and risks of certain cancers are eliminated.”

“The ASPCA is working hard to put an end to the tragic euthanasia and homelessness of healthy animals by addressing the animal overpopulation crisis at its source—in the heart of local communities that most need our services,” says Aimee Hartmann, Senior Director of ASPCA Mobile Spay/Neuter Clinics. “We have a pet overpopulation problem in New York City—more than 50,000 unwanted and homeless pets a year enter our shelters. The ASPCA



Harlem Community Block Party was a large step forward in addressing this important issue.”

Looking for free or low-cost spay/neuter service but don’t live near New York City? Go to www.aspc.org/spayneuter to find a spay/neuter clinic near you. ■



ASPCA® Tapped by Authorities...

...to Manage Evidence in Massive Wisconsin Animal “Sanctuary” Seizure



ASPCA Disaster Response Team rescues dog from animal “sanctuary.”

On Tuesday, May 19, the ASPCA’s Forensics and Disaster Response Teams, as well as its Mobile Animal Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) Unit, were dispatched to collect evidence in the investigation of an animal “sanctuary” in Cazenovia, Wisconsin, known as the Thyme and Sage Ranch. The teams discovered more than 370 animals at the site, many of whom were ill and suffering. Dr. Ellen Hirshberg, a staff veterinarian at ASPCA Bergh Memorial Animal Hospital and a member of the ASPCA Disaster Response Team, says, “Many of the animals were underweight. A substantial number of them had skin diseases caused by the excrement that matted their fur. The majority of the rabbits had portions of their ears missing, probably due to trauma.” The ASPCA got involved at the request of the Richland County District Attorney and the Dane County Humane Society, which began an investigation sparked by public complaints.

Animals were examined on the scene and in the ASPCA CSI Unit, which brings both

state-of-the-art forensics tools and unmatched expertise to collect and process evidence at crime scenes. The specially designed vehicle is also outfitted with medical equipment tailored for animal patients. More than 315 dogs, 21 rabbits, birds, horses, chinchillas and a ferret were removed from the property during the seizure. The ASPCA collected evidence for the prosecution of the criminal case, and it provided the services of a special forensic cruelty investigation team, composed of disaster animal rescuers and field service investigators. More than a dozen responders from the ASPCA Disaster Response Team were on the scene, and were assisted by the American Humane Association and Saranac Technical Rescue Team. Other animal rescue professionals from national organizations, including Humane Society of the United States, United Animal Nations, and Hooved Animal Rescue and Protection Society, as well as local agencies such as Dane County Humane Society, assisted in handling animals on the scene. PetSmart Charities® donated resources and supplies, and Dane County Humane Society provided temporary shelter for the dogs and cats involved in the investigation.



ASPCA teams prepare to evacuate animals from Thyme and Sage Ranch.

Since 2007, the Thyme and Sage Ranch held the animal control contract for Richland County, which permitted it to pick up stray dogs and small animals. It also acted as the



ASPCA Disaster Response Team member Diane Trivino grooms one of the many filthy and matted dogs seized that day.

county’s animal shelter. The founder of the ranch, Jennifer Petkus, was charged with 11 counts of misdemeanor animal cruelty and five forfeitures—to which she pled not guilty. However, she relinquished ownership of 270 animals, who were transported to at least 15 animal shelters and rescue groups throughout the state, where they were made available for adoption. The rest of the animals are being held as part of the ongoing investigation. “Our next step is to prepare a report that includes results of the crime scene search, the forensic veterinarian investigation of both living and deceased victims, and the complete photo package of the overall scene, each animal victim and the conditions in which they were living,” says Jeff Eyre, ASPCA Director of Field Operations and lead investigator on the case. According to Eyre, once this report is filed, there is the possibility of additional charges, including fraud, tax issues, ill-gotten gains and other violations of Wisconsin law. To track the progress of this case, please visit www.aspcareg.org. ■

The New York Community Trust Grant Helps Fund the Advancement of ASPCA® Spay/Neuter Goals

Pet overpopulation is one of the most serious problems facing America's animals today. Between five and seven million dogs and cats enter animal shelters nationwide every year, and approximately three to four million are euthanized. What's more, only 50 percent have been spayed or neutered. In New York City alone, more than 50,000 animals end up in shelters annually, tragic victims of the economy, irresponsible breeding, abandonment or outright cruelty.

