

Summer 2007

Keeping Your Pet Safe

The ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center saves lives 24/7



Photo by Kristy Leibowitz



Protecting Animals Round-the-Clock

Since Menu Foods announced its massive pet food recall on March 16, the ASPCA has been flooded with calls from concerned pet parents and animal welfare professionals alike. The ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center is the only 24-hour, 365-day facility of its kind, and it is timely that it is the cover story for this issue of ASPCA Action.

The ASPCA is the oldest humane organization in North America, and we're more dedicated than ever to our work preventing animal cruelty and finding permanent, loving homes for adoptable pets all across the country. But we are also committed to being there for the millions of compassionate citizens like you, and one of our goals is to be the number one resource for pet parents in America.

Whether it's saving a pet that has been accidentally poisoned, fighting to pass humane laws, rescuing animals from abuse, or sharing resources with shelters across the country, the ASPCA is there, changing the face of animal welfare. It is my hope that the ASPCA, thanks to the support of members like you, will always be there, making a difference for pets and pet parents alike—even in the most desperate times of need.

Edwin Sayres
ASPCA President & CEO

ASPCA Action

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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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Keeping Your Pet Safe

The ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center Protects Pets 24/7



Photo Credit: Kate Flock/Newton Tab.

Foods like chocolate, fine for people, can be toxic to pets, especially small (and determined) ones like Oscar.

When Deborah Novick of Newton, MA, settled in for a leisurely meal with friends and family this past holiday season, their pet dog Oscar, a 7-1/2 year old dachshund with a nose for treats, was nowhere in sight. He was busy in the next room, it later became apparent, peeling the foil wrappers off the chocolate Hannukah gelt that had been left unattended.

“When we discovered Oscar had eaten 40 pieces of chocolate, which I knew was bad for dogs, I called my vet right away,” says Novick. “It was late in the evening, and I got a recording telling me to call the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center.”

Novick was soon speaking with an ASPCA toxicologist, expertly trained in

managing the many potential poisons a wayward pet can get into. “It’s an amazing service,” she says. “They determined that Oscar had eaten a toxic amount of chocolate for his size and weight. I rushed out to buy some hydrogen peroxide to make him throw up, but that didn’t do the trick.”

That’s when Novick, on the advice of ASPCA experts, headed to her local clinic, the Veterinary Emergency & Specialty Center of New England in Waltham, MA. “Oscar came in after midnight with a distended belly and a rapid heart rate; his life was at risk,” says Dr. Heather Chalfant, the veterinarian who treated him there. “We consulted with the ASPCA on a treatment plan and, happily, after a night’s observation,

Top 10 Reasons for Calls to the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center

- 1. Pills** and other people medications, including prescription drugs, over-the-counter remedies, and dietary supplements
- 2. Insecticides** used to kill fleas, ticks, and other insects
- 3. Mouse and rat poisons**
- 4. Pet medicines**, such as heartworm preventatives, arthritis relievers, and nutritional supplements



- 5. Household cleaners**, such as bleaches, detergents, and disinfectants
- 6. Herbicides**
- 7. Plants**, such as lilies, rhododendron, azalea, sago palm, kalanchoe, and schefflera
- 8. Chocolate**
- 9. Home improvement products**, including paint, solvents, and expanding glues
- 10. Fertilizers**

Oscar was ready to go home.”

Round-the-Clock Service

The ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center is the only 24-hour, 365-day facility of its kind, dispensing emergency lifesaving advice to pet parents and veterinarians from throughout North America, and across the globe. Staff includes 28 veterinarians, many board-certified in toxicology, aided by dozens of certified veterinary technicians and assistants, including students from the nearby College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana, where the call center first started nearly 30 years ago.

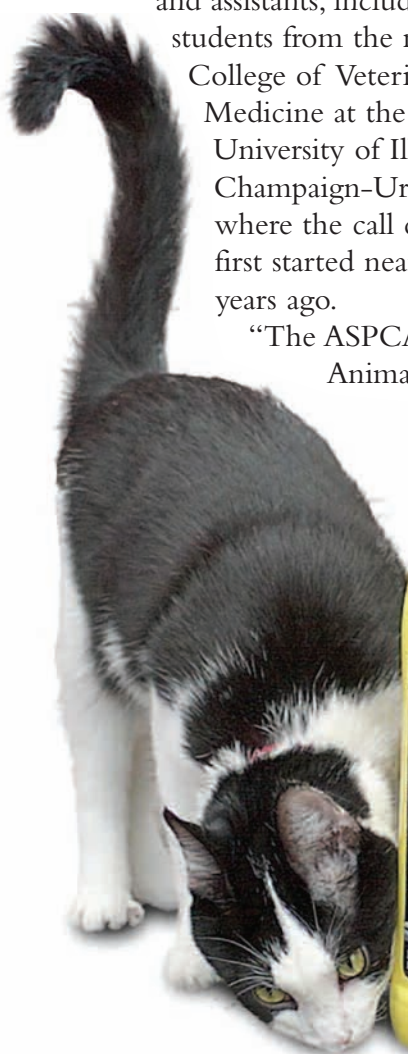
“The ASPCA
Animal Poison

Control Center has a vast amount of knowledge on so many different toxins,” says Dr. Chalfant. “That’s why we use them solely, and advise people who attend our pet first-aid class to keep their phone number on hand, along with other important contacts.”

Because the service is not supported by state or federal grants, as human poison control centers are, the ASPCA must charge a \$55 fee to cover costs in most cases. “It may seem like a lot of money,” says Novick. “But they give you a tremendous amount of follow-up and follow-through. Not only did they talk to me several times during the course of the night. They talked to the emergency room vet several times as well.”

A Panoply of Poisons

The ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center maintains updated files on more than one million individual cases and an ever-expanding list of more than 60,000 potential toxins, ranging from pills and pesticides to household cleaners and non-pet-friendly plants. This extensive database allows the ASPCA to



As little as one teaspoon of antifreeze can be deadly to a cat; one to two tablespoons can kill a 10-pound dog.



