

460 Buckfield Road, South Paris, Maine 04281

This organization exists to promote sensitivity and caring for animals through education and other lawful means and to Share our knowledge of related issues with others to promote understanding and compassion for animals and humans.

Penny

Recently a colleague of mine was trying to place her father's dog, Penny. She had said to me many times in the past that she really did not care what happened to this animal because she had no control over her fate. On numerous occasions over several years I tried to offer suggestions but they were all turned down or ignored.

Finally one morning in April she e-mail me for immediate help. I called and asked if she could wait until the late afternoon. She replied that she could not. That her brother had given her a deadline for Penny to be removed from his home and that date had passed. If she were not moved immediately he would shoot her.

Needless to say my husband and I acted very quickly and Penny now resides in our home awaiting adoption. Another life saved.

Last year Voice offered you a list of ten things could be done to help animals **Never Turn Your Back on an Animal in Need** was one of them and thus a new section of this newsletter was born.

DA Won't Prosecute Company for Throwing Hen into Wood Chipping Machinery

(This was documented in several animal protection magazines but is excerpted here from an alert put out by United Poultry Concerns.)

Responding to angry activists and other irate citizens, San Diego County (CA)

Loved For One Day

By BARB TOWNSEN-

Dit was late in summer 2002 when Voice For Animals received a call from a woman in Albion about a stray cat. We made arrangements to pick him up later that afternoon, and then my husband and I left to do some errands. Our last stop was for the Albion stray, but when we got there we learned that the cat we were to pick up had run away – apparently frightened by something. In the meantime a young boy had come by with a tiny kitten, said, “we don't want him” and left him with the same woman (a known animal lover who has worked with VFA in the past).

The little orange tiger kitty looked just about dead, but when I picked up his cold, frail body he let out a wail with a strength that surprised me. Apparently this little guy still had some fight left in him, but we needed help fast.

It was after 6 o'clock on a Sunday night. Luckily, Dr. Alan Slack at New England Animal Hospital (NEAH) in Waterville was on call and agreed to meet us at his office. After examining the kitten he admitted that it would take “heroic efforts” to save him because he was very close to dying. Just then the kitten wailed again, with all of his might.

There was something about the spirit of this tiny creature that touched me profoundly. I told Dr. Slack that if he

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Message from the President

Dear Friends,

It has been over one year since last you heard from us and there have been changes but that certainly does not mean that we have not been busy. In the first place you will see that our address has changed; It is now 460 Buckfield Road, South Paris, Maine 04281. This does not imply any changes in the York area; it does imply an attempt on my part to be more efficient in receiving and responding to mail.

Secondly, there will be no Silent Auction this year. This entails a great amount of work on my part and that of others who support this effort. While it is unquestionably fun to solicit donations for this fundraiser the active members of Voice felt this time could be better spent in grant writing.

Monies earned still go largely for spay/neuter initiatives, although some are spent on other efforts (e.g. emergency medical expenses and education and there are other projects waiting in the wings which we hope more grant will allow us to expand into.)

Additionally, our non profit category does not allow us to participate in legislative initiatives but it is important for you to know that Voice supports those of Maine Friends of Animals whose non profit status allow them to do so.

Our newsletter remains largely the same and you will see the categories, which we have featured over the years.

You will also note that Edwards has been added to my name, but I am still the same person organizing this newsletter and overseeing the efforts of all the chapters.

Finally, despite changes we are the same organization seeking to rescue, advocate for, educate about, and raise our Voices for those creatures who ask so little and give so much.

Sincerely,

*Caryl McIntire Edwards
President/Founder*

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District Attorney Bonnie Dumanis announced in April she would reconsider the wood-chipping case after announcing she would not prosecute Ward Egg Ranch owners Arie and Bill Wilgenburg for throwing 30,000 hens into wood-chipping machinery in February. Dumanis upheld her original decision, even though California's animal cruelty law prohibits subjecting any animal to needless suffering or unnecessary cruelty.

