
VOICE FOR ANIMALS

Winter 2008

President's Message

We Have a Dream

We have a dream that one day free or affordable spay and neuter will be available to all cats. This dream is what keeps us going from call to dreaded call.

- A box of abandoned kittens has been found on the side of the road.
- Cries of hungry kittens are heard from under the shed in the backyard.
- The neighbors moved and left their 5 cats inside their apartment with no food.
- The house next door that is now in foreclosure is harboring an elderly cat left behind.
- Two tiny kittens and a thin mother cat are seen at midnight in an empty parking lot.
- Two young un-neutered cats are hungry and hanging around.

The calls continue. Though discouraged, we load our humane traps and continue our seemingly endless

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New Hampshire News

NH Next in Line to Develop an Integrated Cruelty Response System

The New Hampshire Humane Federation of Humane Organizations is spearheading this 18-month project to help all areas of New Hampshire create Cruelty Response Systems to ensure proper enforcement and tracking of animal cruelty cases. The project includes the professional consultant who successfully completed Vermont's Cruelty Response System project, the development of printed promotional and educational materials, a statewide public relations campaign, and a web-based cruelty case management system that will support cross-agency collaboration.

NH-DART

You've heard the phrase "it takes a village to raise a child". I would say that it takes a state, including local government and its citizens to bring a program such as NH-DART to reality.

Incorporating animals into the already over extended responsibilities of emergency preparedness is a profoundly difficult task. However, we are doing just that. Today NH-DART **can** respond, not only at the state and local level, but on the national level, as well. New Hampshire DART has had exceptional support from state agencies such as Homeland Security and the Department of Agriculture, and all the other agencies and NGO's (non governmental organizations) involved in emergency response, local government, and most importantly from its individual workers. Additionally, NH-DART and Citizen Corps has developed a strong partnership over the years. Unlike CERT teams, which are affiliated with local or regional Citizen Corps Councils only, we are a state resource and

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Newsletter 1

work. Some people tell us we are doing God's work, feeding the hungry; offering comfort in the darkest hours. To us we are simply doing what we cannot ignore, for the pain of walking away is greater than the drudgery of tackling the problem.

Voice for Animals has a dream of fighting cat overpopulation in a much bigger way than we have been able to in the past. Our dream is to obtain a mobile spay and neuter unit that will traverse the states of Maine and New Hampshire and provide this necessary service to the thousands of cats who if left un-sterilized will continue to reproduce unwanted kittens by the hundreds of thousands. We dream of banishing the high kitten mortality rate. We dream of eradicating unnecessary suffering among cats. We dream of being able to place the cats that we rescue into loving homes.

Won't you help us achieve this dream by sending a tax-deductible donation? Together we can make a difference and achieve our dream of no cat left un-sterilized, hungry or abandoned.

International News

Update

In last year's newsletter we told you of the plight of animals in Iraq because of the Department of Defense's indiscriminate killing of animals as part of a "poorly conceptualized rabies prevention program" and the reports of soldiers killing and abusing street animals. Nothing has changed. Please visit the Department of Defense website www.departmentofdefense.mil and express your concerns.

National News

Two disasters in the late spring and early fall of 2008 speak to the plight of animals: one in Iowa and one in Galveston, Texas.

On June 4, 2008 Farm Sanctuary of Watkins Glen New York mounted a huge effort to rescue pigs caught in Midwest flooding. Since that time numerous sows have given birth and many pigs have already gone to forever homes across the country. (To learn more check out their website www.farmsanctuary.org)

The Humane Society of the United States offers the following guidelines for those in charge of farm animals in times of disaster:

- ❑ Have a water supply for a minimum of three days, with provisions to keep it from freezing. (Use plastic, not metal containers.)
- ❑ Provide sturdy buildings to house farm animals that won't collapse under the weight of snow or ice.
- ❑ Have a containment area to keep animals from sliding down hills.
- ❑ Keep emergency contact numbers handy, such as those for a large animal veterinarian in your area, a large animal rescue or an emergency animal transportation facility.

The second disaster occurred in Texas, particularly Galveston, when Hurricane Ike wreaked its havoc on the state. Since hurricane Katrina when tens of thousands of companion animals perished much more emphasis has been placed on ALL animals by federal, state and local agencies, animal groups and other relief agencies. Yet, with all the publicity and effort many people in Galveston still fled the area, leaving their animals behind, some chained. The Galveston Humane Society took in over 700 abandoned and stray animals at this time, according to National Public Radio were redirecting all other animals to nearby shelters.

