



If there were ever any doubt that Americans love their pets, the facts speak for themselves. A recent American Pet Products Manufacturers Association National Pet Owners' Survey found that 63% of U.S. households have a pet, which equates to 69.1 million

homes. Of these, 43 million homes have more than one pet. But sadly, for every pet that finds a caring home, millions of other animals' life stories end prematurely in shelters across America.

As we enter our 141st year, it gives me great pleasure to let you know that the ASPCA is doing more than ever to help build a more humane future for America's animals. The ASPCA is proud to partner with target animal welfare organizations across the country to launch "ASPCA® Mission: Orange™"—a focused effort to create a country of humane communities, one community at a time, where animals receive the compassion and respect due to them as sentient beings, and where there is no more unnecessary euthanasia of adoptable animals simply because of a lack of resources or awareness.

Our goals are to end animal cruelty and provide for the welfare of animals through education and the dissemination of knowledge and resources, thus elevating the status of animals in our society. I look forward to keeping you abreast of all of our lifesaving efforts and sincerely thank you for your loyalty to the ASPCA and the animals we serve.

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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ASPCA Action

ASPCA® Mission: Orange™

The ASPCA targets communities nationwide to make all America humane

Imagine a world where every adoptable pet finds a loving home, and all animals are treated with compassion and respect. That's the vision of the ASPCA, which since its founding in 1866 has led efforts to provide effective means for the prevention of cruelty to animals throughout the United States. Now. with ASPCA® Mission: OrangeTM, the ASPCA moves one bold step closer to realizing that dream.

Under the mantle of the ASPCA's flagship lifesaving color, ASPCA

Mission: Orange targets specific cities across the country where it will focus intensive efforts on humane care and protection. In each community, the ASPCA has teamed with local animal welfare groups, committing funds (up to \$600,000 in each city over three years), staff, extensive training, and a wealth of expertise. First stops for ASPCA Mission: Orange in 2007: Austin, TX; Philadelphia, PA; Tampa, FL; and Gulfport-Biloxi, MS.

"I am excited that so many wonderful local agencies are joining with us to make their city a true humane community, where no animal is at risk simply because it lacks a home," said ASPCA President & CEO Ed Sayres, as community leaders gathered on January 10 at ASPCA headquarters in Manhattan. "This is the driving force behind ASPCA Mission: Orange—the desire to bring about immediate, measurable, and sustainable change for the animals we are honor-bound to protect and provide for."



Animal welfare leaders gather in NY to celebrate the kickoff of ASPCA Mission: Orange.

Humane Communities

Innovative programs to boost adoptions of shelter pets and expand anti-cruelty training and low-cost spay and neuter services typify the wealth of services the ASPCA is helping to introduce and expand upon in communities nationwide. "With the intensive focus and collaborative approach of ASPCA Mission: Orange, many more animals will be saved, and fewer will ever get into a shelter in the first place," says Senior VP Julie Morris of ASPCA National Outreach.

Just a sampling of the myriad ways ASPCA Mission: Orange will make a difference include:

In Austin: The ASPCA has pledged \$300,000 as a lead gift to Animal Trustees of Austin to build a roomy new Spay/Neuter and Wellness Clinic to replace their cramped, outmoded facility. Advanced anti-cruelty training for police and others on such topics as animal hoarding and blood sports will provide further protection for animals. And a new

spay and neuter program for feral cats at the Austin Humane Society will "allow us to address the prevention part of our mission in a way that we've never done before," says AHS Executive Director Frances Jonon.

In Philadelphia: Senior veterinary students at the University of Pennsylvania will sterilize an additional 1,200 dogs and cats ready to go out for adoption each year, thanks to a new operating room at the city's animal shelter funded largely by a \$150,000 ASPCA gift. Humane education will get a big boost from a \$30,000 ASPCA grant to the Pennsylvania SPCA to create an informational Web site targeted at teachers and schoolchildren throughout the state.

In Tampa: ASPCA Mission: Orange efforts will include behavior assessment training to complement shelter adoption programs and efforts aimed at curbing the problem of pet overpopulation, a key reason so many animals end up in shelters in the first place. "It takes a community to solve the problem," says Frank Hamilton of Animal Coalition of Tampa, an ASPCA Mission: Orange partner that offers low-cost spay and neuter clinics throughout Hillsborough County. "We're expecting great things having the ASPCA behind us."

In Gulfport-Biloxi: The new state-of-the-art Humane Society of South Mississippi, funded in part with a \$1 million gift from the ASPCA following the ravages of Hurricane Katrina, will take a three-pronged approach that includes counseling and education

for new pet parents, low-cost spay and neuter services for some 15,000 pets a year, and expansion of The Love Train, which last year transported more than 1,200 animals to areas of the country where they can more easily be adopted. Expanded anti-cruelty training for three regional police departments will further aid animals in need.