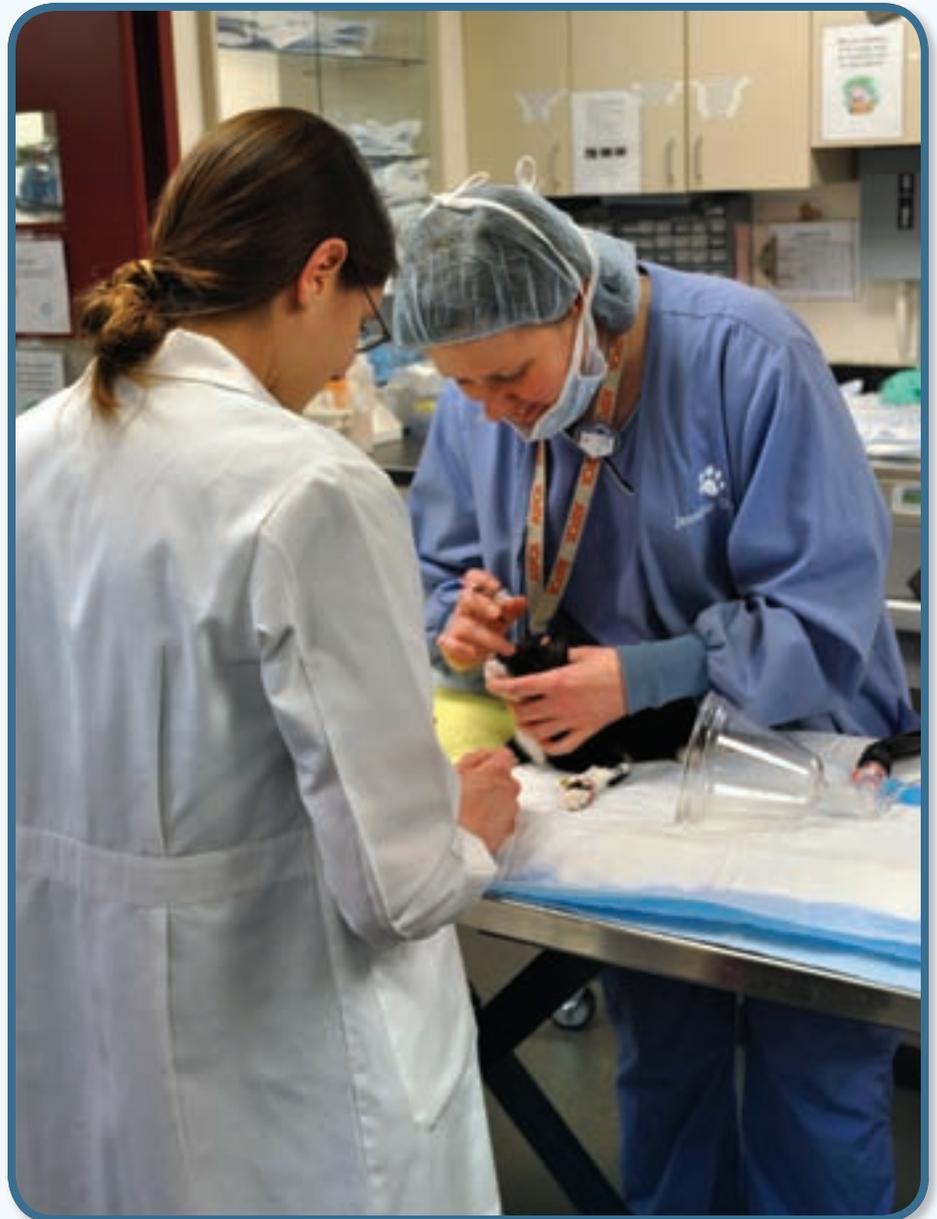
One key goal of the ASPCA® is to bring an end to the needless euthanasia of America's adoptable pets. This goal is supported by spay/neuter programs that help to prevent unwanted litters, and limiting the numbers of homeless dogs and cats is critical to its success. In 2008, the ASPCA performed a total of 23,223 spay/neuter surgeries—a 63 percent increase year-over-year, and we are projected to perform 30,000 by the end of 2009.

A majority of the ASPCA's recent victories are due to a steady expansion of its Mobile Spay/Neuter Clinics, which provide low-cost or free spay/neuter surgeries to financially needy pet parents in New York City's five boroughs. By bringing these vital services directly to such communities, the ASPCA is addressing the animal crisis at its source.

Reducing pet overpopulation is a costly endeavor and one that the ASPCA cannot continue without the generosity of its members. The New York Community Trust, one of the ASPCA's most generous supporters since 2004, recently awarded the ASPCA a \$56,000 grant to expand its Mobile Spay/Neuter Clinics—funds that have allowed the addition of a fifth mobile unit, as well as a full-time outreach staff member to the program. "We are pleased to support for the fifth consecutive year the ASPCA, which

brings important services to dogs, cats and the people who care for them in the neighborhoods that need them most," says Joyce Bove, Senior Vice President at The Trust. "The long lines outside of the clinics are a testament to the increasing need being met by the ASPCA."

The ASPCA cannot save lives without the financial assistance of compassionate donors like The New York Community Trust. Major donors with an interest in helping the ASPCA may contact Jaime Malik, ASPCA Director of Major Gifts, at 212-876-7700, ext. 4506. ■



News Briefs

ASPCA® Names 2008 Henry Bergh Children's Book Award Winners

The ASPCA has announced the winners of the 2008 ASPCA Henry Bergh Children's Book Awards. Named in honor of ASPCA founder Henry Bergh, the annual awards recognize books based on their exemplary handling of subject matter pertaining to animals and the environment. Winners of the 2008 ASPCA Henry Bergh Children's Book Award are:



Non-Fiction Companion Animals Award:

Two Bobbies: A True Story of Hurricane Katrina, Friendship, and Survival by Kirby Larson and Mary Nethery, Walker & Company

