

# ASPCA<sup>®</sup> *Action*

WINTER 2010



Dr. Pamela Reid  
Vice President  
ASPCA Behavior Center

The ASPCA<sup>®</sup> Leads the Animal Welfare Community  
In the Study and Evaluation of **ANIMAL BEHAVIOR**



THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS®

ASPCA ACTION VOLUME 6 WINTER 2010

## PRESIDENT'S NOTE



### A NOTE FROM EDWIN SAYRES:

As we approach our 144th anniversary, our hope is to strengthen the nation's resolve to end animal cruelty. And I am proud to say that, despite the economic state of the country, we have managed to thrive as an organization. Every one of the thousands of animals we've saved and the second chances those animals got were only possible thanks to the support of our members—members like you.

Every animal we rescue receives all the care and comfort they need to recover. In addition, our expert team of companion animal behaviorists works with those animals who need extra time and attention to overcome the cruelty and abuse they have suffered. It is this team and the outstanding work they do that we wish to highlight in our first 2010 issue of *ASPCA Action*. The devotion to animals this group as well as all of the ASPCA team demonstrates day in and day out ensures so many more happy endings for the animals we serve.

Through the collaboration of all of our tremendous efforts, we are not only saving lives, we are changing the world around us and impacting the animal welfare movement like never before. As the 16th president of the ASPCA, I am proud to have been given the honor of leading America's first animal welfare organization, and I am well aware of the critical role ASPCA members play in helping our organization save animals' lives. We couldn't achieve any of this without you. Thank you for making a difference.

Edwin Sayres  
President & CEO

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

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# ASPCA® Animal Behavior Experts Provide Advice, Solutions to Animal Behavior Problems

Okay, let's admit it: Most of us believe that our beloved companion animals can do no wrong. How many of us have proudly proclaimed, "My dog is the best in the whole world!", or "There's no cat sweeter than mine!"? We love our pets in spite of their minor flaws, just as they love us. We bond with them because of their wonderful personalities and the caring (and often funny) ways in which they interact with us.

But what about those pets who behave in infuriating ways? Dogs who chew our new boots or bark excessively at strangers. Cats who sharpen their claws on the couch or turn their noses up at the litter box. Horses who chow down on the wood in their stalls and nip at the hands that feed them. These troublesome behaviors can put animals at risk, and not just health-wise; pet parents who don't know how to cope with behavioral challenges can become frustrated to the point of giving up.

The ASPCA has long recognized that some pet parents face persistent and annoying behavioral issues with their furry companions, and that those "bad" behaviors can sometimes stretch the human/companion animal bond to a snapping point. These undesirable antics can cause otherwise lovable animals to be banished from their homes, relegated to shelters or sanctuaries, or even euthanized. The ASPCA works to address these behavioral problems, help pet parents overcome them and keep those pets right where they belong—safe in their homes.

## Advancing a Deep Understanding of Companion Animal Behavior

The ASPCA began evaluating companion animal behavior in 1989, when the science of companion animal behavior was just being introduced to the animal sheltering field. The purpose of evaluations in those days was to establish a timeline—based on behavior, shelter professionals would decide which dogs or cats were best suited for adoption.

Simple determinants included how an animal behaved during handling and how he or she reacted to new situations.

Since then, the ASPCA has developed sophisticated diagnostic tools to evaluate companion animal behavior—tools that help shape intervention and rehabilitation techniques. The forum for that advancement is the ASPCA Animal Behavior Center in Urbana, Illinois, one of the leading companion animal behavior facilities in the world. At the Center—which is overseen by ASPCA Vice President Pamela Reid, Ph.D., CAAB—the ASPCA offers a variety of educational services, including graduate and postgraduate programs for aspiring companion animal behaviorists; continuing education for animal trainers, veterinarians and other professionals; pet behavior research for the scientific community; and instructive materials for adopters of former puppy mill and fighting dogs. Most importantly, the Behavior Center's professionally trained team provides sound, practical day-to-day advice for pet parents across the country.

The ASPCA works with pet parents to correct undesirable behaviors in dogs, cats and horses, answers 200 to 300 emails per month about animal behavior issues, and creates materials for and maintains the ASPCA Virtual Pet Behaviorist at [www.aspcabehavior.org](http://www.aspcabehavior.org). The Virtual Pet Behaviorist is an online service that provides free, step-by-step pet behavior advice around the clock.

Kristen Collins, CPDT, Animal Trainer at the ASPCA Animal Behavior Center, says, "Pet parents email us and comment, 'We were about to take our dog to a shelter; now we can keep

her because the issue got resolved.'" Collins adds that "keeping even one dog from being relinquished to a shelter is a big deal." The ASPCA's website also hosts a weekly column by Dr. Emily Weiss, ASPCA Senior Director of Shelter Research and Development, who addresses behavioral questions from horse parents. Weiss runs horse clinics at several major horse shows for trainers and riders, and provides behavior





training using positive reinforcement. In addition, she has written on the topic for *Practical Horseman*, a popular magazine for riders.

## Saving Thousands of Lives

The ASPCA's expert ability to assess behaviors and recommend corrective action for pets with behavioral problems has literally saved the lives of thousands of animals who might otherwise have been euthanized. In the sheltering world, for example, understanding companion animal behavior has helped to increase the number of successful adoptions through programs like ASPCA Meet Your Match, which was developed by Dr. Weiss. This program—with its Canine-ality™, Puppy-ality™ and Feline-ality™ features—evaluates behavior using specialized criteria and pairs adopters with dogs and cats who precisely meet their expectations. The program is so effective that it is currently in use at more than 200 shelters nationwide.



ASPCA team member evaluating a new arrival.

**“Understanding animal behavior helps pet parents become better guardians and helps their companion animals live safer and more fulfilling lives.”**

— Dr. Stephen Zawistowski, CAAB,  
ASPCA Executive Vice President,  
National Programs

The ASPCA's understanding of companion animal behavior has been particularly valuable in animal cruelty situations, such as the case of Michael Vick, the NFL quarterback who was convicted on federal and state charges of operating a competitive dog fighting ring. Dr. Stephen Zawistowski, CAAB, ASPCA Executive Vice President, National Programs, and his team of Certified Applied Animal Behaviorists evaluated 49 Pit Bulls seized in the raid on Vick's Virginia kennel and made recommendations to federal authorities about the disposition of the dogs. At one time, the authorities might have determined that dogs like Vick's should all be euthanized. In this case, after careful evaluation, the ASPCA recommended that just one of the Pit Bulls be euthanized due to severe aggression. The lives of the remaining 48 dogs were spared, and they were subsequently released to sanctuaries, rescue groups, foster homes and adopters nationwide.