ASPCA Mission: Possible

Much of the inspiration for ASPCA Mission: Orange grew out of ongoing efforts in New York, where the ASPCA served as a founding member and provided a \$5 million lead grant to the Mayor's Alliance for NYC's Animals. This public-private partnership, involving dozens of animal welfare groups, is working to build a humane community in which none of the city's dogs and cats of reasonable health and temperament is killed merely because he or she lacks a home.

The collaborative efforts are starting to pay off. "In 2006, more than 20,000 animals were adopted into great new homes, and for the first time, fewer than 50% of animals entering Animal Care and Control were euthanized," says Jane Hoffman, President of the Mayor's Alliance.

The ASPCA is also working closely with the Richmond SPCA of Richmond, VA, which will serve as a "learning laboratory" for ASPCA Mission: Orange communities, sharing resources and expertise through learning and exchange programs.

"These partnerships will serve as a model to other communities across the country—a blueprint to end needless euthanasia of companion animals throughout the United States," says the ASPCA's Sayres. "With the launch of ASPCA Mission: Orange, we are moving closer to creating an entire country of humane communities, one community at a time."

Meet Your Match™



Meet Your Match, a signature ASPCA program that color-codes pets and potential adopters based on

personality and lifestyle traits to make the perfect match, is just one of the ways the ASPCA is helping to boost adoptions nationwide. It is now used in hundreds of shelters across the country, including the Austin Humane Society, an ASPCA Mission: Orange partner.

"Since we kicked off Meet Your Match last May, our adoptions have skyrocketed," says AHS Executive Director Frances Jonon. "Before, folks would walk into our shelter and become overwhelmed by barking, homeless dogs. Now they come in with their colored 'guest pass' and have a sense of purpose and focus."

Austin resident David Beer was just one of thousands of animalloving Texans to benefit from the program. After his family's beloved rescue greyhound died last fall at age 14, he found the perfect match in Breezy, a 5-month-old Dachshund mix born at the shelter. "Breezy is a delight," says Beer. "He curls up on my lap when I'm reading at night and is so contented and cozy."

April Is Anti-Cruelty Month!

Join ASPCA Supervisory Special Investigator Annemarie Lucas and ROAR for Animals



Want to be a powerful voice for animals? Animal Planet has partnered with the ASPCA and other animal groups to make it easy to get involved. All you have to do is ROAR—Reach Out. Act. Respond. Whether you volunteer at a local shelter, support your favorite animal cause, or walk an elderly neighbor's dog, every act makes a difference. Please join us in our passion to help animals and

promise to ROAR today. Visit http://animaldiscovery.com/roar to join the ROAR compaign, and follow these top ASPCA tips for fighting animal cruelty.

- **1. Be aware.** Look out for animals in your neighborhood, and call if you suspect a problem.
- **2. Learn to recognize cruelty.** Possible signs include wounds, extreme thinness, or dogs chained without food or water.
- **3. Know who to call.** Visit www.aspca.org/stateanticruelty to find out who has the power to investigate in your hometown.
- **4. Provide as much information as possible,** including type of cruelty, date, time, and who was involved.

- **5. Call your local law enforcement unit.** Animal cruelty is a CRIME—and the police MUST investigate.
- 6. Know your state's anticruelty laws. Visit www.aspca.org/statelaws.
- **7. Fight for strong anti-cruelty laws.** Join the ASPCA Advocacy Brigade at www.aspca.org/lobby.
- **8. Set a good example.** Show pets the love and good care they deserve.
- **9. Talk to your kids.** Education plants the seeds of kindness early.
- **10. Support your local shelter or rescue group.** Volunteer your time, foster a shelter animal, or donate money, food, or supplies.

Philadelphia Cleanup

More than 30 feline fanciers gathered on December 2 to better the lives of stray and feral cats living behind a shopping center at Pier 70 in South Philadelphia. The event, coordinated by the Philadelphia Community Cats Council and Alley Cat Allies, was co-sponsored by the ASPCA, which provided meals, trash pick-up, and ASPCA baseball caps as a "thank you." Some 40 cats were taken for spay and neuter, then released back to the colony over the next three days. "The stretch of land was totally



transformed in a matter of hours," says ASPCA Northeast Community Initiatives Manager Megan Kane.
"Volunteers expressed their

excitement that this was just the beginning of a well-managed cat colony that would save so many lives."



Hot Dogs

Tails were waggin' for the winners of this year's ASPCA Dog Photo Contest, held in honor of Adopt-a-Shelter-Dog Month in October. For more irresistible canine photos, visit us online at: www.aspca.org/dogwinners

ASPCA Goes Mobile

Get weekly tips on poison prevention, dog or cat care, foods to avoid, and fun pet facts with the new ASPCA Text Alerts. Advocacy Alerts also let you know when urgent action is needed on pending humane legislation. Sign up now at: www.aspca.org/text

Award-Winning Training

The ASPCA was the winner of a 2006 Training Magazine Award for its artful Illinois eLearning

course that trains police officers and others in animal abuse investigations. The course, developed with the Regional Institute of Community Policing in Springfield, IL, can be accessed around-the-clock and covers such topics as local laws and getting a conviction. Accepting the award was Ledy VanKavage (below, left), ASPCA Senior Director of Legal Training and Legislation. VanKavage lobbies for effective animal protection laws and tours the country to educate fellow



attorneys, animal welfare professionals, and pet lovers on such vital issues as putting abusers behind bars, breed-specific bias, and effective means to stop pet overpopulation.