Non-Fiction Companion Animals Honor:

How To Speak Dog! by Sarah Whitehead, Scholastic

Non-Fiction Environment and Ecology:

Wild Tracks! A Guide to Nature's Footprints by Jim Arnosky, Sterling Publishing

Non-Fiction Humane Heroes:

Molly the Pony by Pam Kaster, Louisiana State University Press

Fiction Companion Animals Award:

It's Raining Cats and Cats! by Jeanne Prevost, Gryphon Press

Fiction Companion Animals Honor:

A Home for Dakota by Jan Zita Grover, Gryphon Press

Fiction Environment and Ecology:

The Wolves are Back by Jean Craighead George, Dutton Children's Books

Fiction Humane Heroes:

Dolphins on the Sand by Jim Arnosky, G.P. Putnam's Sons

Young Adult:

The Last Wild Place by Rosa Jordan, Peachtree

The winning authors will be honored at a ceremony at the American Library Association's Annual Conference in Chicago on July 13. Houghton Mifflin will also be awarded the 2008 Roger Caras Achievement Award for children's literature at the conference. Named in honor of past ASPCA President Roger Caras, the award honors an outstanding individual or organization that has inspired children and made a contribution to the animal community through literature, actions or other means. "Nothing is more essential to the future of America's pets than educating our children about animal awareness," says ASPCA President & CEO, Ed Sayres. "By honoring both an outstanding publisher and the works of distinguished authors, the ASPCA is able to continue its quest to create a more humane nation." For more information on the ASPCA Henry Bergh Children's Book Awards, please visit www.aspcaeducation.org. ■

ASPCA Participates in Raid on Alabama Dog Fighting Operation

On the morning of June 1, Alabama's 5th Judicial Circuit Drug Task Force, in collaboration with the ASPCA and the Humane Society of the United States, raided a suspected dog fighting operation that spanned two towns in Randolph County, Alabama. Authorities seized 45 dogs and found skeletal remains and other evidence consistent with dog fighting on the scene.

ASPCA Senior Director of Veterinary Forensics, Dr. Melinda Merck—equipped with the ASPCA Mobile Animal Crime Scene Investigation Unit—examined dogs seized in the towns of Roanoke and Wedowee. Evidence Dr. Merck collected from the crime scene will aid in the prosecution of the case. "These dogs definitely suffered abuse and inhumane treatment at the hands of dog fighters," says Dr. Merck. "Our hope is that the forensic evidence we collected will help obtain justice for these animals."

Dogs were discovered on heavy chains and had scars, untreated injuries and wound patterns indicative of fighting. In addition, controlled substances, illicit drugs and other paraphernalia related to dog fighting were discovered. Two suspects have been formally charged. ■



ASPCA Disaster Response Team Learns Fundamentals of Large Animal Handling and Rescue

Natural disasters provide some of the greatest challenges for the ASPCA Disaster Response Team (DRT). To expand their capabilities, ASPCA DRT members recently attended an intensive, hands-on, large-animal handling and safe-rescue training course at Woodstock Farm Animal Sanctuary in Woodstock, New York. The ASPCA team focused on safe large-animal handling concepts and techniques, and the fundamentals of rescue in a disaster. The ASPCA has been deployed to assist in extreme rescue situations like Hurricanes Katrina, Ike and Gustav, as well as anti-cruelty cases, such as large-scale puppy mill raids. The training course prepared the ASPCA team for the rescue of large animals such as cows and pigs in the event of an emergency. Woodstock Farm Animal Sanctuary provides shelter to cows, pigs, chickens, turkeys, sheep and goats who have been rescued from situations of abuse, neglect and abandonment. ■



Shelter puppy receiving vital medical care.

ASPCA Makes \$100,000 Grant to UC Davis to Sponsor Animal Shelter Veterinary Program

The ASPCA has made a \$100,000 three-year renewable grant to the Center for Companion Animal Health, University of California at Davis, in support of the Koret Shelter Medicine Program. The program was established to advance shelter medicine as a veterinary specialty through clinical studies, specialty training/education, and performance of veterinary service in animal shelters, as well as to elevate the quality of life of animals in shelters through improvements in veterinary preventive medicine and management of disease. Ed Sayres, ASPCA President & CEO, says, "We're working to develop more training for veterinarians, perform more shelter evaluations, and increase the amount of information available to shelters regarding the physical and behavioral health of shelter animals." With the ASPCA's grant, the Koret Shelter Medicine Program will be able to hire a shelter medicine veterinary specialist, who will provide consultations and outreach advice to shelters nationally. More information about the program can be obtained from the University of California at Davis, Koret Shelter Medicine Program website at www.sheltermedicine.com. ■

ASPCA Helps to Fund San Diego Program Aimed at Ending Euthanasia of Treatable Pets by 2020