Pet First Aid Kit

Keep the phone number of the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center—(888) 426-4435—along with that of your local vet or clinic in a prominent location. Have ready an emergency first aid kit that includes:

- A fresh bottle of hydrogen peroxide, 3 percent USP (to induce vomiting)
- A turkey baster, bulb syringe, or large medicine syringe (to squirt peroxide)
- Saline eye solution, plus artificial tear gel (to lubricate eyes after flushing)
- Mild grease-cutting dishwashing liquid (to bathe animal after skin contamination)
- Forceps (to remove stingers)
- A muzzle (to protect against fear- or excitement-induced biting)
- A can of your pet’s favorite wet food
- A pet carrier

Always consult a veterinarian or the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center for directions on how and when to use any emergency first-aid item.

You can purchase a Pet First Aid Kit at the ASPCA online store:
www.aspcas.org/shop

remain on the frontlines of poison prevention. During the recent contaminated pet food recall, for example, ASPCA experts were on hand to speak with concerned pet parents and to consult with veterinary professionals managing the crisis.

The ASPCA was also among the first to identify, or publicize, such potential pet hazards as grapes and raisins, Xylitol (found in sugarless gum), liquid potpourri, avocados (especially toxic to birds), and the antidepressant Effexor (a special hazard for cats). Similarly, the ASPCA has helped dispel common misconceptions and Internet rumors, such as that Swiffer WetJet products and Greenies brand pet treats are especially hazardous to pets, both false.

A newsletter and continuing education program help get the word out to practicing veterinarians. In addition, an ASPCA Veterinary Lifeline Partner Program allows some 3,400 veterinary clinics across North America to gain rapid access to poison center recommendations and other vital information, including a copy of case records by e-mail or fax.

A Typical Day

On one recent day, calls included a Persian cat that developed a weeping eye ulcer (possibly from a shampoo to remove tear stains); a Boston terrier that gnawed on kitchen ant bait; a tabby that got into kerosene in the basement; a Lab-retriever mix that chewed open a bottle of shoe polish; and a curious mutt that consumed a cluster of box

Photo by: Roberta Vega



Pets & Medications: A Dangerous Mix

When Pam McQuade, a self-described basset hound addict from Nutley, NJ, discovered that her beloved Lady Jane had chewed into her bottle of blood pressure medicine, she called the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center right away. "They informed me I should give her hydrogen peroxide to make her throw up. Though Jane wasn't a happy camper, 20 minutes later she was fine," says McQuade. "I used to keep my medication on my dining room table, where my cat could knock it down; now I keep it safely locked away."

Pets that improperly ingest medications accounted for nearly half of the more than 116,000 cases the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center handled last year. The best way to prepare for a pet poison emergency is to prevent it in the first place:

"Never give your pet any medication without the direction of a veterinarian," cautions Dr. Steven Hansen, Senior VP of the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center. "Even one extra-strength acetaminophen can be deadly to a cat, and just four regular-strength ibuprofen can lead to serious kidney problems in a 10-pound dog."

Keep all drugs out of the reach of your pets, preferably in closed cabinets above the counter. "Don't line a week's supply of medicines up on the countertop, where a child or pet could easily knock them off," advises Dr. Sharon Gwaltney-Brant, Medical Director of the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center. Remind guests to store their medications safely as well.

"Take your medications in a safe place, such as in the bathroom with the door closed," Dr. Gwaltney-Brant adds. "Many exposures occur when someone drops a pill, or the whole bottle, and the pet dives in."

"Child-proof doesn't mean pet-proof," says Dr. Camille DeClementi, ASPCA Director of Content and Records Management. "Puppies can chew and get to things a child can't. Cats get up on everything."

elder bugs (apparently much less harmful than ladybugs).

More exotic cases the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center has successfully handled through the years include an aquarium dolphin

that swallowed a battery; a Russian space monkey that gnawed on a Teflon panel; an anthropologist's pup that teethed on curare-tipped arrows; a fuel-guzzling chimpanzee from Cameroon; and a twitching

pet tarantula accidentally left behind when a flea defogger was set off.

“As part of ongoing efforts to aid all animals in need, the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center plays a vital role in the ASPCA’s round-the-clock lifesaving efforts,” says Dr. Steven Hansen, a veterinary toxicologist and Senior VP of the ASPCA Midwest Office, which includes the Animal Poison Control Center. “Last year, we handled more than 116,000 cases and helped save more than 84,000 animals’ lives. Those numbers continue to grow.”

If your pet is poisoned:

- **Try to stay calm.** Panic only interferes with the process of aiding your pet.
- **Take 30 to 60 seconds** to safely collect any materials involved. This will help your local veterinarian or ASPCA toxicologist determine what poisons, if any, your pet may have been exposed to.
- **If you need to take your pet to a local clinic,** bring the product’s container with you. Also, use a sealable plastic bag to collect any material your pet may have vomited or chewed.
- **If your pet consumes anything you suspect might be poisonous,** don’t hesitate to seek emergency aid, even if your animal seems fine. “Symptoms may be hard to detect at first,” says Dr. Charlotte Means, a veterinary toxicologist with the ASPCA. “Cats exposed to lilies, for example, may initially show only vague symptoms, like

Saving Gracie



When Angel Bringelson of Salem, OR, awoke to find her beloved six-year-old domestic shorthair Gracie listless and drooling in February, she rushed her to the local clinic. Sores on the cat’s lips and gums led her to believe the cat had knocked over a bottle of disinfectant cleaning fluid, then stepped through it and licked her paws.

An ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center expert was able to walk the veterinary

team through a successful care plan that included a pain shot, medications for the mouth ulcers, and an appetite booster to get the cat eating again. After three days, including an ASPCA follow-up call, “Gracie was back to her old mischievous self,” says Bringelson. “We couldn’t have been happier with the service we got from the ASPCA. You take notice when someone shows genuine care and interest.”

tiredness or drinking more water than usual. Anywhere from one to three days later, signs of kidney failure, with severe vomiting and an inability to pee, may develop. At this later stage, it’s not always possible to save the animal.”

Call the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center Hotline at: (888) 426-4435. A \$55 consultation fee may be applied to your credit card. Be ready with the following information:

- The species, breed, age, sex, weight, and number of animals involved;
- The animal’s symptoms;
- Information about the potential toxin (if you know what was

involved), the amount that your pet was exposed to or ingested, and how much time has gone by since the time of exposure. Have the product container or packaging handy for reference.

- **Important:** If your animal is having seizures, losing consciousness or unconscious, or having trouble breathing, telephone ahead and bring your pet immediately to your local veterinarian or emergency clinic. If necessary, the veterinarian on duty may call the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center.