Bounce for Pets

The ASPCA and Bounce encourage you to "Hug and Help" pets. Share your love of pets and help the ASPCA by giving a virtual "hug" to either a dog or cat on the Web at:

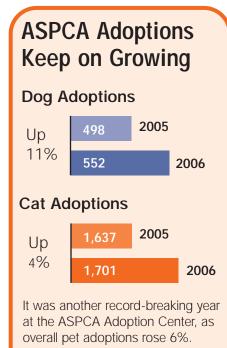
www.bounceeverywhere.com

Bounce will make a \$10,000 donation to the ASPCA on behalf of the winning species. The online

promotion launches in February and will run through the end of May, so spread the word and be sure to hug your pet too!

Hopeful Tails

Share your "Hopeful Tails" stories and photos. Borders is seeking stories and photos from bookloving, pet-loving customers about their rescued pets. Winning entries will be featured in *Hopeful Tails*, a Borders exclusive book to be published in Fall 2007. For every copy of "Hopeful Tails" sold, \$1.00 will be donated to the ASPCA. For complete details, visit Borders on the Web at: www.borderspetproject.com



at the ASPCA Adoption Center, as overall pet adoptions rose 6%. That's 2,253 loving homes for homeless cats and dogs in the New York area alone! The ASPCA helps thousands of shelters across the country find great homes for pets in need.

Nothing has exposed the face of animal cruelty like the reality TV show *Animal Precinct* on Animal Planet. ASPCA rescue allowed one badly abused Rottweiler to finally know the kind touch of people.

Kindness for Clara

Special Agent Richard Raheb, member of the ASPCA Humane Law Enforcement team, suspected right away that something was seriously wrong when he first met the fearful yet gentle Rottweiler living in a Bronx, NY, apartment house. Tipped off by a concerned citizen who had called the ASPCA, Raheb encountered a thin, older animal that seemed disoriented. Her eyes were clouded over, and her tongue lolled sideways out of a toothless mouth. "I had every reason to believe this dog had been abused," Raheb says.

Called in for backup,
Supervisory Special Investigator
Annemarie Lucas rushed the
bewildered dog to ASPCA's Bergh
Memorial Animal Hospital in
Manhattan for emergency care.
There, ASPCA veterinarians made
a shocking discovery: The dog had
a broken jaw, fractured skull, and
was nearly blind.

With expert veterinary care and hands-on affection, the skittish canine grew a bit more comfortable around people. "When a dog has been severely abused and had a horrible life, it makes you want to work that much harder to find them the loving home they deserve," says Victoria Wells, ASPCA Manager of



Clara slowly learned that she was worthy of training and love.

Shelter Behavior and Training. Wells does behavioral work with many of the stray and abused animals taken in by ASPCA Humane Law Enforcement, including this abused rotty.

Under questioning by ASPCA animal cops, the dog's owner confessed to "disciplining" his pet. He was charged with animal abuse and sentenced to six months in jail.

Worthy of Love

Still traumatized and in need of intensive daily medical care, the dog was taken in by Kodi's Club Rescue (www.kodisclub.com), a grassroots rescue organization in



upstate New York that works with injured and traumatized dogs, including animals shot during police raids.

"When we picked her up at the ASPCA Hospital, one eye had been removed, and she was in pretty rough shape," says Lisa Hauer, co-founder of Kodi's Club Rescue, who gave the dog a new name, Clara. "Under the guidance of a dedicated foster home and certified obedience trainer, Clara was slowly taught that human touch is not always cruel and painful and that she, too, was worthy of compassion, training, and love."

In the last few months of her tragic life, Clara was able to run through her back yard, take walks in her neighborhood, and play with her favorite squeaky toy duck. "She was finally living the life that should have been hers all along," says Hauer. But after months of rehabilitation, Clara's quality of life, both physically and emotionally, began to decline, and in November, a very painful but humane decision was made.

"Clara was allowed to leave the world that failed her so miserably for the first eight years of her tortured life, content in the only environment where she knew love and peace," says Hauer.

The ASPCA Henry Bergh Legacy Society

The following individuals have provided for the future of the ASPCA by participating in our Charitable Gift Annuity Program or including the ASPCA in their estate plans. It is with appreciation that we list them as members of the ASPCA Henry Bergh Legacy Society.

For more information on becoming a member of the ASPCA Henry Bergh Legacy Society, please contact Marsha Pierson, CFP, at 212-876-7700, extension 4505, or marshap@aspca.org.

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\$20,000

SAFE STEPS HOME

Oregon

The Oregon Humane Society in Portland is using a \$20,000 Safe Steps Home grant from the ASPCA and Fresh Step Scoopable Cat Litter to fund a community-wide project targeting specific counties where the most cats are turned in to shelters. The grant will fund easy access, via local veterinarians, to free or affordable spay and neuter surgeries; education to schools and adult groups; and special services, including open clinics for health, behavior, and general cat care.