The ASPCA applied what it learned in the Vick case to the nearly 500 dogs seized in July 2009 in an eight-state federal dog fighting raid, the largest in U.S. history. In that instance, ASPCA animal behavior experts assisted the Humane Society of Missouri in assessing each dog to determine suitability for placement with rescue groups or individual adopters. “These dogs really deserve a chance,” says Collins. “Despite all of the suffering they endured, many will make wonderful pets. It was incredible to be able to help them.”

## Promoting an Important and Growing Field

The study of companion animal behavior is an important and expanding field that is still in its infancy, and the ASPCA would like to see more people get involved. “There is a small cadre of people who have gone through the academic training and worked in applied situations—these people are really advancing a field that is less than 20 years old,” says Dr. Zawistowski. He says the academic training requires understanding the biological underpinnings of companion animal behavior, as well as psychology; a period of practical experience; and professional development that leads to recertification every five years. For information on how to become a companion animal behaviorist, please go to [www.aspcabehavior.org](http://www.aspcabehavior.org). ■

## Sookie: Not Just Another Pretty Face

ASPCA® staffers find it mighty hard to resist a pretty face. That was certainly the case when Pam Reid, Ph.D., CAAB, ASPCA Vice President of the Animal Behavior Center, evaluated some of the dogs seized in the largest dog fighting raid in U.S. history. “One pregnant Pit Bull gave birth to puppies after she was rescued,” says Reid, “but for some reason, none of the rescue groups had spoken for this particular litter. I was concerned that this littlest pup would not find a home, so I figured I'd lend a hand.” Reid took her home herself, and reports: “She is the easiest puppy I have ever trained. She's just adorable.” Reid has taken the four-month-old puppy, now named Sookie, to meet with a Pit Bull rescue group in Chicago. “Needless to say, they fell in love with her,” Reid says. “She's so well behaved! My hope is that she will find a forever home soon.”



# ASPCA® Animal Behavior Experts Work with Marines to Evaluate Dogs and Keep Them on Base

In early October, six ASPCA animal behavior experts traveled to Parris Island, South Carolina, to assess the behavior of 85 dogs living in the Tri-Command housing units of the U.S. Marine Corps Recruit Depot. The dogs, mostly Pit Bulls and Rottweilers, were potentially subject to a new military housing breed ban, and the Tri-Command tapped the ASPCA to assess the dogs to ensure that they did not pose a threat to base personnel and their families.

The assessment, known as SAFER™ (Safety Assessment For Evaluation Rehoming), is an evaluation tool that helps identify the likelihood of aggression in individual dogs. SAFER identifies a dog's comfort level with certain interactions, like restraint, touch, reaction to new experiences, objects and sounds,

bite inhibition, behavior around food and toys, and attitude toward other dogs.

"Our goal was to make sure safe dogs and their families were able to stay together," says Dr. Emily Weiss, ASPCA Senior Director of Shelter Research and Development. "We were seeking to identify behavior such as aggression, which often can be modified or managed." Dr. Weiss developed the SAFER assessment program, as well as the popular ASPCA Meet Your Match program.

Talk of instituting a breed ban on the base began after several incidents that involved dog attacks. The Marine Corps had previously conducted tests that evaluated a dog's obedience and manners, but not aggression.

The ASPCA is opposed to laws that ban specific breeds of dogs or discriminate against responsible dog guardians based solely on their choice of breed. Dr. Weiss says, "We evaluated 85 dogs using the SAFER assessment. Of those, 83 showed no significant aggression issues that would cause them to be torn from their loving families." She adds, "Two dogs demonstrated significant aggression—that's just 2.4 percent of the dogs assessed, which is a powerful statistic when the alternative is an all-out ban on a breed." ■



# News Briefs

## ASPCA® Rescues 250 Dogs and Cats in October Raids in Mississippi and Tennessee

In mid-October, the ASPCA Field Investigations and Response Team assisted in the rescue of nearly 50 dogs from a puppy mill in Bay Springs, Mississippi, and collected evidence to assist in the investigation of breeder Richard Stockman. The ASPCA worked with local authorities to establish a temporary shelter for the dogs, which included Chihuahuas, Shih Tzus, Cocker Spaniels, Basset Hounds and other breeds. Most of the dogs were emaciated and suffered from ailments including broken bones, skin disease, rotted teeth, fur matted with urine and feces, and various infections. Several of the dogs required emergency veterinary care.

Stockman reported that his mother had run the business for more than a decade prior to suffering a stroke five years ago, at which time he took over the enterprise. After the raid, Stockman relinquished 46 of the dogs to Sally Langley, who provides animal control services for the area. He was cited for operating a puppy mill and will face misdemeanor charges of animal neglect when he appears in court this month (January 2010). Many of the dogs are currently recuperating at the Oxford Lafayette Humane Society, and some are available for adoption. Please visit [www.oxfordpets.com](http://www.oxfordpets.com) for more information on these wonderful dogs.



Jeff Eyre, Northeast Director of the ASPCA Field Investigations and Response Team.



One of the many emaciated dogs rescued from the Memphis Animal Shelter.

Later in October, the ASPCA sprang into action again, dispatching its Forensics Team and Emergency Responders to the City of Memphis (Tennessee) Animal Shelter to investigate allegations of animal cruelty. Called in at the request of the Shelby County sheriff's office, the ASPCA assisted in the collection of forensic evidence, as well as in the rescue and veterinary care of animals at the shelter. Local residents had tipped off the sheriff's office about the facility's conditions. According to the search warrant, "detectives have learned that some animals have been deprived of food and water while at the Memphis Animal Shelter," and while in the shelter's care, "some dogs have been starved to the point of requiring euthanasia." Also, according to the search warrant, some of the dogs "are involved in court cases involving dog fighting and have been marked 'Hold for Court.'" Additionally, the warrant said that shelter employees keep "dogs that are to be quarantined for rabies with dogs that are not required to be quarantined in the same kennel." More than 200 dogs and cats were rescued. The ASPCA collected evidence for the possible prosecution of a criminal case, and provided the services of its forensic cruelty investigation team, composed of specialists in disaster-condition animal rescue, field service investigators and Dr. Melinda Merck, one of the nation's premier forensic veterinarians. ■

## Tests Show H1N1 Virus Transmittable to Cats

The latest rumors about how swine flu can affect pets are spreading, and Dr. Louise Murray, ASPCA Director of Medicine, has stepped forward to share some new facts with *ASPCA Action* readers. "Recent tests have confirmed that a pet cat was infected by the H1N1 (swine flu) virus, which was most likely transmitted by human family members," reports Dr. Murray. "The cat was tested for the virus at Iowa State University's College of Veterinary Medicine. All family members, including the cat, have now recovered."