The ASPCA has given a \$1.4 million grant to the San Diego Humane Society & SPCA to fuel the progress of its new "Paws to Success" program, aimed at saving the lives of hundreds of pets who are euthanized in San Diego area shelters each year due to medical or behavioral conditions that are fully treatable. The program's goal is to reduce the euthanasia of these animals in shelters countywide by 20 percent by 2010, and ultimately end the euthanasia of treatable animals within 10 years. The "Paws to Success" program will include the opening of an off-site facility dedicated to housing kittens and cats, the creation of a comprehensive training program for the staffs of San Diego Animal Welfare Coalition shelters and the hiring of a board-certified veterinary behaviorist. The grant was made possible by a gift from the late Edith Hakes, a San Diego resident and long-time supporter of both the ASPCA and the San Diego Humane Society & SPCA. ■



News Briefs

The ASPCA is Proud to Announce a New Partnership with **RoyalPetClub.com**, Home of Royal Treatment Pet Products

Royal Treatment is giving away a selection of veterinary-formulated pet supplements and home-baked natural treats. Royal Pet Club will donate \$1 to the ASPCA for every new member that joins and orders free products—and membership is free in this special club! Club members will also receive discounts on Italian-made organic grooming supplies, breath fresheners and much more—including the opportunity to watch hilarious pet videos, win prizes and interact with other pet lovers. Be sure to visit www.royalpetclub.com when it launches Monday, August 3. In the meantime, check out www.getroyaltreatment.com for updates. ■



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.™

Mission: Orange Updates

Austin, Texas



As mentioned in this issue's cover story, on April 18, the ASPCA® held one of three "Go Orange for Animals" festivals in Austin. The day began with a "Wag-n-Walk" dog walk fundraiser, followed by a festival at which community partners showed off puppies and dogs for adoption, and volunteers manned a doggie obstacle course, handed out customized orange identification tags, supplied service brochures and answered questions. The partners also received \$5,000 from the ASPCA to help fund their lifesaving programs. In addition, the ASPCA worked with Presenting Sponsor, Subaru®, who delivered a new vehicle to Austin partner, emanciPET, for use in outreach programs. ■

Spokane, Washington

Fueled by an ASPCA grant, ASPCA® Mission: Orange™ Spokane partners began a countywide advertising campaign aimed at increasing the number of lost pets safely returned to their pet parents. Radio and print ads focused on the importance of identification and the steps pet parents can take to find lost pets. In addition, the four partner agencies stepped up their community tagging, microchipping and licensing programs to ensure that pets have permanent identification. The 2009 first quarter ASPCA Mission: Orange report showed a 28 percent year-over-year increase in pets returned to pet parents, and a 67.4 percent live-release rate, up 6.2 percent year-over-year. ■



Tampa, Florida

ASPCA Mission: Orange again supported the semi-annual Adoption Expo in April at the State Fairgrounds in Tampa, Florida. Larger exposition space allowed more than 60 animal welfare groups, veterinarians and vendors to attend. By the end of the day on April 25, 412 animals had been placed in new homes—a record for this event. ASPCA Mission: Orange partners also collected hundreds of anti-cruelty pledges in honor of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Month. ■



Charleston, South Carolina



The Charleston Animal Society and the ASPCA teamed up to organize "Feline Frenzy—Spring 2009." For the first time, the Charleston Animal Society, with help from surrounding rescues and shelters, offered a "free adult cats" three-day adoption campaign. Ramped-up promotion of the event drove results that far surpassed those of a three-day period one month earlier. Visitors increased 632 percent, cat adoptions increased 5,300 percent, dog/puppy/kitten adoptions increased 122 percent and in-house donations increased 118 percent. In addition to the cats and dogs who found loving homes, donations and gift shop sales added to the adoption revenue, making for a very successful campaign. ■

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

The ASPCA has announced that Oklahoma City was selected to become the newest ASPCA Mission: Orange community. Since June 2008, the Oklahoma City Animal Welfare Department and the Central Oklahoma Humane Society have worked with the ASPCA to improve the prospects for at-risk animals in their community. Among their accomplishments: improved animal wellness; 900 more shelter visitors per month; a 61 percent increase in adoptions; their first-ever shelter enrichment program; and a 10.5 percent increase in lives saved—the most robust increase in a live-release rate in the first six months of any ASPCA Mission: Orange community. The ASPCA Mission: Orange campaign aims to provide positive outcomes for shelter animals by increasing live-release rates through adoptions, transfers to other adoption agencies and the return of animals to pet parents. The ASPCA is investing up to \$1 million in funding and resources in Oklahoma City and in other partner communities, including Austin, Texas; Spokane, Washington; Tampa, Florida; and Charleston, South Carolina. ■



Federal Highlights

The Media as Advocate



Cori Menkin, ASPCA's Senior Director of Program Counsel, talks to a reporter about recently passed puppy mill legislation.

The ASPCA® has a targeted legislative agenda that encompasses efforts to overhaul the puppy mill industry, end horse slaughter, keep carriage horses safe and improve the welfare of many other animals. In pursuit of its goals, the ASPCA draws on a wide range of tools, including its skilled lobbyists and a mighty Advocacy Brigade composed of more than one million committed individuals who support the organization's work. Often the ASPCA's most important tool is its ability to network with regional advocacy groups—and their motivated member bases—to foster cohesive and effective action at the local level. In addition to working directly with these groups, ASPCA legislative and media professionals draw on their relationships with members of the local and national print, broadcast and online press to reach constituents. The ASPCA supplies reporters and editors with backgrounders on the issue under debate, and it provides expert spokespeople to articulate ASPCA positions and views. In this way, the ASPCA can help the media to communicate the organization's view of an issue to constituents, which can translate into invaluable public support for the ASPCA position—and ultimately improve the welfare of animals.