\$5,000GIVE A DOG A BONE

■ California

A \$5,000 contribution from the ASPCA to Give a Dog a Bone will boost the quality-of-life for hundreds of canines held in custody at San Francisco's city shelter. Many of these animals, held for months until their legal situation can be resolved, have been abandoned in old cars or beaten, starved, or made to fight. Others are awaiting the return of pet parents who have been hospitalized,

evicted, or arrested. With gentle, hands-on kindness from staff and volunteers, Give a Dog a Bone is changing the bleak existence of these dogs every day, one chew toy, one play session, and one belly-rub at a time.





\$14,000

HOPE FOR HORSES

■ Texas

Hundreds of horses will benefit from more than \$14,000 in ASPCA grants awarded to equine groups across America in recent months through the ASPCA Equine Fund. Among the recipients was Hope for Horses Rescue of Blue Ridge, TX, an all-volunteer group that last year successfully placed more than 100 horses in caring new homes. Funds will be used to purchase hay and to aid in the care of colts displaced by the pregnant mares' urine (PMU) industry.

Your Dolla



\$4,000

AIDING PETS & PEOPLE

■ Wisconsin

Abandoned dogs living on the Menominee Reservation in northeast Wisconsin will no longer routinely be shot at and placed in dumpsters, thanks in part to a \$4,000 ASPCA grant to the Fox Valley Humane Association. The group, working with Keshena Animal Help & Rescue, has provided vaccinations and care to more than 600 canines. More than 80 have been spayed or neutered, with additional clinics scheduled for this spring. "With the generous support of the ASPCA, we have increased our emphasis on education as well, improving the quality of life for people and their pets," says longtime volunteer Karen Smith.

\$3,000

BETTER WITH A BUDDY

lowa

A \$3,000 ASPCA grant to the Dubuque Regional Humane Society has helped fund their "Better with a Buddy" program, which places feline littermates and companion pairs into loving



homes on a 2-for-1 cost basis. "This is a win-win program for our shelter," says Executive Director Jane McCall, whose group has been inundated with a bumper crop of cats and kittens this past year. "Whether for training, grants, or just somewhere to go to for advice and counsel, the ASPCA has always been a great resource for us."

650+

PETS IN NEED Louisiana

The Plaquemines Animal Welfare Society new transport van, one of several donated to the pets and people of Louisiana by the ASPCA and other groups, continues to aid animals in need throughout the Gulf Coast. The customized van takes pets to distant shelters where they can more easily be adopted. "The ASPCA has been a blessing to P.A.W.S.," says VP Laura Hutcheson. "Last year we took in over 650 dogs and cats, and we are seeing more animals all the time." Adoptable canines also attended the Belle Chasse Christmas Parade, along with this spring's annual Pawdi Gras celebration in Gretna, LA.



rs At Work

Webinar Teaches About "Dangerous Dogs"

A dog attacks and legislators act. Know the facts regarding dog attacks and which public policies do and don't work.



Some towns are moving to ban loving dogs like Ellie, based solely on breed.

Last November, hundreds of shelter employees, animal behaviorists, policy specialists, lawyers, government officials, and members of the media from across the country logged on to a public safety Webinar called "Dangerous Dogs—Is Canine Profiling Effective?" Sponsored by PetSmart Charities and taught by attorneys Ledy VanKavage and Debora Bresch of ASPCA Legislative Services, the Web-based seminar provides lifesaving information on the root causes of dog attacks and how to craft effective dangerous dog laws to protect the public. It also addresses the rights of

responsible dog owners and highlights the ways in which dogs suffer as a result of breed-specific policies, which target certain breeds deemed to be dangerous, regardless of an animal's individual temperament.

"Dangerous dog legislation is important, but it should be breedneutral," says VanKavage, ASPCA Senior Director of Legal Training and Legislation. "This is America. Responsible and caring pet parents should be able to have whatever breed or mixed breed dog they want."

"The Webinar is extremely timely, given the frequency with

which towns and cities across the country are revisiting their dangerous dog ordinances, often considering enactment of breed-specific laws," adds Bresch, ASPCA Legislative Liaison. "There is no data to support the idea that a particular breed of dog is vicious. It's the owner's behavior that needs to be addressed."

Just a week after the Webinar, the city commission of Emporia, Kansas, examined its vicious dog ordinance at the request of a resident concerned about so-called "notorious breeds." Fortunately, city commissioners had attended the Webinar and were

equipped with information to make logical, not knee-jerk, policy decisions regarding the dogs in their community. As a result, the legislators rejected breed-specific legislation targeted at pit bulls.