MACARONI WITHOUT-THE-CHEESE

4 cups butternut squash, *peeled, diced and steamed until very soft*

3 Tbsp. Tahini

3 Tbsp. Mellow Miso (*health food store*)

2. Tbsp. (or more) tamari

2 cups soy-semba or artichoke or vegetable elbows, spirals or shells

1 ½ cups fresh or frozen green peas, *steamed until barely tender (or substitute zucchini, green pepper, or lima beans)*

1 cup whole grain bread crumbs

1 tsp. olive oil

Blend squash in blender or food processor or mash with potato masher. Add next three ingredients, blending or mashing until smooth. Cook pasta in large pot of boiling salted water until *al dente* or just tender. Mix pasta, squash mixture and peas (*or other vegetables if used*).

Place in large casserole dish. Mix bread crumbs with olive oil. Sprinkle over macaroni mixture.

Bake for 20 minutes at 350° or until lightly browned.

If desired, use a whole butternut squash, cut in half lengthwise. Scoop out seeds and place facedown on cookie sheet. Bake at 350° for 1 hour or until very soft. Remove skin, mash, and proceed with recipe.

For more information on vegan nutrition, Barbara Bonsignore's new vegan cookbook, or New Hampshire Spay/Alter contact her at 8 Hutchins Street, Concord, NH 03301, 603-224-1361.

NH-DART

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maintain our identity as trained animal responders, while serving under the CERT mission. We are an expandable resource to our communities and may be deployed as CERT and NH-DART as long as roster volunteers are under the command and control of a municipal authority.

Over the last year NH-DART has received State and National recognition and is working with other New England states to make a seamless response across borders a possibility and have enrolled over 75 people in soon to be seven (7) teams.

After the holidays we will be offering training in Search & Rescue, Human/Animal Ice & Water Rescue, a new animal first aid class for large and small animals, local sheltering drills and more large animal rescue training. The schedule will be posted on our website next month (www.nhdart.org).

National News

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While individual preparedness is paramount and our monumental efforts have brought us so far we still need to find ways to advocate for those animals that are unlucky enough to find themselves with people who care very little about them. (For more information on this tragedy check out The International Fund for Animal Welfare at www.ifaw.org.)

Feral Cats

There are even guidelines for those who watch over feral cat colonies. Alley Cat Allies, a leader in feral cat advocacy, reminds them to have a disaster plan in place. Some people will evacuate with their feral cat(s) if they can reasonably transport them but be mindful that feral cats are going to be incredibly stressed and frightened if they are to be confined to a crate or carrier for a few days. And you have to take special care to ensure they do not escape. If you cannot evacuate your outdoor cats, caregivers should set up several feeding stations in high places that are protected from rain, wind and flooding. Also, it is very important to have a back-up caregiver who is responsible for the colony in your absence and networking with other feral cat caretakers in your area to set up a "buddy system" to create a safety net of care for the cats. (For more information go to www.allycatallies.org)

TRIBUTES

IN LOVING MEMORY OF BEAU SEVIGNY-NELSON

Beau was adopted to us because the folks at Marlee Shelter believed in his adoptability even though he had been returned several times over a year and a half period - always because of fear-based behavioral issues. In reality he was a “working dog” always on guard, protecting the people he loved, and very proud when he chased people away from *his* property. Handsome and regal, in his prime he sounded like a Clydsdale thundering after his beloved tennis ball. Tom, misses the morning belly rubs and his couch partner watching Yankees games and political shows. We miss his courage, fortitude, will to live and love, and the loyalty he showed us until the last beat of his heart. He has left a tremendous void but we hope he is with Zach, Ginny, and Barney chasing balls to his heart’s content. We await the day when we all shall be reunited at the Rainbow Bridge...

Deb Seigny and Tom Nelson

Joan Walsh

Sharon Clay

IN LOVING MEMORY OF JOEY-BOY

You came to me as Studley with the nickname Stoe; I made you Dudley and called you Joey. A thin streak of orange or a curled up puff ball snuggling close to my side, you were always so full of love and so grateful for the life you had and that love was returned to you a thousand fold. Until we meet again...

Caryl McIntire Edwards

IN MEMORY OF EDGAR, SUE & ALL THE OTHERS WHO MATTER...