Perhaps nowhere was the success of the ASPCA approach more apparent than in its 2008 battle to pass new legislation in Pennsylvania—legislation aimed at curbing the worst abuses by the state's commercial dog breeding

industry. The ASPCA had strong support from reporters at the *Philadelphia Inquirer* and other major papers in the state, and these reporters were instrumental in communicating the details of the pending legislation to their readers. According to Cori Menkin, Esq., ASPCA Senior Director of Legislative Initiatives, that's important because constituents sometimes don't know what goes on in a lobbying campaign. "There are lots of negotiations that transpire between a bill's introduction and its passage, and it's hard to keep track," she says. "Sometimes our media team meets a reporter who's willing to get down and dirty in the state capital and report what's really going on. That helps to shine a light on what's happening, sometimes behind closed doors." Menkin says that there are sometimes one or two key legislators who try to delay the passage of

a bill for their own reasons. "When a reporter reveals this kind of tactic, it can really motivate constituents to get involved. This can have a profound impact on the legislation, such as propelling a bill through a committee hearing or convincing an adversarial legislator that his interests are not aligned with those of his constituents."

Menkin points to a specific example in the ASPCA's 2008 legislative battle in Pennsylvania. Just before the Legislature recessed in the summer of 2008, there were one or two legislators who slowed the bill's momentum by introducing more than 100 amendments, making it impossible for the Legislature to vote on it before recess. During recess, however, two Pennsylvania kennel owners—brothers—shot their 80 dogs to death and closed down their business rather than comply with an order to have their dogs checked by a vet

for flea and fly bites. "That story was covered by the media like you wouldn't believe," says Menkin. "The news reports stunned and outraged the citizens of Pennsylvania, and that helped to push the bill forward when the Legislature reconvened."

Menkin also recounts the role of the ASPCA media team in drawing the crowds to the ASPCA's rally in Harrisburg on September 15. The day of the rally, the ASPCA conducted numerous print and broadcast interviews, generating 9.95 million opportunities to see the ASPCA in the media.

"If you're a dog owner, and you read in the Sunday paper that a bill protecting dogs in your state is being held up by your representative, that may have an impact on you and call you to action. Let's put it this way—media attention tends to motivate people."

—Cori Menkin, Esq.
ASPCA Senior Director,
Legislative Initiatives

"It certainly didn't hurt that Governor Rendell showed up with his dog," Menkin says. "We're grateful to the Governor for his support of our mission in Pennsylvania, and we firmly believe that the outlook for dogs in his state is far better because of his efforts." In October 2008, Governor Rendell signed HB 2525 into law, making it illegal for commercial kennel owners to shoot their dogs and mandating dramatically higher standards of care for dogs in Pennsylvania. Menkin says, "The Governor of Pennsylvania started a movement that's gaining traction across the country. At least 35 states have introduced puppy mill legislation in 2009, and it's due in large part to Governor Rendell's support." That support was indeed crucial—along with continued reporting on these issues by the nation's media. ■

State Highlights

The ASPCA® Secures Two More Victories on Behalf of Animals

New York

On May 20, the ASPCA® went before the New York City Council Committee on State and Federal Legislation to support a resolution requesting that the New York State Legislature pass bills that would establish a New York City animal population control program and an animal population control fund—S4278 and A6158-A. Michelle Villagomez, ASPCA Advocacy and Campaigns Senior Manager, provided expert testimony at the hearing. There is a pet overpopulation problem in New York City, and more than 50,000 unwanted and homeless pets a year enter shelters. For this reason, the ASPCA supports Senate Bill 4278 and Assembly Bill 6158-A, which would ease the financial burden on the city, shelters and individuals in the struggle with pet overpopulation.

The ASPCA has always recognized programs that provide public incentives to spay or neuter companion animals as an important way to control pet overpopulation. An animal population control program that provided low-cost spay/neuter services would encourage New York City residents who have cats or dogs to have them spayed or neutered. The program would include, but not be limited to, the creation of spay/neuter clinics, and it would establish criteria for pet-owner eligibility to use such services. The Committee on State and Federal Legislation voted 6-0 in favor of the resolution!

Washington

Congratulations, Washington—Governor Gregoire has signed SB 5651 into law! Please email her today to thank her. By showing your appreciation for the passage of humane laws, you'll help get similar laws created in the future!

SB 5651 is important humane legislation that limits to 50 the number of intact dogs commercial breeders may keep, and establishes standards of care that apply to

anyone keeping 10 or more intact adult dogs. These standards of care include access to clean food and water, exercise, proper housing, basic veterinary care and protection from extreme weather conditions.

Puppy mills are large-scale commercial dog breeding operations where profit is given priority over the well-being of the dogs. The puppies produced by puppy mills are sold in pet stores and directly to the public, often through the internet.