The H1N1 influenza virus contains genetic material from four different influenza viruses, including human, swine and avian influenza viruses. Previously known to be transmittable to both pigs and turkeys by infected humans, this is the first reported case of H1N1 affecting a cat. Several pet ferrets also recently became infected with the virus, passed on by human family members. According to Dr. Murray, there is no evidence of any humans being infected with the H1N1 virus by a pet. However, she adds, "Commonsense measures should be taken with all pets to decrease the likelihood of potential virus transmission, including keeping pets out of the bedroom of anyone with flu-like illness and away from contaminated objects."

The ASPCA recommends that pet parents with flu-like symptoms protect their pets by washing hands thoroughly, covering coughs and sneezes, and avoiding close contact with pets during the course of illness. If your pet is displaying symptoms such as lethargy, coughing, sneezing or difficulty breathing—especially after a human family member has recently suffered from influenza—please contact your veterinarian. For more information about keeping your pet healthy this flu season and other wintertime pet safety tips, please visit [www.aspc.org](http://www.aspc.org). ■



# ASPCA® Community Partner Updates

## ASPCA Waived-Fee Cat Adoption Program



In October, six ASPCA community partners—SCRAPS, SpokAnimal and the Spokane Humane Society in Spokane, Washington; Hillsborough County Animal Services and the Humane Society of Tampa Bay in Tampa, Florida; and the Charleston Animal Society in Charleston, South Carolina—held a weekend-long promotion in which adoption fees were waived for all adult cats. The free offer was buoyed by recent ASPCA research, which has shown that whether animals are adopted with or without a fee, there is no difference in the level of attachment that adopters ultimately feel toward their new pets. The ASPCA gave a hand by developing and placing creative newspaper advertisements in each community to generate public interest in the promotion. The event was a huge success—collectively, the partners increased their cat adoptions by 586 percent over the same weekend in 2008. That's 164 more adult cats that were placed in loving homes! ■

## Austin

ASPCA Partnership results are in for the third quarter of 2009, and there's great news: Austin's Live Release Rate for animals from community shelters is 67.2 percent, compared with last year's third-quarter rate of 55.3 percent. Translation: 1,552 more animals left the shelters alive in 2009 than during the same period in 2008! ■

## Charleston

After the ASPCA and its community partners mounted a successful legislative campaign to allow a two-year pilot program to help free-roaming cats, Charleston County and many municipalities will now launch an innovative new plan to reduce the population of free-roaming stray and abandoned felines. Beginning January 1, 2010, a multi-agency collaboration of ASPCA community partners will expand a trap-neuter-vaccinate-return (TNVR) program to include cats who do not have an identified caretaker. ■

## Tampa



Hundreds of animals found forever homes at Tampa's Pet Adoption Expo.

The Tampa community partners held their semiannual Pet Adoption Expo, sponsored by the ASPCA, at the State Fairgrounds on November 14. That day, 408 pets (297 dogs, 106 cats and five rabbits) were adopted. More than 60 shelters, rescue groups and vendors were on hand to participate. The Humane Society of Tampa Bay, Hillsborough County Animal Services, and No More Homeless Pets Hillsborough County/TampaPets.org have collaborated on six one-day adoption expos from 2007 through 2009, resulting in a total of 1,955 pet adoptions. In spite of the economic challenges facing Florida, adoption numbers have continued to increase at this event and throughout the year. ■

## Oklahoma City

The Oklahoma City partnership hit the ground running after its launch. The Oklahoma City shelter had a record number of adoptions in October, placing 777 animals in new homes. Also impacting the Live Release Rate was the arrival of two new Oklahoma Humane Intake Coordinators at the Oklahoma City Animal Welfare Division. In their first month on the job, they increased out-of-partner transfers by 100 percent! Oklahoma City is looking forward to a record-breaking 2010. ■

## Spokane



Spokane Community Partners held a successful event at the County Fair.

In September, four Spokane community partners once again co-hosted a large booth at the Spokane County Fair. Thousands of people visited the booth during the fair's 10 days, meeting animals available for adoption, learning about the life-saving services each agency provides, and spinning a prize wheel to try their luck at a gift for their own furry friends. The event raised more than \$2,500 in donations. In addition, Spokane adoption shelters held a fee-waived adult cat promotion for three days in October. The promotion was a resounding success, with 400 percent more cats, 300 percent more kittens and 100 percent more dogs being adopted than during the same weekend in 2008. The shelters literally ran out of cats and kittens for adoption—a first! ■

# ASPCA® Memorial and Planned Giving

## A Loving Tribute

Jessica Matthews recently contacted the ASPCA® after the loss of her sister, Jill, to make a memorial gift. Given Jill's love of animals, a gift to the ASPCA in her honor seemed a fitting tribute. Jessica notes, "In a time that is so difficult and tragic, it brings some sense of hope to know that my sister is still helping to make a difference in the world, even though she is no longer physically here."

Jill Matthews was a born animal lover and always lived her life with animals in mind. At the tender age of three, after attending a school field trip to a working farm where cattle and pigs were raised for human consumption, Jill independently chose at that moment to become a vegetarian and later a vegan. It was clear that she had such deep



Jill Matthews and her dog Whiskey.

compassion for animals and never wanted to see them suffer.

Jill was also an avid supporter of many animal welfare organizations including the ASPCA. She actively protested against animal cruelty and always looked for ways to help animals in need, including rescuing and

adopting a cat who was severely burned and malnourished, which she later nursed back to health. Jill is survived by her two loving cats Davey and Brody, and is now reunited with her first cat Roger, her family dog Whiskey, and the many other animals that Jill has compassionately cared for and loved over her short time on this earth.