The "Dangerous Dogs" Webinar is just one of the many ways that the ASPCA legislative team continues to reach out to public and private groups across the country to educate those involved in animal welfare on the importance of sound animal protection laws. To hear a recording of this Webinar, log on to:

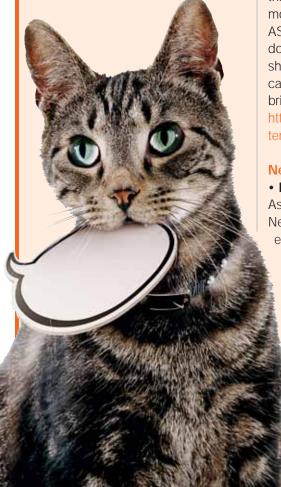
http://petsmartcharities.webex.com

State Highlights

lowa:

Doing the Right Thing

Governor Thomas Vilsack did the right thing when he used his line item veto power to prevent dogs from being classified as "agricultural products" in Iowa. Classifying canines as agricultural products would have allowed commercial breeders to bypass the public hearings now required for special-use permits. Such a move would have greatly eased the way for unscrupulous breeders to operate puppy mills in the state. The ASPCA and members of the ASPCA Advocacy Brigade thank you for your ongoing work in support of animals, Governor Vilsack!



Ohio:

Friend of the Court

The ASPCA drafted and submitted an amicus ("friend of the court") brief to the Ohio Supreme Court in the pivotal pit bull case, Toledo v. Tellings. The case centers around Paul Tellings, a Toledo resident whose family included two young children, two American pit bull terriers, and an American bulldog. The ASPCA brief, on behalf of Mr. Tellings and all Ohio pit bulls, asks the Ohio Supreme Court to uphold an earlier court decision declaring unconstitutional state laws that classify pit bulls as vicious and criminalize the failure to obtain \$100,000 in liability coverage for one's pit bull, and a Toledo law that makes it illegal to possess more than one adult pit bull. The ASPCA believes that dangerous dog legislation is important, but should not be based on breed. You can read the "friend of the court" brief online by visiting the Web at: http://www.sconet.state.oh.us/ temp/584114.pdf

New York:

Expanded Spay & Neuter

As of last October, low-income
New York State residents are
eligible for low-cost spay and
neuter services for their dogs
and cats, regardless of where
they obtained their pets. Lowincome New York residents
can contact the New York
State Department of
Agriculture and Markets by
calling (888) 669-0870 (or
on the Web at:

www.agmkt.state.ny.us)

for more information

about the expanded Animal Population Control Program or to apply for a low-cost spay and neuter voucher.

Humane Euthanasia

While expansion of the state's affordable spay and neuter program aims at lessening the need to euthanize dogs and cats in New York State, a bill sponsored by Assembly Member Amy Paulin seeks to ensure that when euthanasia is necessary in the state's shelters, that the only methods utilized are those deemed humane by the American Veterinary Medical Association. Under current law, many outdated and inhumane methods of euthanasia are still permitted in New York State.

Dog Tethering

Seeking to lessen the suffering of dogs subjected to long hours tied or chained outdoors and to protect the public from the dangers associated with dogs that are confined in this manner, a new Dog Tethering bill would prohibit tying or chaining dogs for more than six consecutive hours. The bill would also implement safeguards to ensure the safety of dogs that are tethered for shorter periods permitted by the law.

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.

Spring Cleaning? Keep Your Pets Safe

With the arrival of warmer weather, many pet parents will embark on "do-it-yourself" projects around the home. The ASPCA Animal Poison Control center offers these helpful hints to keep pets safe.



Paints. Most water-based latex paints are relatively low in toxicity, but could still produce stomach upset. Artist's paints or other specialty paints may contain heavy metals that could potentially be harmful if large enough amounts are swallowed. Should your pet get paint on its skin or hair coat, never use paint thinner or similar solvents to remove it—a chemical burn could result. Instead, use a mild pet shampoo or liquid hand dishwashing detergent to bathe the skin and fur. If paint exposure is

extensive, your local veterinarian may need to clip or shave your pet.

Adhesives & Glues. Certain construction glues may produce only mild stomach upset, while others can cause significant irritation. Some expanding glue products can result in a potentially lifethreatening GI obstruction.

Solvents. Paint thinners, mineral spirits, and other

solvents can result in severe irritation or chemical burns to the skin, eyes, mouth, and GI tract. Inhalation could lead to pneumonia.

Lead. Older homes may contain lead-based paints. Lead exposures can occur from eating paint chips or inhaling paint dust from sanded surfaces, producing stomach upset or behavioral or nervous system problems. Plumbing parts, putty, rug pads, and linoleum may also contain lead.

Mold. Mold can be found in many parts of the home, including under carpeting, behind walls, or in heating and cooling ducts, and can produce stomach upset, heart problems, or tremors or seizures.

Physical Hazards. Pets could be at risk from a wide variety of physical hazards in homes that are being renovated, including nails, tacks, staples, screws, insulation, electrical cords on power tools, and many others.

Keep pets completely out of areas where home improvement projects are occurring, and always read and follow label directions for safe use and storage. In certain situations, it may be advisable to board pets in a kennel or day-care facility to eliminate the potential for exposure to hazardous substances.