The conditions at these facilities are typically filthy and overcrowded. The dogs who live in puppy mills rarely, if ever, receive adequate veterinary care or socialization. For more ways to help fight puppy mills, go to www.asPCA.org/puppymills. ■





\$3,095

◆ Chagrin Falls, Ohio

PETFIX NORTHEAST OHIO



\$20,000

◆ Tampa, Florida

HUMANE SOCIETY OF TAMPA BAY



\$5,000

◆ Guston, Kentucky

BROADBENT WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

Your Dollars at Work

◆ Chagrin Falls, Ohio

A \$3,095 grant was awarded to PetFix Northeast Ohio for its "Fix It in the Farmland" program, which provides 20 daily spay/neuter surgeries for low-income pet parents and feral/free-roaming cat caregivers in predominantly Amish rural Geauga County. In November, Petfix altered 14 cats and 7 dogs brought by buggy or wagon to an Amish farm. PetFix will do seven additional clinics, four at Amish farms and three at locations easily accessible to the Amish and other low-income rural pet parents and caregivers. ■

◆ Tampa, Florida

A \$20,000 grant was made to the Humane Society of Tampa Bay to continue to fund a low-cost feral cat spay/neuter program for caretakers registered in the Tampa Feral Cat Database. A total of 500 cats will be sterilized, inoculated, ear-tipped and provided with additional veterinary care, if necessary. ■

◆ Guston, Kentucky

A \$5,000 grant was made for emergency hay supplies to Broadbent Wildlife Sanctuary, which took charge of several dozen starving horses pending a neglect trial. Former Kentucky Legislator Mary Ann Tobin founded Broadbent Wildlife Sanctuary to provide a safe, healing haven for orphaned, injured, infirm or outcast animals. ■

◆ Bolivar, Missouri

A \$3,000 grant was provided to the Polk County Humane Society, which is building a new shelter in this rural area. The grant will help fund medical equipment, and provide spay/neuter educational supplies and training. ■

◆ Salem, Oregon

A \$4,500 grant was made to Willamette Humane Society for "Save the Felines," a voucher-based spay/neuter program for cats of low-income residents. Residents may purchase vouchers for \$25 per cat, which are accepted at local veterinarians who bill the difference to the Humane Society. The Humane Society sells approximately 1,500 certificates annually, and it expects a 46 percent sales increase in 2009. ■



\$3,000

◆ **Bolivar, Missouri**
POLK COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY



\$4,500

◆ **Salem, Oregon**
WILLAMETTE HUMANE SOCIETY

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Some things are just a natural fit. Like the proud partnership between Subaru and the ASPCA. In fact, eligible Guardian members can take advantage of the Subaru VIP Partners Program. Because anyone willing to give pets a little love, deserves some back. **Love. It's what makes a Subaru, a Subaru.**



Learn more at www.aspc.org/guardians

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

Help Pets Keep Their Cool During Hot Summer Months

As the sun heats things up, the ASPCA® reminds pet parents of the ways they can keep their furry friends cool and safe this summer.



- **Make Sure Food Is Safe.**

Summer is the perfect time for a barbecue, but what you serve may be poisonous to pets. “Keep alcoholic beverages away from pets, as they can cause intoxication, depression and comas,” says Dr. Steven Hansen, ASPCA Senior Vice President of Animal Health Services. “The snacks you serve your friends should not be a treat for your pet—in particular, raisins, grapes, onions, chocolate and products with xylitol as a sweetener.”

- **Pets Have It Made in the Shade.**

Give your pets plenty of water, provide a shady place and keep them indoors when it’s extremely hot. “Never leave your animals alone in a parked vehicle,” says Dr. Louise Murray, ASPCA Director of Medicine. “On a hot day, even with the windows open, a parked automobile can become a furnace in no time.”

- **A Pest-Free Pet Is a Happy Pet.**

Common flea and tick products, rodenticides and insecticides can be harmful to pets if ingested. Some flea products can be used safely on dogs and cats, but products labeled as “dog only” containing permethrin can be deadly to cats. Read directions carefully.

- **Water Safety Is Pet Friendly.**

Supervise pets around a pool, and be sure pets wear flotation devices on boats. Don’t let your dog drink pool water, which contains chlorine and other chemicals.

- **Be Aware of “High-Rise Syndrome.”**

During warm months, there is an increase in injured animals as a result of “High-Rise Syndrome,” which occurs when pets fall out of open windows or doors. Keep unscreened windows or doors in your home closed and make sure screens are secured.

- **Fireworks Aren’t Very “Petriotic.”**

Never use fireworks around pets. Even unused fireworks can be hazardous. Many contain potentially toxic substances, such as potassium nitrate, copper, chlorates, arsenic and other heavy metals.