For more information and a wealth of pet poison prevention tips, visit the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center online at www.aspc.org/apcc. ■

ASPCA® Mission: Orange™ Update

Target-city kickoffs point to a more humane future for America's pets



ASPCA Mission: Orange efforts in Austin include a new spay and neuter clinic, innovative adoption programs, and advanced anti-cruelty training.

Animal welfare groups in Austin, TX, and Tampa, FL, gathered in February for local kickoffs of ASPCA® Mission: Orange™, the ASPCA's groundbreaking new effort to expand humane care and protection to animals throughout the United States. Along with Philadelphia, PA, and Gulfport-Biloxi, MS, these communities are each targeted to receive up to \$600,000 in ASPCA funds over three years. With ongoing support from ASPCA experts, the goal is to make each a humane community, where no animals are at risk simply because they lack a home.

"The collaborative partnerships of ASPCA Mission: Orange will serve as a model to other communities across the country," says ASPCA President & CEO Ed Sayres. "We are off to a great start as we move one step closer to our

vision of creating a country of humane communities, one community at a time."

Homeless Animal Summit

Local launch activities included an ASPCA-sponsored Austin Homeless Animal Summit, where ASPCA Mission: Orange partners Animal Trustees of Austin, the Austin Humane Society, EmanciPET, Town Lake Animal Center, and other groups pledged to work together to end animal homelessness.

"Lifesaving ASPCA programs like Meet Your Match™, which color codes pets with prospective new parents, and More and Better Adoptions are already making a difference for cats and dogs at risk for being euthanized in shelters across the country this year," says Senior VP Julie Morris of ASPCA

National Outreach. "These programs will continue to boost adoptions in Austin and communities nationwide."

Advanced ASPCA anti-cruelty training in Austin and other locales will provide further protection for animals, as will ongoing commitments to disaster preparedness and grassroots training. Plans are under way to work with groups like Habitat for Humanity, working to educate new pet parents on pet care and behavior, thereby keeping pets from entering—or re-entering—shelters.

ASPCA Mission: Orange Day

In Tampa, a Mayoral proclamation declared February 26, 2007, ASPCA Mission: Orange Day. There, ASPCA partners Hillsborough County Animal Services, the Humane Society of Tampa Bay, No More Homeless Pets, and Animal Coalition of Tampa gathered to commit to the three-year campaign. Donors were welcomed at a Sunday reception, and even the Florida Department of Citrus joined in by providing oranges during the weekend's events.

"We're working to build a safety net for animals, as efforts ramp up in other ASPCA Mission: Orange communities as well," says the ASPCA's Morris. "These intense, collective efforts mean more adoptable pets will be finding a home." To learn more, visit us on the Web at www.aspc.org/missionorange. ■



Photo: Mary Bloom

Houston SPCA Named Shelter of the Year

The Houston SPCA, which provides aid to more than 100,000 animals a year, was the proud recipient of the ASPCA 2006 “Shelter of the Year” Award,

presented on February 10 at New York’s Grand Hyatt Hotel. The award honors those whose dedication raises public awareness of the well-being of animals. The organization partnered with the ASPCA to transfer lost, abandoned, and injured pets following the devastation of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. “For the past 83 years, we have worked hard to make our community a better place for animals and people,” says Houston SPCA President Patti Mercer (*second from left*), shown with colleagues from Houston and the ASPCA. “We are thrilled to receive this recognition.” ■



Classroom Supporters

Hats off to the 7th and 8th graders of Martino Junior High School in New Lenox, IL, who raised \$450 through a candle sale for the ASPCA Hurricane Relief Fund. “Our student council was very proud to give to these helpless animals, especially after watching the news based out of Mississippi,” said teacher and advisor Kimberly Hamilton. ■

ASPCA 2007 ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

The ASPCA 2007 Annual Meeting of Members will be held at **The ASPCA, 424 E. 92nd St., New York, NY, at 9 A.M. on Wednesday, June 13, 2007**. All ASPCA members of record* are welcome to participate.

Please note: If you are unable to attend to vote in person, please mail your proxy (see below).

VOTING MEMBER PROXY | ASPCA ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS | WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13, 2007

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

The undersigned hereby constitutes and appoints Mr. Hoyle C. Jones, Mr. James W. Gerard, and Mr. Edwin J. Sayres, or each or any of them, with the full power of substitution, as proxies to appear and vote in the name of the undersigned, at the offices of the ASPCA, 424 E. 92nd St, New York, NY, on the day of June 13, 2007, at 9 A.M. and at any and all adjournments thereof; and the undersigned hereby revokes any other proxy heretofore given by him or her and instructs said proxies to vote upon any business that may properly come before the meeting or any adjournment thereof.

*You are allowed to attend and participate in the ASPCA 2007 Annual Meeting of Members only if you became a member of the ASPCA on or before the meeting record date of February 28, 2007, 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 12, 2007, shall be counted. Proxies may also be submitted in person at the meeting.

MEMBER'S NAME

STREET ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

SIGNATURE

DATED

ASPCA Humane Law Enforcement in action

Damsels in Distress



A new life for Dani, rescued by ASPCA agents.

It was a heart-wrenching sight: A mother dog, so undernourished she couldn't walk, her one surviving pup clinging to her desperately trying in vain to nurse. That's the scene that confronted ASPCA Humane Law Enforcement agents Joseph Lemos and Omar Negrillo, who came to the house in Queens, NY, after a concerned citizen called the ASPCA with an animal cruelty tip.

The starving pit-bull terrier and her emaciated pup were rushed to the ASPCA's Bergh Memorial Hospital in Manhattan, where they received lifesaving veterinary care. Their 20-year-old owner, who had answered the door eating a sandwich, was charged with animal cruelty after telling ASPCA investigators he had no money to feed the dogs and that they hadn't

eaten in weeks.

"She was near death when we rescued her," says ASPCA Assistant Director of Humane Law Enforcement Joseph Pentangelo of the mother dog, christened Damsel by ASPCA staff and volunteers who nursed the affectionate canine back to health. Her black-and-white pup, named Jezebel, proved equally resilient and was soon bouncing about playfully the way a puppy should.