A memorial gift to the ASPCA is a beautiful testimony to the life of a beloved person or pet who has passed on—and provides the gift of life for animals in need. It can be just the right touch for expressing compassion to someone who has had a loss. For more information on how to make a memorial gift to the ASPCA, please contact Linda Tiramani at (212) 876-7700, ext. 4516, or via email at [lindat@aspc.org](mailto:lindat@aspc.org). ■

## Doing Well—and Doing Good

Although she has always loved animals, June Fields, 75, first got acquainted with the ASPCA in late 2005. At the time, June was the proud pet parent of two shelter animals: Roxie, her dog, and Roger, her cat. In fact, she had rescued her precious kitty from one of the shelters that participates in the Mayor's Alliance for New York City's Animals. The Alliance, founded in 2002 with grants from Maddie's Fund and the ASPCA, is a coalition of more than 160 animal rescue groups and shelters that are working to end the unnecessary euthanasia of cats and dogs in New York City. June applauds the ASPCA's "no-kill" philosophy, so she called the organization to request a proposal for a charitable gift annuity. She became an ASPCA annuitant that year. Since then, June has become a monthly donor, and her beloved Roxie has passed away. But Roger has a new friend and companion named Winnie—a dog whom June adopted from a rescue group in 2009.

Of all the gifts that donors can make, the charitable gift annuity is the simplest, most affordable and most popular. The gift agreement is a simple contract between the donor and the ASPCA: animal lovers make a gift to the ASPCA and in return, the ASPCA makes fixed payments to the donors for life. The ASPCA uses the balance to save and protect animals. The annuity payments are a general

obligation of the ASPCA, one of North America's oldest charities. What's more, they're backed by the organization's assets. Gift annuities are for a minimum of \$10,000, and the minimum donor age for an immediate-payment annuity is 60.

By way of example, Alice, an 80-year-old donor, recently requested an annuity proposal from the ASPCA. Alice had a \$10,000 certificate of deposit maturing at her local bank. She wanted to see if she could increase her income while making a gift to help animals. The ASPCA's proposal showed Alice that she would receive an annual payment of \$710.00 for the rest of her life, \$523.98 of which would be tax-free for 9.4 years. Alice would also receive an immediate charitable deduction of \$5,075.00\*.

For a personalized, confidential illustration of how a gift annuity can work for you, please call ASPCA Director of Planned Giving Marsha Pierson, CFP®, at (212) 876-7700, ext. 4505, or email her at [marshap@aspc.org](mailto:marshap@aspc.org). ■

*\*The example provided here is based on calculations accurate as of November 2009 and is for illustrative purposes only.*



# Envy Gets a Second Chance—and New “Leash” on Life

Many heroic ASPCA® Humane Law Enforcement (HLE) rescues begin with a simple phone call from a concerned citizen. That’s just what happened last Memorial Day weekend, when a phone tip came in about a starving dog in the yard of a Brooklyn apartment building. ASPCA HLE Special Agents Deborah Ryan and Diane DiGiacomo soon arrived at the building and began to get to the bottom of this sad story.

As the yard was accessible only through the building, it was fortuitous that the superintendent was on hand to grant access to the two ASPCA Agents. Once in the yard—which was full of debris—the Agents found a malnourished Pit Bull mix who was in particularly bad shape with scars, injuries and a swollen left ear. He was emaciated, with ribs and hips clearly visible, and had no palpable body fat. He was also filthy, and had no access to water, food or shelter, as is required by law.

In assessing the dog, the ASPCA Agents noted that he seemed afraid of humans. The dog’s owner provided a startling explanation: He had never been walked on a leash—and in fact, had never even been out of the yard. The owner surrendered the dog to the ASPCA Agents, who named him Envy and took him to the ASPCA Bergh Memorial Animal Hospital for treatment. There, the medical report was grim—though Envy had no serious underlying medical issues, he was critically underweight. The Agents subsequently arrested the dog’s owner and charged him with misdemeanor animal cruelty.

In spite of his tough beginnings, Envy’s luck was about to turn the corner. Shelley Levin, a freelance writer, was in the market for a special dog. Levin works at home and was looking for a chum who would keep her company and join her on her morning jogs



Rescued from a life of abuse, Chance was given a second chance at life thanks to Shelley Levin.

along the East River. After looking in several shelters, she ended up at the ASPCA Adoption Center. “The facility was gorgeous,” she says. “It just blew me away.” Levin was walking through the Adoption Center when she noticed Envy examining her thoughtfully. “It was like magic,” says Levin. “He had the sweetest, most curious expression on his face. I fell in love. I’d never had a Pit Bull mix, and he was counting on me to give him a second chance. So I named him Chance.”

It’s been only three months since Chance’s adoption, but Levin says that things are going well. “He’s finally giving me kisses and lying on his back, so I think he feels safe.” Levin says he still needs to work on separation

anxiety, walking on a leash, getting into cars and letting her pick him up. The ASPCA’s animal behaviorists have helped Levin work through some of these issues, she adds. “He’s no longer nervous with new people,” she says. “He’s got his own bed, a full toy box and good dog buddies in the neighborhood. I get compliments from everyone about how gorgeous he is. And he’s so good about sitting for his leash to be put on or taken off.” Levin says she knew when she adopted Chance he needed patience and stability. He’s gotten that—and so much more—thanks to the ASPCA and his loving new pet parent. To follow Chance’s progress, please visit the blog [www.handsomepantschance.com](http://www.handsomepantschance.com). ■





\$1,000

◆ **Denver, Colorado**

COLORADO VETERINARY MEDICAL FOUNDATION



\$12,000

◆ **Santa Barbara, California**

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL



\$5,000

◆ **Westborough, Massachusetts**

PETS IN LIMBO OUT THERE (PILOT)



\$50,000

◆ **Madison, Wisconsin**

DANE COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY



# Your Dollars at Work

ASPCA® grants provide support to a variety of animal welfare organizations through cash awards, sponsorships, executive and technical assistance, and training. Visit [www.aspca.org/map](http://www.aspca.org/map) to see the ASPCA's new interactive map that reveals the grants awarded to qualified organizations around the country.