If your dog or cat ingests any potentially harmful products, please consult the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center at 888-426-4435 (a fee applies) or www.asPCA.org/apcc, or take your pet to a veterinarian immediately. For more information on having a fun, safe summer with your pet, please visit www.asPCA.org/petcare. ■

Ask the Experts



Q: Can you tell me what kind of arthritis creams or medications are good for my dog? Tina

A: There are no arthritis creams that are used for dogs or safe for dogs. There are several good oral medications, but it's important to be sure that the dog has arthritis, which may require x-rays and blood work, because dogs with liver or kidney problems cannot take certain arthritis medications. Dogs with liver or kidney problems cannot take non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs). Your dog should not be given any medications without first consulting a vet. ■

Dr. Louise Murray
Director of Veterinary Medicine,
ASPCA® Animal Health Services



Q: My two-year-old male cat, Spooner, constantly chews plastic. When we scold him, he runs to the next room and finds some other plastic to chew on. Lately, he's been pulling down my bath towels from towel racks. He has a kitty sister to play with, so I don't understand this mischievous behavior. Denise

A: Many cats like to chew on plastic, but be sure yours doesn't ingest any, as it could make him ill. You might make sure your fun-loving boy has plenty of outlets for his energy and chewing needs. Try coating a rawhide dog chew with a bit of oil from a can of tuna fish or a bit of cheese spread. In addition, keep the bathroom door closed, or hang the towels a little higher. You might also try leaving a tall scratching post near the bathroom—most are too short for cats to get a proper stretch, which is why they sometimes choose less appropriate targets. ■

Trish McMillan, MSc, CPDT
Consulting Animal Behaviorist,
ASPCA Animal Health Services



Q: Is the Pachira plant safe for kitties? The tag hanging from it says "pet safe," and I have looked at your list of unsafe plants, and it's not there. Marie

A: Not to worry, Marie. Money Tree or *Pachira aquatica* is not poisonous to pets. However, even non-toxic plants can produce minor stomach upset if ingested. Therefore, it's still a good idea to discourage your kitties from munching away on your Pachira plant. ■

Dana Farbman, CVT
Sr. Manager of Professional Communications,
ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center

People and Events

12th Annual ASPCA® Bergh Ball Raises More than \$1 Million; Honors Lifestyle Expert Martha Stewart for Bringing the “Good Life”



Martha Stewart, Bernadette Peters and Ed Sayres, ASPCA President & CEO, attend the 12th Annual ASPCA Bergh Ball, Rescue Me.

New York City’s splendid Plaza Hotel was the scene of the 12th Annual ASPCA® Bergh Ball on April 23. This black tie gala draws a passionate crowd of animal lovers every year for dining and dancing in support of the ASPCA mission. More than 350 well-dressed revelers attended this year’s Bergh Ball, aptly named for ASPCA

founder Henry Bergh. Popular designer Isaac Mizrahi emceed the evening, and Jamie Niven, Vice Chairman of Sotheby’s, served as auctioneer. The soiree’s highlight came when ASPCA President & CEO, Ed Sayres presented Martha Stewart with the ASPCA Presidential Service Award. “The ASPCA is delighted to honor Martha Stewart for her dedication to promoting compassion toward animals and for her continued celebration of the important human-animal bond,” says Sayres. “The award recognizes individuals who have made a commitment to animals and have gone above and beyond for animal welfare. It’s my pleasure to present the Presidential Service Award to Ms. Stewart, and I thank her for embodying these values.” Martha Stewart, founder of Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia, Inc. says, “My life has been greatly enriched by the many pets I have cared for over the years. I am deeply committed to the



Isaac Mizrahi, emcee of the Bergh Ball.



Benjamin Lambert, Linda Lloyd Lambert and Oliver Lloyd enjoy the night.



ASPCA Board Member Jonathan Farkas and his wife Somers, chairperson for the ASPCA Bergh Ball.

People and Events

values the ASPCA embraces, and I am honored to be receiving this award.”

Chairpersons of the evening’s festivities were Somers and Jonathan Farkas, Michele and Fredrik Gradin, Margo and James L. Nederlander, Kim White and Kurt Wolfgruber. Honorary Chairpersons were Linda and Benjamin V. Lambert. The party’s Benefit Committee included Arriana and Dixon Boardman, Annette and Matt Lauer, Jill Rappaport and Richard Swift, Ellen and Chuck Scarborough, Allison and Jay Aston, Mark Gilbertson and Lake Bell. Other notable guests included Mark Badgley, James Mischka, Catherine Malandrino, Bethenny Frankel and Bernadette Peters. ■



Bethenny Frankel of the TV show *The Real Housewives of New York City* and a furry friend.



Meg Dimeling and Oliver Scarborough



Margo McNabb Nederlander and Charlene Nederlander



Rebecca Hessel and Todd Cohen



Bernadette Peters with Terrier



Allison Aston, Junior Chairman of the Bergh Ball and Amy Smilovic, TIBI Fashion Designer.

Celebrity Corner Nellie McKay



certificate for free follow-up veterinary care at the ASPCA Bergh Memorial Animal Hospital within 14 days of adoption, a pet carrier, and literature and information about cat behavior and what to expect from your new feline.

ASPCA Encourages New Yorkers to Adopt Adult Cats With “Free Over Three” Summer-Long Promotion

Many people don't realize that cats can live into their late teens and early twenties, so adopting an adult cat can provide years of satisfying companionship. To get the word out, the ASPCA is hosting a summer-long promotion through Labor Day to draw kitty-minded New Yorkers into the ASPCA Adoption Center to adopt a feline friend, three years or older, for free! Exciting new research by Dr. Emily Weiss, ASPCA Senior Director of Shelter Research & Development, indicates that there is scientific data to support that cats who are adopted as “free” are just as likely to find permanent, loving homes as cats who were adopted for a charge. “That’s why free adoptions make sense—they enable us to provide loving homes for cats while saving more lives than ever! And that’s what it’s all about,” says Gail Buchwald, Senior Vice President of the ASPCA Adoption Center.