If accidental exposure occurs, seek veterinary assistance promptly by calling your local veterinarian or the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center (1-888-426-4435, fees may apply). Have the product container or packaging available for reference, as critical ingredient information or instructions on how to manage accidental exposures may be on the label. For more information on home hazards and keeping your pet safe, visit the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center, on the Web at: www.apcc.aspca.org.

Dieters' Danger

Eric Dunayer, M.S., V.M.D, DABT, is a veterinarian and toxicologist for the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center.

Q. I heard that xylitol in sugarless gum may be poisonous to my pet. Is this true? B.G., Hollywood, FL

Yes. Xylitol, a sweetener found in certain sugar-free chewing gums, candies, baked goods, and other foods, can cause serious problems for dogs. At this time, we don't know if other pets, such as cats and ferrets, are affected by xylitol. Keep these products out of reach. Last year, the ASPCA managed more than 170 cases involving xylitol ingestion. Dogs ingesting xylitol can develop a fairly sudden drop in blood sugar, resulting in depression, loss of coordination, and seizures. In severe cases, potentially fatal liver failure may develop. Symptoms may arise as quickly as 30 minutes after ingestion or appear hours or days later. If any xylitol is ingested, call your veterinarian or the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center (1-888-426-4435, fees may apply) for immediate aid.

Nervous Kitty

Pamela Reid, Ph.D., is VP of the ASPCA Animal Behavior Center and a certified applied animal behaviorist.

Q. My feline "fur-kid," Tiger, is terrified of others, including my husband. Advice? L.S., Reno, NV

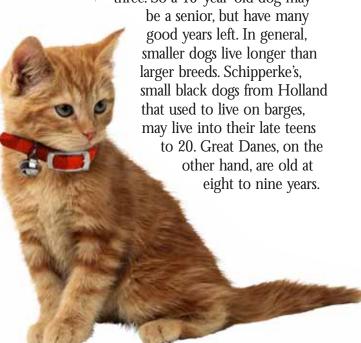
of the nervous jitters. Because you are currently the bearer of all things good—toys, treats, food, and affection—Tiger has come to regard you as the most important being in his life. Have your husband be the one to feed Tiger and give him treats. Also have your husband play more with Tiger, starting with a laser pointer and progressing to more interactive toys like cat dancers. With time he should begin to relax. But don't push Tiger too far too fast; let him adjust at his own pace. If, after several weeks, Tiger is still not warming up to your husband, you may wish to consider anti-anxiety medication (see your veterinarian). It may be the extra boost Tiger needs to get over his timidity.

Dog Years

Stephen Zawistowski, Ph.D., Exec. VP and Science Advisor of the ASPCA, is a certified applied animal behaviorist.

really equal to seven people years? S.M., Thousand Oaks, CA

A. Only as a rough estimate. The ratio of dog years to human years is not a straight linear relation but a curve that starts high at one end, then drops off. After the first year, a dog is a teenager—about 12 to 15 years old. After the second year, it is roughly 20 to 25. After that, each year equals fewer and fewer human years: five, then four, then eventually three. So a 10-year-old dog may



HAVE A QUESTION? ASK OUR EXPERTS E-mail: ASPCAAction@aspca.org, or write: ASPCA Action, 424 East 92nd Street, New York, NY 10128 Visit www.animed.org for more answers about your companion animal health and behavior questions from the ASPCA experts.

Humane Heroes Photos: Dave Alcoa/Starpix

ASPCA Honors Humane Heroes

2006 awards presented November 2 at NYC's famed Rainbow Room



ASPCA Dog of the Year

Lucy, a five-year-old German shepherd rescued from a local shelter, saved the lives of her family—Keith, Jennifer, and Miranda Gorsuch of Littleton, IL—by alerting them with barks to smoke coming from a basement fire in the middle of the night.

"It's amazing to me that a dog found running through the streets of Chicago could, two years later, be honored by the ASPCA," says Jennifer, who adopted Lucy from the Quincy Humane Society. "It was one of those situations where I was repaid ten-fold."

ASPCA Cat of the Year

Ten years ago, a homeless bluepoint Siamese mix reached out from the bars of his local shelter cage to tap Nancy Kucik on the shoulder. He went home with her that day. Today, this one-time orphan named Laser (for his sharp blue eyes) is a certified therapy cat. "He was born to do therapy work," says Kucik. "Instead of running away from people, he sits on their laps." The pair have been

a Delta Society Pet Partners team for nine years. Laser and Nancy spread the warmth to kids in hospitals and to seniors with Alzheimer's throughout the Birmingham, AL, area.



ASPCA Horse of the Year

Harley, an eight-year-old Tennessee walker/quarter horse belonging to Mike and Pam Riley of Woodville, TX, saved the life of his equine "sister," Girl Friday, after the mare had become trapped by debris following Hurricane Rita. Harley stomped his feet, reared his head, and led Pam to a neighbor's distant pasture, where Girl Friday lay cut, camouflaged by brush, and snared in broken branches and wire. Pam, who broke an ankle during search efforts, called for help on her cell phone while Harley climbed over strewn trees to get the rescuers' attention. Today, all are doing well.