## ◆ Denver, Colorado

A \$1,000 grant was made to the Colorado Veterinary Medical Foundation, Harrison Memorial Hospital, which provides donor-subsidized veterinary services for the pets of economically disadvantaged people. In 2008, Harrison Memorial provided 4,269 spay/neuter surgeries to the community to help control pet overpopulation. It also provided discounted spay/neuter surgeries to homeless animals in the care of more than 30 rescue groups. This grant will allow Harrison Memorial to provide subsidies for up to 106 spay/neuter surgeries for the pets of income-qualified clients. ■

## ◆ Santa Barbara, California

A \$12,000 grant was made to Santa Barbara County Animal Care and Control for its responsible pet ownership program, which promotes pet vaccination, spay/neuter, licensing and reunification, in addition to preventing pet disease, neglect, overpopulation and euthanasia. The program helped to save hundreds of thousands of dollars spent capturing, housing and euthanizing unwanted pets. What's more, it has generated sufficient funds from licensing fees and fines to pay for itself after a three- to four-year start-up period. ■

## ◆ Westborough, Massachusetts

A \$5,000 grant was made to Pets In Limbo Out There (PILOT), a Massachusetts Animal Coalition program serving the entire state. The program facilitates the transfer of adoptable dogs from animal control facilities to adoption programs and agencies across the state that help them find homes. ■

## ◆ Madison, Wisconsin

A grant of \$50,000 was made to the Dane County Humane Society as emergency relief funding to support ongoing care for animals seized as part of the Thyme and Sage Ranch raid, which the ASPCA assisted with in May 2009. ■

## ◆ Fort Worth, Texas

A \$10,000 equine grant was made to the Humane Society of North Texas (HSNT) to improve its equine holding area and support its equine rescue efforts. HSNT recently seized 77 neglected Arabian horses in the smallest of three equine seizures conducted by the organization in the last 18 months. ■



\$10,000

## ◆ Fort Worth, Texas

HUMANE SOCIETY OF NORTH TEXAS (HSNT)



# Federal Highlights

## ASPCA® Files Brief at U.S. Supreme Court Over Animal Cruelty and Free Speech

Is selling depictions of animal cruelty—such as dog fighting videos—a right protected under the U.S. Constitution? The ASPCA says no, and it's gone all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court to make its point.

The case began in 1999, when the federal government enacted U.S. Code Section 48, also known as the Crush Act, to punish those who display animal cruelty and abuse through interstate commerce. The law was intended to stop the creation and sale of crush videos, and other visual or auditory depictions of illegal acts of animal cruelty in which a living animal is intentionally maimed, mutilated, tortured, wounded or killed. Crush videos often depict a woman in stiletto heels, stepping on small animals such as rodents and kittens.

In July 2008, a U.S. Court of Appeals overturned the 2005 conviction of Robert Stevens, who was the first person convicted under the Crush Act for marketing videos depicting animal fighting. The ruling said that Section 48 was an “unconstitutional infringement on free speech rights guaranteed by the First Amendment.” Internet trafficking in crush videos surged after the ruling. In April 2009, the U.S. Supreme Court agreed to review U.S. vs. Stevens and make a determination whether the Crush Act violates the constitutional right to free speech.

While some view the Crush Act as an attempt to carve out an exception to the First Amendment, the animal welfare community argues that protecting animals from brutal abuse for profit is just as compelling as other kinds of prohibited speech, including obscenity, incitement to illegal activity, fighting words and child pornography. The ASPCA filed a “friend of the court” brief at



the U.S. Supreme Court expressing its views on this important case.

Dr. Randall Lockwood, ASPCA Senior Vice President, Anti-Cruelty Field Services says, “Although the Crush Act was rarely employed, it had the potential for aiding in the prosecution of a variety of forms of animal cruelty that are increasingly being encouraged through the dissemination of videos.” He adds, “If the Supreme Court upholds its repeal, the ASPCA will gladly work with Congress to draft new laws that can withstand tests of constitutionality to address these problems.” The Court’s decision is expected in early 2010. Watch for developments in this case at [www.asPCA.org/lobby](http://www.asPCA.org/lobby). ■



Dr. Randall Lockwood,  
ASPCA Senior Vice President,  
Anti-Cruelty Field Services.

# State Highlights

## Bicoastal Legislative Victories—and Some Losses—in the Fight Against Animal Cruelty

### New York

This year, an especially challenging political climate in the New York State Legislature slowed the progress of a variety of pro-animal welfare bills. However, hard work by the ASPCA®, legislators and animal advocates like you brought the humane euthanasia bill, A. 999B, across the finish line—and Governor Paterson has signed it into law.

#### The new law will:

- prohibit the gassing of stray, homeless, abandoned or improperly cared-for animals;
- require euthanasia by injection (EBI) of such animals, performed only by a certified euthanasia technician, licensed veterinary technician or licensed veterinarian;
- prohibit intracardiac euthanasia—a painful injection directly into the heart—on unsedated animals who are under the care of a shelter; and
- authorize only veterinarians to perform intracardiac euthanasia on unsedated lost, stray, homeless, abandoned or improperly cared-for animals, provided it is the most humane option and the veterinarian documents the event and rationale.

### California

The California State Legislature passed three ASPCA-supported, animal-related bills, which were then sent to Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger for approval or veto. Governor Schwarzenegger signed SB 135 into law, banning the tail-docking of dairy cows. Docking the tails of cows requires the amputation of up to two-thirds of the tail. This cruel and unnecessary procedure, which is opposed by the American Veterinary



The ASPCA applauds California for banning the tail-docking of dairy cows.

Medical Association, is performed on dairy cows without anesthetic, and it is accomplished either by amputation or by applying a tight rubber ring that restricts blood flow to the end of the tail, causing it to atrophy and fall off. Unfortunately, Governor Schwarzenegger vetoed AB 241 and AB 1122. Assembly Bill 241 was intended to regulate large-scale commercial dog and cat breeders, and Assembly Bill 1122 was designed to ban roadside animal sales.

### Get Politically Active for Animals!

Each year Congress and state legislatures across the country consider passing legislation that affects animals. By joining the ASPCA Advocacy Brigade, you can be a part of the legislative process and become the voice of the animals in Washington, D.C., as well as your home state. The Advocacy Brigade is a free service provided by the ASPCA that allows you to “click and send” communications to

your lawmakers on proposed legislation affecting animals. As a member of the Advocacy Brigade, you can use your voice to help pass positive animal welfare legislation and defeat potentially harmful legislation that could weaken protections for our furry friends. If you are interested in issues such as providing tax breaks for pet parents, strengthening your state’s animal cruelty laws, protecting animals involved in domestic violence situations, shutting down puppy mills, increasing funding for spay and neuter services, and protecting horses from slaughter, then get involved as an ASPCA Advocacy Brigade member!