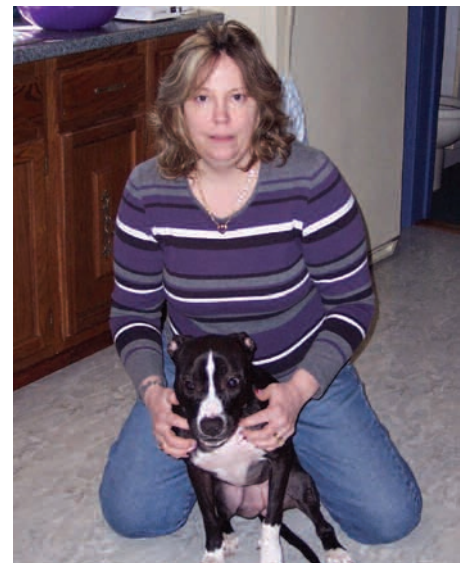
A New and Better Life

Colin McCarthy had been to the ASPCA before, working construction on the ASPCA's newly renovated state-of-the-art adoption center. When he moved last year to a roomy new home in Astoria, NY, the longtime animal lover knew where to go to adopt.

"As soon as I saw Damsel at the ASPCA, I knew she was the one for me," says McCarthy. He renamed the loving dog Dani, in honor of her new life, and "couldn't imagine my life without her now. My sister showers her with all the latest doggie fashions, and Dani loves to take rides in my car, play ball with her pals, and get a good scrub in the bathtub."

Sheree Biro of Middletown, NY, was equally enchanted by Dani's pup, Jezebel. "The minute I saw her, I just had to have her," she

says of the loving pooch, now full grown at 40 pounds. "She's one of those dogs that sticks to you, so affectionate. She dives under the covers when I go to sleep at night. And when I take her to the local



Jezebel the pup has a loving new home.

pet store or the vet, everyone knows her and shouts, "There's Jezebel!"

This past November, Dani and Jezebel's original owner got a fitting sentence for starving the family of pets: 16 months in prison for Felony Animal Cruelty. "It's a new degree of seriousness for sentencing in an animal cruelty case," says the ASPCA's Pentangelo.

"You get a lot of satisfaction giving a dog like Dani a better life," McCarthy adds. "One thing these pets are not lacking now is lots of love." ■



18 TONS AID FOR ORPHANS

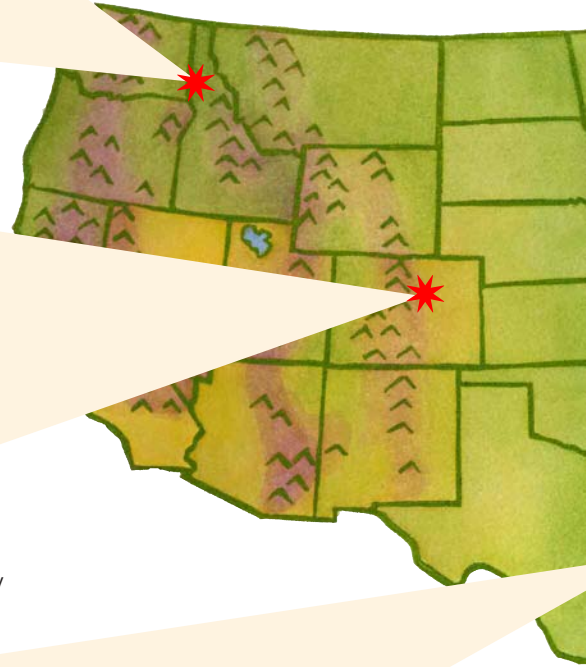
■ Idaho

\$2,000 in ASPCA emergency funds supplied 18 tons of hay to 73 hungry horses at Orphan Acres in Viola, ID, a much-needed boost for the ongoing aid still needed after last year's drought. Since 1975, the volunteer group has saved over 1,650 animals placed in its care, including Lil' Blue McGoo (shown in photo), the horse ridden by the medicine man in *Dances with Wolves* that was later badly neglected by a new owner. "Groups like the ASPCA are so important, as they educate people in the proper care of animals and are there to take action to prevent cruelty when needed," says Brent Glover, Orphan Acres' founder.

\$2,000 BIRDS FLY FREE

■ Colorado

A \$2,000 grant to the Gabriel Foundation was used to build an outdoor exercise area for parrots, cockatiels, budgerigars, and other small birds, part of the sanctuary and rescue group's new Aviary and Adoption Center in Denver. "Too often, smaller birds are relegated entirely to life in a tiny cage," says Anna Gonce, the Gabriel Foundation's Executive Director. "Our rooms are designed so that small birds can safely go outside each day and learn how to fly, forage, and explore with members of their same species."



200+

HUMANE CLASSROOM LEADERS

■ Texas

Two hundred elementary and middle school teachers learned ASPCA lessons in humane education at a January workshop in Houston, thanks to ongoing efforts by the ASPCA to sow a culture of compassion in classrooms across America. Educators can incorporate humane care in their curriculum, with standards-based lessons on such topics as fighting cruelty, alternatives to dissection, and pet-friendly books. Many more teachers will be trained in the coming year, as ASPCA teacher workshops are being planned for ASPCA® Mission: Orange™ communities in Austin, Gulfport-Biloxi, Tampa, Philadelphia, and beyond.



Your Dolla



\$3,500

NO MORE HOMELESS PETS

■ Michigan

A \$3,500 grant from the ASPCA is helping to fund an ambitious new program in Michigan, a free clinic for low-income residents who can't afford to have their pets sterilized. "The ASPCA has been a great help to us in our efforts to make Oakland County a no-more-homeless-pets community by 2010," says Deborah Schutt, chairperson of the Oakland Pet Fund in Bloomfield Hills. The group is working with veterinarians and vet techs from All About Animals Rescue and the Oakland Pet Adoption Center to sterilize up to 700 cats in the coming year, with dogs to be added next year.



\$20,000

SAFE STEPS HOME

■ Pennsylvania

Animal Rescue League of Western PA is using a \$20,000 Safe Steps Home grant from the ASPCA and Fresh Step Scoopable Cat Litter to establish a Trap-Neuter-Return pilot program that will help save the lives of many of the more than 1,000 cats the city of Pittsburgh takes in each year. The program sterilizes feral felines, then places them in established feral cat colonies throughout the city so that these "unadoptable" animals will not be euthanized. "This has been a great program for us," says Dan Musher, Development Director, "allowing us to serve a population we weren't able to handle before."