“Adult cats are easier to care for than rambunctious juveniles, and they’re typically house-trained and accustomed to life in the home,” notes Buchwald. “At the ASPCA, we have a wide range of cats, so whether you’re looking for a playful kitty or a snugly lap cat, we’ll strive to find the ‘purr-fect’ match. Also, adult cats have well-formed personalities, so what you see is what you get.” The “Free Over Three” promotion, which is limited to two free cats per household, includes a free adoption package for cats age three and older. Cats are spayed or neutered, vaccinated and microchipped. Adopters also receive a

The ASPCA’s “Free Over Three” cat adoption offer applies at the ASPCA Adoption Center, located at 424 East 92nd St., between York and First Avenues in New York City. For more information on the “Free Over Three” program, please go to www.asPCA.org/adoption. ■

Martha Stewart and *The Martha Stewart Show* Spend Day at ASPCA

Martha Stewart, host of *The Martha Stewart Show*, paid a visit to the ASPCA on Thursday, March 19, to tape a segment about the ASPCA for her talk show. The domestic diva is well known for her love of animals, and during her visit she got “up close and personal” with some of the exceptional cats and dogs for adoption at the ASPCA Adoption Center. For more on Martha’s pet passions, go to www.marthastewart.com/pets. ■



Martha Stewart spends a day at the ASPCA with Ed Sayres, ASPCA President & CEO.



Nellie McKay is a singer and songwriter. In addition to her three critically acclaimed albums, she won a Theatre World Award for her portrayal of Polly Peachum in the Broadway production of *The Threepenny Opera*.

Q What was the name of your first pet?

A Wilbur, a black-and-white cat who was politically aligned with Bob Packwood.

Q What’s your fondest “pet memory”?

A Our dog, Joey, when he would howl along with passing firetrucks, or when we would lift up his front paws and dance.

Q Why are groups like the ASPCA so important?

A They fight pet overpopulation via their spay/neuter programs, their adoption programs and their enforcement of animal welfare laws.

Q Do you share your life with pets?

A Yes, with two willful kitties, Emerald and Osama, and a Dixie Dingo named Charo.

Q What is the most rewarding part of having pets?

A Having someone to talk to who will always listen. Having their unconditional love—they don’t care what you look like—along with their companionship. ■



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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Tivi Takes a Lickin' and Keeps on Tickin'!

Susan and Randa, Humane Society of the Ochocos, Prineville, Oregon

Tivoli, a six-to-seven-year-old Pit Bull/Chinese Shar-Pei mix, is unforgettable. One hot summer day last June, Tivoli was seen wandering by a reservoir, and he collapsed along the highway. Those who found him could not identify his breed or his color. He smelled like gasoline and had burns over 90 percent of his body. He also had a dislocated hip and lacerations. He spent a week in intensive care and a month at a local animal hospital. He was brought to the Humane Society of the Ochocos to recover. His skin blistered and peeled off, and his hip started healing with the help of a metal pin. Every once in a while, we'd see a glimpse of his smile.

Tivi's recovery has been slow. His feet and skin are still very tender, and though he would love to go on long walks, or sleep in the sun on a warm day, he cannot because of his injuries. His hair is finally growing back in little tufts, and it turns out he's a redhead. He does have the occasional temper tantrum, destroying everything in his room except a rubber alligator, which he carries around like his wrinkled little baby.

Tivi may never get over the abuse he has suffered, but this shelter is determined to help him get beyond it and find the home that he was meant to have! ■

Kitty Named Bullet Survives to Tell Tail

Sara Scarpuzzi, Orlando, Florida

My cat, Bullet, is a Siamese mix. He was about eight weeks old when I found him; he was thin and trying to find food and water. When I approached, he limped away, dragging his back right leg. I followed him into the bushes where he lay, tired and scared. He allowed me to pick him up, and I noticed that he was covered in fleas and had ear mites. I drove him to the vet, fearing he had a broken pelvis or leg. Once at the vet, he was thoroughly examined. I had noticed a little blood at the base of his tail and mentioned it to the vet. The doc later called to tell me that the little blood spot was a bullet entry wound; the kitten had been shot in the back, and he would require surgery. I gave the OK, and the doc was able to remove the larger bullet pieces, although he will have smaller fragments permanently in his leg. I took the kitten home, and my fiance and I started therapy on his leg, working to strengthen the muscles, tendons and ligaments. Over the next several months, the kitten went from dragging it behind him to lifting it to scratch his ear! We named our tough little kitty "Bullet" (or Bully). Bully has had his struggles, but he has furry help from his two sisters, Nala (6) and Tiger (5). After three years, Bully is learning to be less fearful. I just want people to know that patience and love can turn an abused, feral kitty into a sweet and inspirational cat! ■



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.