Caryl McIntire Edwards

Horse Slaughter

Update

A bipartisan coalition of lawmakers has introduced legislation to ban the slaughter of American horses for human consumptions overseas, as well as the export of American horses to other countries for slaughter but no action has yet been taken. Presently slaughter continues in Canada and Mexico. More than 45,000 horses have been slaughtered there in 2008, surpassing 2007. (For more information and what you can do go to www.hsus.org)

Downed Animals

Update

Despite policy statements and promises by some livestock/farm animal industry groups, downers – animals too sick or injured to stand or walk – continue to be mishandled in livestock/farm markets nationwide. Non-ambulatory animals are routinely kicked, dragged with chains, prodded with electric shocks, and even pushed by bulldozers in attempts to move them. A “No Downer” policy should be established for all livestock/farm animals, not just humane euthanasia of livestock. Farm animals too sick or injured to walk and prohibit USDA from selling these slaughtered animals for consumption. (For more information and what you can do visit www.farmsanctuary.org)

The Way I See It

Every night on the news we hear how the downturn in the economy is affecting our families but it has also had an effect on our companion animals, many who are finding themselves homeless, as well.

Shelters and rescues are already full at this time of year with unwanted offspring from irresponsible owners who neglected to spay and neuter. Now people who are losing their homes are also having to give up their beloved four-footed family members and there's nowhere for them to go. Open-admission shelters that are required to house strays for a certain amount of time are either turning animals away or being forced to euthanize perfectly healthy animals for lack of space. As a result, many will be abandoned rather than be surrendered to certain death.

This is truly a bleak time for these organizations. More animals are coming in, fewer are being adopted and the annual donation that every shelter and rescue group depends on may not be there this year.

People who are worried about putting food on the table are often postponing basic veterinary care. If these animals don't get spayed and neutered the homeless animal population will easily triple, adding to the burden. Incidents of preventable disease in unvaccinated animals will increase, for many of them until their health is seriously at risk.

The American Humane Association (www.americanhumane.org) recognizes that animal shelters, rescue groups, and animal care and control agencies are seeing more animal victims of economic downturn and the housing foreclosure crisis. To help ease the current hardship, American Humane is offering grants to American Humane member organizations to help animal victims of foreclosure in need of immediate assistance. The program's emphasis is on keeping companion animals with their families whenever possible. Therefore, extra consideration will be given to cases where

FUTURE GOALS

Over the past Voice for Animals has worked hard to move away from the "Chapter" model and move toward a more cohesive "Site" model. By doing this we stand in a better position to apply for and receive the grants that we need to continue our spay/neuter operations.

In addition to that we hope to move forward by creating a coalition with other animal protection organizations in a fashion similar to that of Masscats. It is our intent to spearhead this type of resource for Maine and through it to achieve more humane goals for the animals in the Southern/Central part of Maine and into New Hampshire.

If you would like to join in achieving these goals please e-mail Executive Director, Caryl McIntire Edwards at Carylsmunkyboy@aol.com, call 207-743-6290, or write her at 460 Buckfield Road, South Paris, Maine 04281.

families receive assistance in caring for their animals, and in keeping them until new housing can be found. These expenses include, but are not limited to, deposits for rental housing; behavior training; veterinary expenses (vaccinations, spay/neuter, other vet care); public awareness campaigns to get the word out regarding the issue; and boarding costs to keep animals until owners can reclaim them. Grants may also be awarded to agencies who are trying to re-home them. These expenses include, but are not limited to, boarding costs; behavior training to get an animal companion ready; veterinary expenses; and foster care expenses. To be considered for the Foreclosure Pets Grants, an organization must be a nonprofit agency approved by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) entity, or be a public (local government) entity; be a member of American Humane; and operate and be located within the United State of America or its territories. Please note: The grant program is

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only for nonprofit animal welfare agencies (private or public), and not to individuals, businesses, or corporations.

Funding may be requested up to a maximum of \$2,000. See the American Humane website for complete grant program information (www.americanhumane.org).