6,387

SPAY AND NEUTER SURGERIES

■ Mississippi

The Humane Society of South Mississippi performed a record 6,387 spay and neuter procedures in 2006 at its new state-of-the-art clinic, funded in part by a generous ASPCA grant after the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. A second veterinarian came on board last fall, helping pave the way for a record-breaking 16,800 surgeries projected for 2007. The shelter is one of many groups the ASPCA works with in Gulfport-Biloxi, an ASPCA® Mission: Orange™ community that is working to become a model of humane care nationwide.



rs At Work

Urge Humane Handling of Sick Livestock

Support the Downed Animal and Food Safety Protection Act



Protect “downed” animals by urging your elected representatives to support the Downed Animal and Food Safety Protection Act. This humane measure would require immediate humane euthanasia of critically ill and injured cows, pigs, sheep, goats, mules, and horses too sick to rise or move on their own. It would also prohibit the slaughter of such “downed” animals for food.

“The Downed Animal and Food Safety Protection Act was recently reintroduced in the 110th Congress,” says Cori Menkin, Esq., Senior Director, Program Counsel of Government Affairs and Public Policy for the ASPCA.

“We continue to fight for the passage of this much needed and long overdue humane legislation.”

Animals that are destined for slaughter sometimes go “down” while en route to slaughter plants. These animals cannot stand or walk on their own due to injury or illness. Once at the slaughter plants, they may lie for days without food, water, or veterinary care until they are ultimately dragged or pushed to slaughter, often by a bulldozer.

Protecting Human Health

These practices are inhumane, often resulting in torn ligaments and broken bones. They pose a major health risk to people as

well. The risk of tainted meat entering the food chain increases when downed animals are slaughtered for human consumption. All six confirmed cases of mad cow disease in North America were reportedly from downed animals.

The Act (Senate Bill 394/House Resolution 661) would prompt stockyards to immediately humanely euthanize crippled and distressed animals instead of processing them as meat. It would also prompt meat producers to improve the care of animals in order to prevent them from going down at all. Such producers currently have an economic incentive to move downed animals through

slaughter in order to process the meat for sale in supermarkets, restaurants, and butcher shops.

“There is strong consensus within the industry, the animal welfare movement, consumers, and government that downed animals should not be sent to stockyards,” notes Hawaii Senator Daniel Akaka, a sponsor of the bill in the Senate. “Yet this sad problem continues, causing animal suffering and an erosion of public confidence in the industry.”

Contact your Representative and Senators now and urge them to support the Downed Animal and Food Safety Protection Act. For contact info and sample letters, visit www.aspc.org/lobby. ■

State Highlights

New Mexico:

Cockfighting Banned at Last

Kudos to New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson, who in March signed into law Senate Bill 10, a long sought statewide ban on cockfighting. "I am proud that New Mexico will now move beyond cockfighting and join the 48 states that have already banned this outdated practice," said Governor Richardson. The cruel blood sport now remains legal only in one state, Louisiana (see below).

"The Governor really appreciated the broad support he received from groups like the ASPCA and animal protection voters of New Mexico," said Jon Goldstein, a spokesman for the Governor's office. Thank you to all the ASPCA Advocacy Brigade members (www.asPCA.org/lobby) who made their voice heard.

Louisiana:

Ban Cockfights in all 50!

Speaker of the Louisiana House Joe Salter announced in March that he would support a bill outlawing cockfighting in the state, provided it is phased in two to three years from now to give the industry time to adjust. Previous attempts to ban the practice have stalled in the House. Salter, who once opposed a ban, cited New Mexico's recent passage of a cockfighting ban (see above) as one reason for his decision.

TAKE ACTION IN YOUR STATE

To learn more about important animal welfare bills in your state and find contact info and sample letters for your state lawmakers, join the ASPCA Advocacy Brigade at www.asPCA.org/lobby.

California:

Protect All Victims of Violence

The ASPCA applauds California's drive to strengthen protections for victims of domestic violence—and their pets. Studies show that 25 to 40 percent of domestic violence victims are unable to flee their abusers because of worry over what might happen to a beloved pet. Indeed, 71 percent of pet parents living in battered women shelters reported that a pet had been threatened, injured, or killed by their abuser. Cats, dogs, even livestock may be at risk. The fear perpetuates the cycle of abuse.

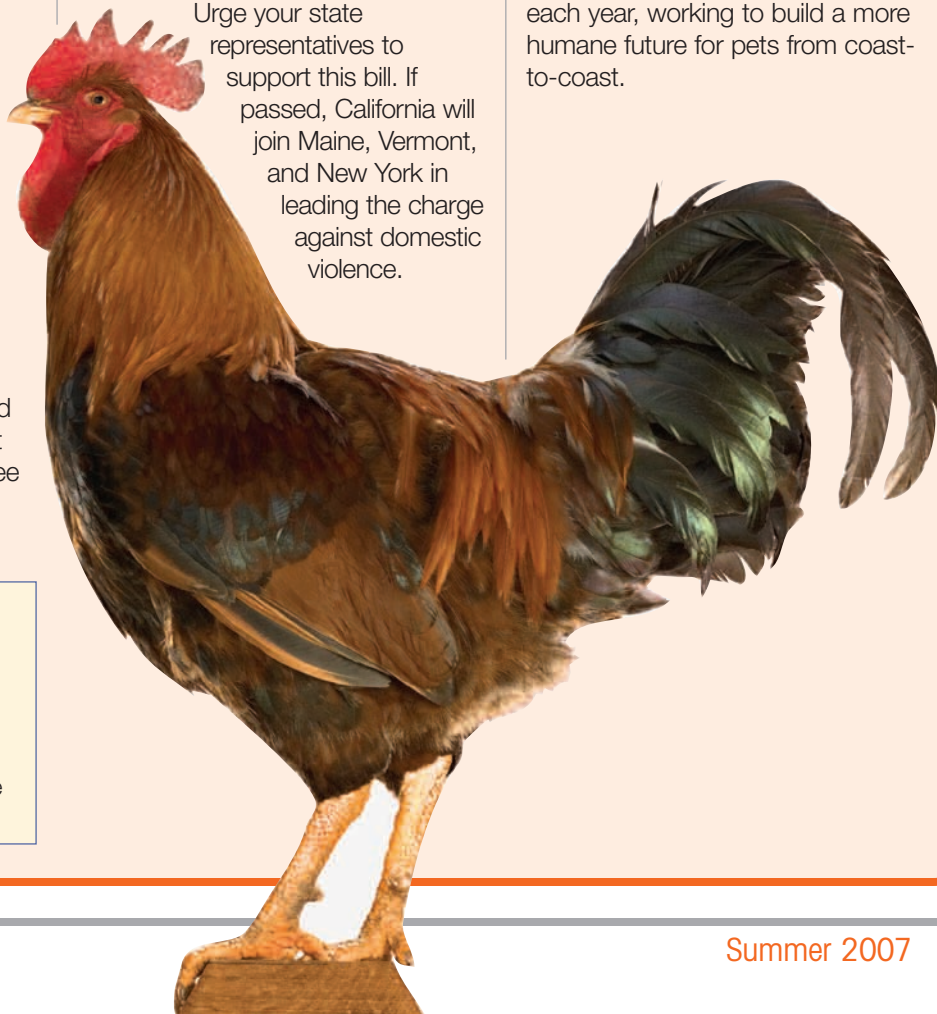
Senate Bill 353, authored by State Senator Sheila Kuehl, would include pets in domestic violence protection orders, a critical step in preventing abusers from using pets to manipulate their victims.