Visit the “Fighting Animal Cruelty” section at [www.asPCA.org](http://www.asPCA.org) and select the “Lobby for Animals” page to sign up to be a member of the ASPCA Advocacy Brigade. In addition, you can also quickly and easily identify your elected officials using the “Find Your Legislator” link. By clicking on the “Lobby 101” link you can learn all that you need to know to become an effective citizen lobbyist for animals. Don’t delay—get politically active for animals today! ■



# Ask the Experts



Lila Miller, DVM  
ASPCA® Vice President, Veterinary Advisor  
Veterinary Outreach

**Q:** My Basset Hound has food allergies, and hypoallergenic food hasn't helped. Since putting him on a raw food diet, plus some cooked chicken liver with rice, he's looking better. What do you think about this kind of diet? Linda

**A:** Raw food diets are popular among pet parents, but veterinarians are divided in their opinions about their safety. Their main concern is related to the development of nutritional imbalances and contamination of the meat with Salmonella or E. coli, which can cause disease in your dog—and in humans, as well. If you feel the diet is beneficial, you should discuss it with your veterinarian to be sure you are providing the correct nutritional balance and handling the meat properly. You might also consider a commercially prepared raw food diet. ■



Dr. Stephanie LaFarge  
ASPCA Senior Director  
Counseling Services

**Q:** Why do some animals who love each other often die within a very short span of time? My mother put one cat to sleep, and her other cat died three days later. Is this a coincidence? Mary

**A:** The ASPCA conducted a study that demonstrated that companion animals do grieve for each other but rarely, if ever, die from grief. What does occur is a pet parent may be so focused on the terminally ill animal that he or she doesn't notice that the other animal is also weakening. This happens especially when the pets are close in age. In any case, it is wise to pay a lot of attention to the remaining pets whenever there is a death in the family. ■



Pamela Reid, Ph.D., CAAB  
ASPCA Vice President  
Animal Behavior Center

**Q:** My cat likes to stand outside the tub when my husband is in the shower. When he comes out, she rubs up against him and demands his attention. Can you explain her behavior? Jane

**A:** Perhaps she has learned that your husband is likely to pet her when he exits the shower. It likely became a bit of a ritual for the two of them. You both need to decide if this behavior is something you can live with, or something you need to change. We think it's cute! If you want to change it, your husband will need to change his behavior. We suggest he towel off in the shower and then immediately leave the bathroom. ■



# How to Recognize Cruelty Against Animals

Recognizing cruelty is simple, right? Not quite, say ASPCA® experts. Aggressive, timid or fearful behavior doesn't always tell the whole story. Animals may appear to be mean or frightened for reasons other than abuse.

"It's almost impossible to make conclusions based on a pet's behavior alone," says the ASPCA Animal Behavior Center's Kristen Collins, CPDT. "The best way to tell whether a pet is being—or has been—abused is to examine him and his surrounding environment."

Check out the ASPCA's list of signs that may alert you to potential animal cruelty:

## Physical Signs

- Collar so tight that it has caused a neck wound or has become embedded in the pet's neck
- Open wounds, signs of multiple healed wounds, or an ongoing injury or illness that isn't being treated
- Untreated skin conditions that have caused loss of hair, scaly skin, bumps or rashes
- Extreme thinness or emaciation—bones may be visible
- Fur infested with fleas, ticks or other parasites
- Patches of bumpy, scaly skin rashes
- Signs of inadequate grooming, such as extreme matting of fur, overgrown nails and dirty coat
- Weakness, limping or the inability to stand or walk normally
- Heavy discharge from eyes or nose
- An owner striking or otherwise physically abusing an animal
- Visible signs of confusion or extreme drowsiness

**"Without phone calls from concerned citizens who report cruelty in their neighborhoods, we wouldn't know about most instances of animal abuse."**

— Annemarie Lucas  
ASPCA Supervisory Special Investigator



Help us prevent animal cruelty. Learn to recognize the signs of abuse!

## Environmental Signs

- Pets are tied up alone outside for long periods of time without adequate food or water, or with food or water that is unsanitary
- Pets are kept outside in inclement weather without access to adequate shelter
- Pets are kept in an area littered with feces, garbage, broken glass or other objects that could harm them
- Animals are housed in kennels or cages (very often crowded in with other animals) that are too small to allow them to stand, turn around and make normal movements

"Reporting suspected animal cruelty ensures that animals in jeopardy receive prompt and often life-saving care," says ASPCA Supervisory Special Investigator Annemarie Lucas. "By making a complaint to the police or humane society in your area—you can even do so anonymously—you help ensure that animals in need are rescued and that perpetrators of animal cruelty are brought to justice."

If you see signs of animal abuse, let others know! Go to [www.fightcruelty.org](http://www.fightcruelty.org) to find out how to report cruelty in your area. ■

# ASPCA® Donors Flock to Support Mobile Spay/Neuter Clinic Program

When dedicated Founder's Society member Anne Noonan opened her Fall 2009 issue of *ASPCA Action*, she was inspired by the story of Mike and Sherri Balm, who had sponsored the ASPCA's Mobile Spay/Neuter Clinics in honor of Sherri's 40th birthday. "I've had a passion for animal welfare for years," says Anne, "and I knew that targeted spay/neuter services are key to ending pet overpopulation. I immediately picked up the phone to see how my husband Ron and I could direct our gift to the ASPCA to sponsor the mobile clinic program."

Staten Island residents and cat lovers Gail and Bobby Thomas first learned of the ASPCA Mobile Spay/Neuter Clinics through a friend who is a veterinary technician with the program. "I knew she was excited about how the ASPCA was providing spay/neuter services to New York City's underserved neighborhoods. I was training in TNR (Trap/Neuter/Return) to help spay and neuter some of the feral cats in my own neighborhood," remembers Gail. "I thought that by supporting spay/neuter efforts at the ASPCA, I could make a difference in helping to end animal homelessness."

Anne, Ron and the Thomases are some of the most recent ASPCA members to become major donors to the ASPCA Mobile Spay/Neuter Clinics in New York City by sponsoring its fleet of five fully equipped mobile veterinary clinics. Each clinic spends an average of six days each week providing free spay/neuter surgeries in all five boroughs of the city, working to end the tragic euthanasia of adoptable animals. The ASPCA works closely with the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) and other partners to ensure that the clinics are easily accessible and well publicized to low-income pet parents, effectively targeting those pets that are most likely to contribute to pet overpopulation.