The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) adds these tips, as well:

- ❑ Give yourself enough time. If possible, check ads and contact real estate agents and rental agencies at least six weeks before you plan to move or when you first learn that foreclose and/or eviction may be in your future.
- ❑ Make use of available resources. Contact local humane society, animal control officer, or rescue groups serving the area into which you are moving; they may be able to provide you with a list of apartment communities that allow companion animals.
- ❑ Gather proof that you're responsible. The more documentation you can provide attesting to your conscientiousness as an animal person, the more convincing your appeal will be to your future landlord. This can include statements from current property managers and neighbors that you maintain your companion animal responsibly, as well as copies of veterinary records showing ongoing animal care.
- ❑ Once you have permission from a landlord, manager or condominium committee to have an animal, be sure to get it in writing.

Never Turn Your Back on an Animal in Need

Gardiner is lucky, indeed, to have Jamie Dacyczyn as their ACO. While many would have turned their backs on feral colonies when the town refused to help, Jamie forged ahead. To date, most of the cats in one colony have been trapped/spayed/neutered and all are being fed and watched over by kind citizens at the site. The second colony is in more jeopardy because those animals need to be moved immediately. Jamie has done a tremendous amount of work trapping, transporting, finding a vet and a place for them to be spayed and neutered, and locating a place for them to.

Joyce Gracie of our Richmond site was contacted by Jamie this summer and has been conferring with her regarding the current situation, funding, etc. and has offered to help in any way possible. VFA has very limited funds at this time and would welcome any donations and offers to work with Voice for Animals on this or other local animal related projects. If you live in the Richmond/Gardiner/Augusta area please contact Joyce directly at 737-2589.

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Maine News

It seems like just yesterday when I was on the site of the J'aime Kennel seizure, where 240 dogs and then the subsequent 100 puppies were rescued and eventually placed into loving homes.

However, as hard as it is for me to believe, that day was well over a year ago and we're now looking back on 2008. A lot has happened for animals in the past year to a year and a half.

Obviously the three large scale dog seizures really stand out in people's minds and rightly so. What an incredible change in the lives of those animals, and animals across Maine will benefit into the future because of the media attention and public awareness that came out of these seizures.

We had another exciting step in animal protection here in Maine in the newfound energy and excitement around County Animal Response Teams or CARTs. With the support of the Maine Emergency Management Agency, each county in Maine is now in the formative stages of a CART to benefit animals should a disaster occur, or a large scale cruelty case such as the Buxton case. Oxford, York, Androscoggin, Lincoln, Cumberland, Knox and Hancock counties are pulling together volunteers, completing training requirements and practicing the build rescuing and sheltering skills. Other counties are soliciting for volunteers and gearing up to start up a team. If you are interested in getting involved in your county, please feel free to drop me a line for more information (klisnik@hsus.org).

Yet another phenomenal step for animals in 2008 is the Adopt Plate Initiative, which has passed its first hurdle in record time! The 2,000 required pre-sales of plates were completed in only 11 weeks, so thanks to all of you who purchased one. Our next step will be to get a bill passed through the upcoming Legislature, so get ready to call or e-mail your state Senator and Representative in support of the plate! This plate will be a great way for people to support a cause they feel strongly about and the money will go to two great causes – funding enforcement of

Maine's animal cruelty laws and also providing funds to provide low cost spay/neuter assistance through the Help Fix ME fund. Show your love for animals on your car and help combat cruelty and over-population all at the same time. What could be better than that?

So while, to me, the past year and a half has flown by in a heartbeat, we really have accomplished so much for animals through collaboration and persistence. There are so many more issues I could write about concerning wildlife, marine animals, farm animals and more, but for now, let's take a couple of minutes to say, wow, we did a good job. Alright, now let's get back to work and keep making positive changes for animals!

For the animals,

Katie Lisnik

*HSUS-ME, Maine Federation of Humane Societies,
New England Federation of Humane Societies.*

Financial Assistance Resources

www.help-a-pet.org

www.thepetfund.com

www.themarvinfund.org

www.fveap.org

www.catsin crisis.org

www.petsinneed.org

www.casecredit.com

www.sickpetsupport.com

www.voiceforanimals.net

www.gahumane.org

Yes! I want to become a member of Voice for Animals
Enclosed are my membership dues of \$25

My check, payable to
Voice for Animals is enclosed

My gift will be matched by my
employer

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

I do not wish to be a member, but would like to make a donation of \$_____

I want to offer my services to Voice for Animals

My skills include: _____ Working with animals (live trapping, fostering, working with sick animals, etc.)

_____ Fundraising/Special events

_____ Other: _____

Your contribution is tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.

THANK YOU!

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