Urge your state representatives to support this bill. If passed, California will join Maine, Vermont, and New York in leading the charge against domestic violence.

Illinois:

"Paw" & Order

Nearly 300 parole agents from the Illinois Department of Corrections will be better equipped to protect animals from abuse, thanks to stepped up anti-cruelty training from the ASPCA. "Such training is crucial for protecting our animals," says Ledy VanKavage, ASPCA Senior Director of Legal Training and Legislation. VanKavage addressed the agents at two special half-day training sessions at the City of Chicago Police Headquarters in March. Topics ranged from a new Illinois law that mandates convicted felons spay or neuter and microchip their pets to "Officer Safety: How to Read a Dog Like a Book." She and other members of the ASPCA Legislative Services Team give dozens of talks across the country each year, working to build a more humane future for pets from coast-to-coast.



Donations In Lieu of Wedding Favors!



Are you an animal lover and planning a wedding? If you are, we have a wonderful suggestion for you. Why not make a contribution to the ASPCA in lieu of wedding favors in honor of your guests? The ASPCA has place cards that indicate a donation has been made in honor of your guests in lieu of wedding favors. If this is something that interests you, please e-mail your name, address, fax number, or e-mail and you will be sent a sample of the card. If you like the card and should you ultimately decide to do this, you may either make a credit card donation or send a check with the number of cards you would need. "The cards will be sent to you via two-day UPS to ensure that you receive them in a timely fashion."

Please contact Linda Tiramani, Manager of Special Giving, ASPCA, 110 Fifth Avenue, Second Floor, New York, NY 10011, e-mail: lindat@aspc.org, (212) 876-7700, ext. 4516.

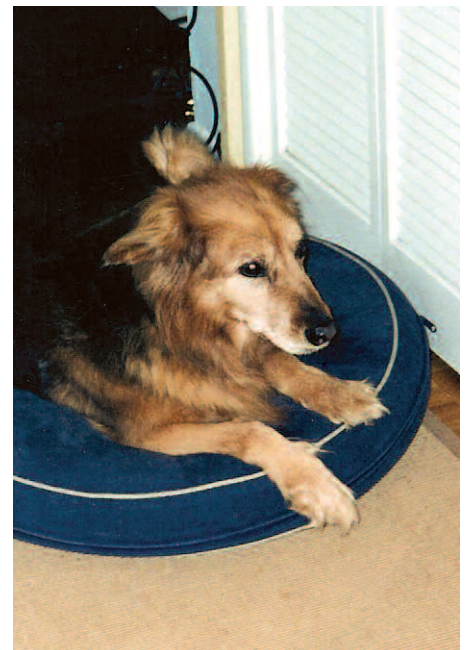
A Special Tribute to Paige

This past February, ASPCA member Sandra Reilly of New York City lost her beloved companion, Paige. Sandra had adopted the German shepherd mix when she was only four months old from North Shore Animal League. When the adored pet passed away at the age of 17, Sandra knew she wanted to memorialize the dog that had become such an important part of her family. "Even though I'm mourning, I knew immediately I wanted to use this time to create hope for other animals," says Sandra. "I decided giving a gift to the ASPCA in Paige's memory was the perfect way to honor the many good years she gave me."

Sandra isn't the only one who will miss Paige. She also shares her home with Travis, a 12-year-old dog also

adopted from North Shore Animal League, and Maggie, a six-year-old adopted from the ASPCA. "The issue of shelter adoption is so important to me; shelters have given me three of the best friends anyone could wish for," says Sandra. "I know the gift I made in Paige's memory will help make sure other dogs have the chance to become someone's best friend."

An Honor, Tribute, or Memorial Gift is a wonderful way to celebrate the special people, pets, and events in your life—and give the gift of life for animals in need. If you are interested in giving this way, contact Linda Tiramani, Manager of Special Giving, ASPCA, 110 Fifth Avenue, 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10011, e-mail: lindat@aspc.org, (212) 876-7700, ext. 4516.



Summertime Hazards

Don't forget to mind your pet on those hazy, lazy days



🐾 Never leave your pet unattended in a vehicle. Even with the windows open, a parked car can quickly become a furnace on a hot day—and kill a pet.

🐾 Always provide plenty of fresh water, including on hikes or at the beach. If your dog spends time outdoors, provide access to shade. Keep cats indoors.

🐾 Avoid excessive exercise, especially after meals. Early-morning or evening walks are best in hot, humid weather, especially for old, overweight, or snub-nosed breeds like bulldogs and pugs.

🐾 Groom regularly to help stave off summer skin rashes and other problems. Brush cats often.

🐾 Be alert to coolants that may leak from your car. The sweet taste can attract animals, and even a small amount can be fatal.

🐾 Avoid sunscreens or insect repellents not labeled specifically for use on animals. Some ingredients, like DEET, can cause problems if misused (see “Ask Our Experts,” page 17).

🐾 Cocoa mulch, citronella candles, compost piles, even certain garden plants can also be a hazard to pets. Visit www.aspca.org to learn more.