ASPCA Lifetime Achievement

Millions of farm animals across the country have a more humane life



thanks to the crusade of one woman: Adele Douglass, Executive Director and Founder of Humane Farm Animal Care. The group created the "Certified Humane Raised and Handled" food label, a guarantee that farm animals receive a nutritious diet without antibiotics or hormones and are raised with shelter, resting areas, and enough space to support natural behaviors.



ASPCA Firefighter of the Year Staten Island, NY, firefighter Richard J. LaPiedra, 38, bravely entered a burning, two-story brick home despite high heat and zero

visibility to rescue its sole occupant at the time, a six-year-old black Lab named Ali. LaPiedra carried the dog from the blaze and onto the lawn, where he treated her for smoke inhalation.

"It's a wonderful feeling to be able to save someone from conditions like that, whether it's a human being or an animal," says LaPiedra. It was only later that he learned the home belonged to New York Assemblyman John W. Lavelle, who was ecstatic that the family dog had been rescued. LaPiedra, a 15-year veteran of the New York City Fire Department, also served during the terror attacks of September 11, 2001.



ASPCA Law Enforcement Officer of the Year

Sergeant Steven C. Brownstein of the Chicago Police Department has pioneered the fight against dog fighting and animal cruelty. A member of the police department since 1982, he has served on the city's Animal Abuse Control Team for the last seven years. Sgt. Brownstein and his crew have recovered more than 5,000 animals in need—mostly dogs—

and made more than 700 arrests for animal cruelty and dog fighting. He lives in Chicago with three dogs, all rescued from abusive situations.



ASPCA Henry Bergh Award

As co-founder of "Spay Oklahoma," Ruth Steinberger helps facilitate the spaying and neutering of more than 12,000 animals each year through such programs as affordable pet sterilization services for low-income families. Other innovative services include the "In-Clinic Clinics" program, which offers low-cost spay and neuter surgeries at private animal hospitals on days when they would otherwise be closed, and a transport program for pet parents who don't have cars. Steinberger actively recruits veterinarians to perform high-volume surgeries and helped get two mobile units up and rolling across the state.

ASPCA Awareness Award

In Marley & Me: Life and Love With the World's Worst Dog, best-selling author John Grogan celebrates the joys—and trials—of the people-pet bond. His hilarious account of raising the rambunctious but lovable golden Lab, Marley, from puppyhood to dog-dom will continue to

inspire pet parents, and prospective pet parents, for years to come. Grogan, a columnist for the Philadelphia Inquirer, has also written on such vital animal welfare issues as the deplorable conditions in Pennsylvania puppy mills.



A Fitting Tribute

Inspired by her dual background in art and the animal sciences, artist Naomi Campbell created an honorary trophy that depicts an elegant horse rising up in a regal sweep, a fitting tribute for this year's winners of the ASPCA Humane Awards. The sculpture harks back to ASPCA founder Henry Bergh's earliest efforts, more than 140 years ago, to stop cruelty to working horses in New York City and commemorates the monumental achievements of animal welfare efforts that continue to this day. "This piece is meant to inspire, in as much as it honors the motivation of individuals and organizations that have donated countless hours of work towards the well-being of all animals," says Campbell, shown here with ASPCA President & CEO Ed Sayres. "From every animal that finds a place in man's journey, this piece is about that shared journey."

A Birthday Gift for Animals







Carol Leifer's ASPCA birthday guests included (I to r) Jerry Seinfeld, Bill Maher, and Garry Shandling.

For her 50th birthday celebration at the Beverly Hills Hotel, comedian Carol Leifer of Los Angeles asked that instead of presents, guests send a donation to the ASPCA or to Planned Parenthood. Leifer, who has been involved in such television shows as Seinfeld and The Larry Sanders Show as a writer and producer, had not always been an animal lover. "I had never had a dog or cat in my life until I met my partner, Lori, ten years ago," she says. "I can't tell you what

learning to love animals has done for my soul."

Since then, the couple has taken in a string of lovable pets. They include Julius, Shelby, and Maccabee, from Chihuahua Rescue in Tehachapi, CA, and Heston, a "schnerrier" (terrierschnauzer mix) from the South Central Shelter of Los Angeles. ("His coat was so overgrown and matted that he looked like Charlton Heston in *The Ten* Commandments," says Leifer. "They are their own little pack and sleep

with us every night.") When Carol's aunt recently passed away in New York, they also took in her cat, named Tuffy.

"When the ASPCA received almost \$5,000 from my friends and family, it made me happier than any bottle of champagne or bouquet of flowers," says Leifer. "I really want to encourage more people to devote their party gifts to great organizations like the ASPCA. What better way to celebrate a milestone than giving to animals!"