For both families, directing their gifts to the ASPCA Mobile Spay/Neuter Clinic Program was a deeply meaningful experience. "When I received my packet of photos and report from my sponsored days, I was amazed at the number of animals my gift helped," says Gail. "I knew that each surgery meant that I had helped prevent homelessness or euthanasia for potentially hundreds of kittens and puppies."

For Anne, her sponsorship was a tribute to the love that she and Ron feel for their four pets. "Our pets are the loves of our lives—they are all shelter rescues," she says, "and our gift to the ASPCA is our way of promising them that we will be part of the solution for other animals."

Opportunities to sponsor the ASPCA Mobile Spay/Neuter Clinics start at \$2,000. The ASPCA also helps to implement a number of spay/neuter efforts in our partner communities across the country; sponsorships for these programs start at \$20,000. For more information on these and other major gift opportunities,

please contact Jaime Malik, Director of Major Gifts, at [jaimem@aspca.org](mailto:jaimem@aspca.org), or by phone at (212) 876-7700, ext. 4506. ■



Spaying/neutering helps end the tragic euthanasia of adoptable animals.



Our fleet of five fully equipped mobile veterinary clinics provides countless numbers of life-saving surgeries.



# People and Events

## The ASPCA® Honors Animals...and Those Who Love Them at the 2009 Humane Awards Luncheon

More than 400 animal lovers turned out for the annual ASPCA Humane Awards Luncheon on October 29. The luncheon, sponsored by The Hartville Group and held at New York City's Pierre Hotel, celebrated the human-animal bond, recognized bravery performed in the service of animals, and saluted extraordinary behavior by animals in the service of humans. Veteran WNBC-TV news anchor Chuck Scarborough served as Master of Ceremonies at the sold-out affair.

Early in 2009, the ASPCA issued a nationwide call for nominations and a committee reviewed hundreds of entries, selecting winners in seven categories:

### ASPCA Dog of the Year

Archie, an eight-year-old Labrador Retriever, served as an assistance dog and social life-line for Sergeant Clay Rankin, who suffered spinal injuries while serving in Iraq. Archie's loyalty and perseverance in helping Rankin



Sergeant Rankin and Archie.

accomplish his daily tasks allowed the veteran to regain his independence, move forward with his life and continue serving his country. (In a tragic twist of fate, Archie died suddenly on November 12 of an apparent heart attack. The ASPCA extends its deepest sympathies to Sergeant Rankin and his wife, Stephanie.)

### ASPCA Cat of the Year

When Betsy Alexander and Burnell Yow visited a shelter in Cherry Hill, New Jersey, they never imagined they would adopt a feline prodigy. Nora is a five-year-old gray Tabby, whose piano-playing skills became a YouTube sensation and inspired a Lithuanian composer to arrange a symphony in her honor.



Proud kitty parent, Betsy Alexander.

### ASPCA "Tommy Monahan" Kid of the Year

This award is dedicated to Tommy Monahan, a nine-year-old Staten Island, New York, boy who perished in 2007 while trying to save his pet from a house fire. This year's winner, 11-year-old Monica Plumb in Powhatan County, Virginia, decided to make a difference after seeing a news story about a pet who was saved from a house fire due to the



ASPCA President & CEO Ed Sayres with Kid of the Year, Monica Plumb.

use of an oxygen mask designed specifically for pets. Monica launched **PetMask.com** to collect online donations to purchase pet masks for fire departments. So far, she has purchased more than 50 masks for fire stations in nine states.

### ASPCA Firefighter of the Year

Deputy Chief Mark Duff and the Hingham (Massachusetts) Fire Department rescued a two-year-old black Labrador Retriever named Ollie, who fell through the ice into the frigid waters of Hingham Harbor. Firefighter Jim Sheard donned a cold water rescue suit and attached himself to the suffering canine, while his fellow firefighters pulled them to safety.

Deputy Chief Mark Duff of the Hingham Fire Department.



*continued on next page*



# People and Events



Some of the brave heroes who helped lead the largest crackdown on dog fighting in U.S. history.

## ASPCA Law Enforcement Officers of the Year

On July 8, 2009, the ASPCA participated in the largest federal crackdown on dog fighting in U.S. history. The raid spanned eight states and resulted in the rescue of nearly 500 dogs and more than 30 arrests. The raid's success was due to the efforts of Tim Rickey and Kyle Held of the Humane Society of Missouri, and undercover agents Sergeant Terry Mills and Sergeant Jeffrey Heath of the Missouri Highway Patrol. The bravery of these heroes demonstrates real progress in the effort to end animal cruelty. Since this event, the ASPCA has hired Tim Rickey as the Senior Director of the ASPCA Field Investigations and Response Team.

## ASPCA Henry Bergh Award

In December 2000, Steve Smith and Alayne Marker left Seattle to form the Rolling Dog Ranch Animal Sanctuary in Ovando, Montana. They turned 160 acres of open grassland and cottonwoods into a sanctuary for animals with special needs—those pets least likely to be adopted and most likely to be euthanized in shelters. The animal sanctuary is now home to approximately 70 animals, nearly two-thirds of whom are blind.



Alayne Marker, winner of the Henry Bergh Award.

## ASPCA Lifetime Achievement Award

In the 1960s, Richard O'Barry trained dolphins for the TV series *Flipper*. After spending time with these sensitive mammals, O'Barry set out to educate the world about dolphins in captivity. In 1970, O'Barry founded the Dolphin Project and launched a campaign against the multi-billion-dollar dolphin industry. He has since rescued and released more than 25 captive dolphins and is the subject of an award-winning documentary, *The Cove*, which exposes the truth about dolphin hunting in Japan.

"The ASPCA is proud to honor those who have demonstrated extraordinary compassion, bravery and commitment to furthering the human-animal bond," says ASPCA President & CEO Ed Sayres. "The ASPCA Humane Awards Luncheon celebrates the important role that animals play in our lives."

Just a reminder, 2010 ASPCA Humane Awards nominations are now being accepted. Please visit [www.aspc.org/nominate](http://www.aspc.org/nominate) for more information on how you can submit the story of your humane hero for consideration. ■

## Hundreds of Animal Lovers Turn Out for Annual Young Friends Benefit

It was "raining shelter cats and dogs" at the ASPCA-sponsored 2009 Young Friends Benefit, hosted by model Brooklyn Decker and co-sponsored by True Religion Brand Jeans. Developed to inspire young professionals to make a difference in the lives of animals, the benefit took place on October 8 at the Frank Gehry-designed IAC Building in New York City's vibrant Chelsea district. More than 500 people participated in the festivities, which included cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, dancing and a silent auction to aid in the ASPCA's fight against animal cruelty.