If you suspect a problem, call your vet or the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center at (888) 426-4435 (fees may apply).



High-Rise Syndrome

Every summer, scores of unsuspecting pet parents in towns across America unknowingly put their pets at risk when they open their windows to balmy weather. The problem is so prevalent that veterinarians have a name for it: High-Rise Syndrome. Cats in particular, intrigued by a passing bird or wind-carried leaf, are apt to fall out of unscreened windows, leading to broken bones, internal injuries, or worse. “During the warmer months, we see three to five cases a week,” says Louise Murray, D.V.M., Director of Medicine at the ASPCA’s Bergh Memorial Animal Hospital in NYC. “Pet parents need to know that this syndrome is 100% preventable.”

- Install snug and sturdy screens in all your windows.
- If your screens are adjustable, make sure they are tightly wedged into window frames.

Caution: Cats can slip through childproof window guards, which don’t provide adequate protection!

A Great Way to Provide for Animals



For many years I thought about making a planned gift for the ASPCA, but kept putting it off using the excuse that I was just too busy. About one year ago, I quit making excuses and took action. In talking with my investment representative I learned that I could make a gift by implementing a Transfer on Death (TOD) Agreement through the financial organization where I have my account. More importantly, I learned that it was extraordinarily easy. You just sign a form and there is no requirement for an attorney's involvement.

I selected the ASPCA for several reasons. One was the fact that it has survived and is still going strong after 140 years. I have great respect for a nonprofit organization that can withstand the test of time overcoming all

sorts of challenges, big and small. Its mission statement is just as fresh and relevant today as it was 140 years ago.

The ASPCA has a wide range of programs and services, which is something I really appreciate. In this sense, it is a department store rather than a boutique. I do not have to donate to several different organizations because I have the assurance and knowledge that the ASPCA is covering many needs and issues all the time in an integrated and coordinated manner.

I am retired from a long career with a nonprofit human service organization. I worked very hard to make certain that donors felt they were getting a return for their investment. I feel that way about the ASPCA. I believe the return on my investment is substantial. ■

This article by Bill Hamelau, a member of the ASPCA Henry Bergh Legacy Society, shows you just one way you can provide for the ASPCA. We hope we have started you thinking about how you can make a difference for animals in need. For more information please call our Director of Planned Giving, Marsha Pierson, CFP, at 212-876-7700 ext. 4505, or email her at marshap@aspca.org.

I Know Who You Are

Who do you think you are with those flashing dark eyes that say "You'll never catch me!"

Who do you think you are with that wavy black hair that my fingers can't touch enough?

Who do you think you are with that cocky little strut that says "I'm so cute!"

Who do you think you are with those little bites and nips that drive me crazy as I beg you to stop?

I know who you are

Oh yes, I know far too well

You're Rowdy, our dog!

—Bill Hamelau

Bug Sprays



Steven Hansen, D.V.M., is a veterinary toxicologist and Senior VP of the ASPCA Midwest Office, which includes the Animal Poison Control Center.

Q. Can I use mosquito repellent on my pet? M.S., Palm Coast, FL

A. Never use any product on an animal that is not specifically created for them. Many mosquito repellents made for people contain DEET, which may cause nervous system problems in cats and dogs. Consult your veterinarian for an appropriate product to use on your pet. The same goes for products intended for one species. Some flea and tick shampoos made for dogs, for example, contain permethrin, which can be deadly to cats, even in small amounts. If the label says “For use in dogs only,” do not use it on other pets.

Eau de Toilette



Q. Is it OK for my pet to drink from the toilet? It's treated with a cleaning tablet. H.P., Milwaukee, WI

A. Plain toilet bowl water itself is usually not a hazard. Most toilet bowl cleaning tablets that are used according to label directions would not be expected to cause serious clinical problems, provided the animal does not ingest the tablet directly. Typically, we see only mild stomach upset. If your dog or cat may have come into contact with

more of the cleaner than would normally be present in the toilet bowl, contact your local veterinarian or the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center at (888) 426-4435 (fees may apply).

Nip Nips in the Bud



Christa Coppola, Ph.D., is a certified applied animal behaviorist and behavior fellow at the ASPCA Animal Behavior Center.

Q. My one-year-old pup is growing increasingly wary around strangers during walks. Might he bite? D.A., Lake Havasu City, AZ

A. Being able to tell when your pup is going to bite is an important skill. Most dogs exhibit some combination of the following: direct staring, pulling, barking, growling, snapping, and/or lunging forward. These behaviors depend on your dog's individual personality and prior experiences as well as the stranger's appearance and behavior. I suggest walking him on a head halter so you have more control if he does react aggressively. When you see a stranger approaching, use treats to get his attention and distract him until the stranger passes and is no longer in sight. In time your dog will associate the presence of oncoming strangers with good things—food! The main thing to remember is: Don't put your dog in a situation where he is uncomfortable and has the opportunity to bite.

ASPCA Honors Equestrian Heroes



(Far left) Bill Secord, Ed Sayres, and Hoyle Jones. (Left) Co-chairs Frances Lindner and Joanie Goodman. (Below) Penelope Ayers, Scot Evans, and Sandra Lobel.



More than 360 animal lovers gathered ringside on February 4 at The Palm Beach Polo Equestrian Club in Wellington, FL, to show their support for horses in need at the Fourth Annual ASPCA Equine Fund Luncheon. “The ASPCA Equine Fund is dedicated to improving the lives of abused and neglected horses through rescue activities, grants, education, and lobbying efforts,” said

event founder and Honorary Chair William Secord, a longtime ASPCA board member.

Co-Chairs Joanie Goodman, Kim Jacobs, and Frances Lindner were supported by Vice-Chairs Janice Aron, Penelope Ayers, R. Bruce Duchossois, Majella Matyas, Michael F. X. Murdoch, and Jenny Wren Sutton. Ms. Ayers, Chair of the ASPCA’s Equine Committee, made a special presentation to horse trainers Kim Mitchell, Dennis Mitchell, and Justinus Petrus Van Der Kallen, who in the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita spent months bringing hay, feed, water, supplies, and veterinary assistance to scores of stranded horses. ■

Giving Back to Animals



Holistic veterinarian **Babette Gladstein, V.M.D.**, abandoned a lucrative career as a stockbroker to

enter vet school and devote her life to animals. Today, Dr. Gladstein makes house calls throughout the New York area and serves on the fundraising committee for the ASPCA’s annual Bergh Ball, scheduled for May 10 this year. “It nurtures the soul to heal animals and see their progress,” she says. “It’s so much better

than money.”