Operation Doggy Drop



Christina Applegate, Cesar Millan the Dog Whisperer, **Paul** Rodriguez, Deborah Gibson, and

Taylor Dayne were among the stars on hand at the House of

Blues on L.A.'s Sunset Strip on December 1 to help raise money for Operation Doggy Drop, a benefit for the animals that made it through Hurricane Katrina. This lifesaving program, sponsored by the ASPCA, will relocate more than 6,000 adoptable puppies and dogs over the next two years from overcrowded, recovering shelters along the Gulf Coast to regions of

the country where they are likely to be adopted. "We can make an enormous difference for these animals," says Operation Doggy Drop organizer Marc Rosen of Heyday Films, a division of Warner Brothers. "These precious, adoptable dogs will have a new chance to find a 'forever home' in communities nationwide."

Go ASPCA Orange on April 10th!

Celebrate the ASPCA's Birthday



Last year, millions of animal lovers across the nation banded together to celebrate our 140th birthday. Join us again this year for ASPCA Day on April 10 and go ASPCA Orange for Animals.

Light up in orange. Check the skyline in your hometown for buildings lit in ASPCA Orange.



Light an orange bulb on your porch or driveway, or tie an orange bow to your front door or mailbox. Organize an ASPCA party at your school or in your community. Decorate with orange balloons, and wear orange clothes. Enter to win a free ASPCA Day Celebration Kit (www.aspca.org).



Organize a bake sale with orange cupcakes to raise money for the ASPCA or your local shelter.

Wear an ASPCA Orange T-shirt, wristband, or hat (visit our store at: www.aspca.org/store).

Join us on April 10 in New York City's Union Square for ASPCA Day 2007 festivities. ■

Fit for a Prince



ABC TV's lovelorn "Bachelor,"

Prince Lorenzo Borghese, has found true love in the form of a

snow-white, eight-week-old pup named Porcini. "He's as cute as a little mushroom," says the Prince, who first laid eyes on the lovable mixed-breed in November at the ASPCA shelter in Manhattan. The previous month, Borghese was among the supporters at the ASPCA's Young Friends Horse'N Around fundraiser; other attendees included Dylan Lauren, Maria Menounos, and "Project Runway's" Alison Kelly.

Jeopardy! Winner



The ASPCA was the proud beneficiary of \$25,000, thanks to designer **Isaac**

Mizrahi's (right) participation in Celebrity Jeopardy! on November 14. "The generosity of people like Mr. Mizrahi is what enables the ASPCA to continue its lifesaving work, and we thank him," said ASPCA President & CEO Ed Sayres. "It is also deeply gratifying that, as the oldest animal welfare organization in this country, we are on the radar screen of one of the best known fashion icons of our time."

Photo Courtesy of Jeopardy! Productions, Inc.



ASPCA: A Venerable Tradition

Holiday visitors to the Big Apple's Empire State Building got a taste of ASPCA history with a multiwindow display of artifacts and vintage photos celebrating the ASPCA's 140th year of service to animals. The lobby exhibit featured such items as a scale model of the ASPCA's 1894 horse ambulance in New York City, one of many innovations the ASPCA continues to bring to the world of animal care and protection.

ASPCA YOUR STORIES

Animal Cop-in-Training

Shari Hill, New York, NY



Dear Humane Law Enforcement team,

I wanted to thank you for your noble work and to especially thank three of your officers who went out of their way to be kind and supportive

to my nine-year-old daughter, Virginia, when my husband brought her up to the ASPCA in her "uniform." Virginia decided some time ago that she wanted to be an ASPCA animal cop for Halloween and helped make her own costume. The opportunity to finally meet some "real" officers was so exciting for her.

Animal Precinct is very popular with the kids. They get very indignant if they perceive any sort of animal cruelty, and are ready advocates for animals. The show has been very helpful in raising awareness about animal protection and the appropriate way to care for pets. By showing the entire process—from report and investigation to rescue, rehabilitation, and finally, successful adoption into a loving family—it reinforces the message that we can all do something to make the world safer for animals.

The kids see their part in this process as important, and since they will be the ones shaping the future, the animals are in good hands. I can't thank you enough for the work that you do.

Submarine Retriever

Alex and Schuyler, Michigan*

We found Alex, at front in the photo, as a puppy at our local shelter in Maryland. Her mom, Baby, was left behind with her litter of puppies when the family



who owned them moved. Alex, a shepherd-Lab mix, turned eight this year. She'll often spend hours out swimming and retrieving.

Schuyler, lagging behind, is our golden retriever mix. One of nine puppies born in Virginia, Schuyler was only a week old when his mother was killed by a car. Two women found the litter and tried to raise the pups but found it too much work. One gave two pups to the King George Animal Rescue League, where a member bottle-fed them. One of those puppies was Schuyler.

This past year has been a learning experience for Schuyler. We knew that he liked the water, but we never knew how much until we took our summer trip to Michigan, where he and Alex stayed in the water half the day. Schuyler, though, had a surprise for us when he learned to do something that none of our other dogs can do—swim underwater. He can search out and retrieve toys that sink!

*One of the winners of our Adopt-a-Shelter-Dog photo contest. See other winning photos on page 6, and at www.aspca.org/dogwinners.

Have a rescue or anniversary 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 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 ASPCAs 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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