With a good turnout, the 2009 Young Friends benefit offered an exciting and unique evening in the name of animal welfare. In a space decorated by renowned event designer Ed Libby & Company, guests enjoyed a video projection wall display, cupcakes by Crumbs Bake Shop, and dancing to the music of premier party-spinner DJ Berrie. ■



ASPCA President & CEO Ed Sayres poses with model Brooklyn Decker.

### Photo Contest Benefits ASPCA® and Other Protection Groups

The ASPCA will be a beneficiary of *Best Friends: The Ultimate Animal Photo Contest* sponsored by Photo District News (PDN) and Kodak. The contest celebrates the art of pet and animal photography, while raising money to help endangered and mistreated animals. Contestants submitted their photos to [www.bestfriendsphotocontest.com](http://www.bestfriendsphotocontest.com) in four categories: Domestic Animals, Wildlife Animals, My Pet and Me, and Animal Humor. A portion of each \$12

entry fee was donated to the contestant's choice of one of three non-profit animal welfare groups: the ASPCA, Best Friends Animal Society and Kids Saving the Rainforest. A panel of photography professionals will select winners in each of the four categories, and winners will receive a selection of prizes from Kodak and gain exposure at the PDN PhotoPlus Expo 2010 in New York. ■



## Celebrity Corner Gavin Kaysen



Photo credit: E. Laignel

Gavin Kaysen is a top-rated Executive Chef and winner of the 2008 James Beard Foundation's prestigious Rising Chef Award.

#### Q Do you share your life with a pet?

**A Gavin:** I share it with Rocco, my French Bulldog. We're city dwellers and love our Manhattan strolls together, but he definitely gets more respect in the neighborhood than I do—that is, until I get to my restaurant kitchen!

#### Q Who was your first pet?

**A Gavin:** A mutt named Gambette—not sure what the cross was, but he was a wonderful dog. I grew up with him. Then I had two Labs, one Basset Hound and now my Frenchie!

#### Q What is your fondest pet memory?

**A Gavin:** They are all fond. Growing up with animals teaches you the basic value of respect. I know that when my son is watching me discipline or reward Rocco, he is learning how to respect an animal, how to respect life.

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

**A Gavin:** You come home after a really bad day and all your dog wants to do is play. They sense what happened to you, and they care. That is exactly why they are there—to play, to remind you to find joy in life and never take it too seriously!

#### Q Why are groups like the ASPCA important?

**A Gavin:** I agree with the ASPCA's mission—giving animals a much-needed voice. The ASPCA is an animal's connection to the outside world. It is important to have an organization like yours to help protect and serve these creatures. ■



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](http://www.aspc.org) for more information.

## ASPCA Action Returns

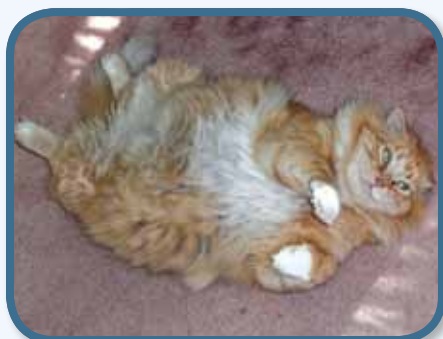
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## ASPCA YOUR STORIES

# Your Stories



Pretty Boy Floyd awaits his daily belly rub.

## Pretty Boy Floyd: An "Outlaw" No Longer

Patrick Hart, Pasco, Washington

Pretty Boy Floyd was anything but pretty—a scruffy, yellow tomcat with greasy mats down his back and a crumpled left ear. Neither of his ears would stand up straight—a result of chronic ear mites and a yeast infection that caused constant scratching. After I first noticed him, I began to feed him on his perch atop a fence post behind the garage. He would slip in, gobble a few bites, and then slip away. As the weeks went by, Floyd got less wary of me, but was still untouchable. I tried tossing treats in his direction, but he would simply eat the trail of goodies up to where I sat, and then swat me as I gave him a few quick strokes on the back. While his feistiness didn't waiver, his physical condition continued to deteriorate. The top of his head was raked raw by constant scratching. His ears were crusted with dried blood from burst abscesses. One eye was swollen shut from fighting. Then one day, just when he was at

his lowest point, Floyd investigated a cat carrier I had left open on the deck. As soon as he stepped in, I quickly shut the door. My wife and I spirited him off to the vet, where he was neutered, chipped, vaccinated and treated for mites. I knew he was truly ours when I visited him as he recuperated in a spare bedroom. As I sat on the floor next to him, Pretty Boy climbed on my lap and began to purr. Pretty Boy Floyd now has a safe place to sleep and gets all the food he needs without having to steal it—an outlaw no longer. ■

## Rescued Off the Streets

Kimberly Scott, Montclair, New Jersey

I'm a high school teacher and was returning to school one day when I saw a Pit Bull walking down the street. He was emaciated, starving to death. I called to him, and he turned and looked at me with the most defeated look. I got down and used my voice to coax him to me. He responded by getting down on his belly and crawling towards me, his tail wagging. That's when I knew he was going to be mine. I scooped him up, placed him in the back of my car and drove to the nearest grocery store to purchase food for him. I fed him right there in the back of the car and watched as he furiously ate what he probably thought would be his last meal. His belly full, a new feeling of security allowed him to fall asleep. I drove to my vet, and they found that he was suffering from a serious case of mange. They also told me that he probably would have been dead in a week from starvation. I brought him home to meet my Pit Bull, Lucy, whom I also rescued from the streets. I decided to name him Lincoln because I found him on Lincoln Street. Since then, Lincoln has gained 30 pounds, and is a happy, healthy pooch who loves all people and other animals. Lincoln is very popular in the neighborhood, especially with kids. It just amazes me how resilient dogs are. They don't feel sorry for themselves or dwell on what has happened in the past. Lucy and Lincoln are now two peas in a pod, and I am ecstatic that I was in the right place at the right time. ■



Lucy and Lincoln—two peas in a pod.

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

email us: [ASPCAAction@aspc.org](mailto: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.