Q. What animals do you treat?
A. Dogs, cats, horses. I specialize in rehabilitation medicine, helping injured and older animals that are lame or in pain, and often labeled “hopeless.” One 3-year-old miniature dachshund named Emma was totally paralyzed in her hindquarters after having back surgery for an injured disk. A year later, she is running and playing.

Q. Which therapies do you use?
A. Acupuncture, ultrasound, chiropractic, massage, swim

therapy—everything that a human physical therapist would offer. I also serve as a “patient advocate,” helping to guide animals through surgery and other challenges.

Q. How does the ASPCA help?
A. With its beautiful new cage-free shelter, the ASPCA is in a pivotal position to up the ante in adoptions and education. Animals give us so much. A cat or dog lowers blood pressure, and offers companionship for seniors; walking a dog provides cardiovascular benefits. The least we can do is take care of them. ■

Charm School

Geoffrey Tischman Photography



A baker's dozen of lovable mutts strutted their stuff at the ASPCA Charm School & Talent Show, held February 2 at the ASPCA's newly renovated Adoption Center in Manhattan. On hand (left to right) were celebrity judges Bernadette

Peters of Broadway fame, *Animal Precinct's* Annemarie Lucas, radio DJ Angie Martinez, and TV's "The Bachelor" Prince Lorenzo Borghese.

"The talent show is testimony to how far these homeless dogs have

come since their arrival at the ASPCA," says ASPCA Senior VP Gail Buchwald. "The event raised awareness of what valuable members of the family that shelter pets can become as we work toward finding homes for all animals in need." ■

Grey Gardens

ASPCA volunteers and cats up for adoption hit the boards on February 7 for a post-performance celebration of the Broadway hit *Grey Gardens*, a musical about the eccentric life of former socialite Edith Beale, her daughter "Little" Edie, and their 52 cats. The musical's lead production company, East of Doheney, donated hundreds of cans of cat food, kitty litter, pet toys, and show tickets to mark the show's 100th performance. "We're delighted to be working with the ASPCA to help animals, and hope our beloved Edies would be proud of the work being done in their



Geoffrey Tischman Photography

name," said producer Kelly Gonda.

***Reminder: June Is Adopt-a-Shelter-Cat Month.** Learn more about feline care and the joy of adopting a shelter pet at www.aspca.org. ■

Celebrity Corner

Victoria Clark,

Tony Award winning actress, *The Light in the Piazza*



Q. What was the name of your first pet?

A. Dannielle D. Dawg, or Danny for short. She was a sheltie I taught to sing opera. We thought about going on stupid pet tricks on Letterman, but it was always funnier just to see and hear her doing it at home.

Q. Which do you prefer: Cats or dogs?

A. I love cats and dogs for different reasons: dogs because they wish so much to please, and cats because they could care less about pleasing.

Q. Do you share your life with pets now?

A. I have three pets: my golden retriever Angel, my black alley cat, Dare (Devil), and my 12-year-old son. Dare thinks he is a dog, Angel thinks she is a person, and my son thinks he is a grown-up, so they are all self-starters!

Q. Why are groups like the ASPCA so important?

A. We need the ASPCA to remind us to care for all God's creatures, to keep us informed of the inhumane treatment of animals, and to give us the courage to reach out to the members of our population who cannot speak for themselves.

Office Dog

Rich N. and Nugget, New York, NY



Last August, my girlfriend Kate, a veterinary technician, was contacted about a shelter puppy with a fractured pelvis that needed to be fostered. So, we brought her back to my apartment and started thinking of people who might be willing to take her into their home once she healed.

It didn't take long before the little brown mutt made herself right at home in my lap. I remember saying, "You're such a little love nugget," and from then on, we started calling her Love Nugget, which soon got shortened to Nugget.

I started sneaking her into work with me while my boss was in Europe. But after a few days, my secret was out. Fortunately my boss loves dogs and allowed me to keep bringing Nugget to the office. Before I knew it, the whole office had fallen in love with her (so had Kate and I; we decided to keep her).

Nugget has become a mascot around the workplace. She greets people at the elevator and at their desks. It's hard to imagine her not being here now.

Reminder: Wednesday, June 27 is "Take Your Dog to Work Day!"

Every Horse Has a Story

Pam M., Connecticut

More than 25 years ago, Patty Wahlers bought two starving ex-race horses for \$1 and walked them three miles to her barn to rehabilitate them. Today, HORSE of Connecticut, the volunteer organization she founded in Washington, CT, has saved over 500 horses and ponies.



Toby

As a volunteer the past five years, I have met many remarkable animals who have been helped out of horrible, sometimes life-threatening situations. One of my favorites is Velvet, who, despite being a petite thoroughbred, ended up a Premarin mare and came to HORSE skinny, dirty, and tired after having six foals in six years. Another favorite, Misty, came as a starvation case and could not be ridden because of a genetic disorder caused largely by careless breeding.

And then there's Toby, who had flunked out of a police horse program and been so badly treated he was terrified of people. With months of regular and gentle-but-firm handling, Toby slowly began to trust people again. He is now living happily with Robert and Maria, their three boys, and their four other horses. Maria coos and sings to her horses, and whenever I think of her cooing to Toby while she's gently petting him, I can't help but smile.

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

E-mail us: ASPCAAction@aspca.org, or write: ASPCA Action, 424 East 92nd Street, New York, NY 10128.

Please include your name, address, and a photo (high-resolution digital or print) we can keep. Stories will be edited to fit.



Founded in 1866, the ASPCA (American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) was the first humane organization established in the Western Hemisphere and today has one million supporters. The ASPCA's mission is to provide effective means for the prevention of cruelty to animals throughout the U.S. The ASPCA provides national leadership in humane education, government affairs and public policy, shelter support, and animal poison control. The NYC headquarters houses a full-service animal hospital, animal behavior center, and adoption facility. The Humane Law Enforcement department enforces New York's animal cruelty laws and is featured on the reality TV series *Animal Precinct* on Animal Planet. Visit www.aspca.org for more information.

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