One issue concerns the role of Dr. Gregg Cutler, a private veterinarian affiliated with the National Veterinary Accreditation Program administered by the US Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, and a member of the Animal Welfare Committee of The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA). Though Cutler denies recommending grinding up live hens, claiming he meant dead hens, United Poultry Concerns believes that Cutler told the owners to throw the live hens into a wood chipper that was especially cruel because it had a ram at the bottom of the bin which pushed the birds against a grate to shred them.

In letter sent to UPC (3/27/03; 5/8/03), the AVMA said it 'has not endorsed the use of wood chippers as an acceptable means of euthanasia for poultry' although Cutler "is aware that the method is used by some."

Perhaps by more than some. The Canadian egg and fur farm industries (dead hens are fed to captive fur-bearing animals in North America) are funding researchers at Nova Scotia Agriculture College 'to examine the macerator option' for disposing of unwanted hens. The hens are vacuumed down a tube to a grinder where they are killed by blades, according to the June 2003 issue of *Farm Animal Welfare Insights* published by Alberta Farm Animal Care (www.afac.ab.ca).

In May United Poultry Concerns filed a Freedom of Information Act request with the US Department of Agriculture for records of the USDA'S involvement in the wood-chipping episode, and a California Public Records Act request to the San Diego County District Attorney for the prosecutor's records. The latter request was denied in July. This organization is pursuing the mater, and we will update our members accordingly.

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Tributes

In memory of Benjamin McIntire Edwards, who died August, 2003, my wonderful Gentle Ben: bright, kind, and so generous of spirit. How did you grow so old so fast? You are missed deeply and loved eternally. May you always roll in clean earth and chase butterflies. Until we meet again... Caryl McIntire Edwards

In memory of Mandy McIntire Edwards, who died September, 2003, my first rescue as York's "Cat Officer:" The people who had you told me that their grandchildren were allergic to you and that I could take you or they would shoot you. You were obviously terrified and I asked if that bothered them. They looked puzzled and answered, "No". I took you home that day, and then, as planned brought you to the Animal Welfare Society in Kennebunk. You became depressed and would not eat and I traveled there daily to see that you got a meal. However, it soon became obvious that I would have to take you home or they would euthanize you. I am glad I made the right choice. Gentle and shy but so very full of love. How could you have gone so quickly? You were my "marathon lady." You ran so far and so fast but you always came home to me. May you find many new paths to explore and never need to be frightened of anything again. You will always be loved. Until we meet again... Caryl McIntire Edwards

In memory of Toto Bamford devoted and constant companion of Bea Bamford of Dover, New Hampshire. Given by Jan Fawcett of York, Maine.

In memory of a mother dog shot and killed in Arundel, Maine last year as she was delivering the last of her ten puppies. Given by Paula Kurtz of Paris, Maine.

In memory of Irene Garland and her dogs: Charlie, Pepper, and Lacy, Given by Pat Laverdiere.

In memory of Benson a nineteen year old gray cat who died a tragic and untimely death. He will always be remembered for the wonderful cat he was. Given by Ray DeMaris Fosters Flower Shop, York, Maine.

In memory of my beloved Toto who was euthanized in June 2002. He was my best friend for over fourteen years and a very special Lhasa Apso. I loved him dearly. Given by Bea Bamford, Dover, New Hampshire.

In memory of Henry McIntire Edwards who died in August 2002. He came to the my home as a foster cat in April, 1996 when the family who had had him for more than ten years felt he no longer "fit into their lifestyle." Afraid and shy at first he ultimately found his niche. When his time for dying came unexpectedly he waited for my return before he drew his last breath. Dear Henry you will always be loved. Until we meet again... Given in loving memory by Caryl McIntire Edwards.

In memory of Oliver McIntire Edwards who died in December 2002. He was the unofficial welcoming committee of the McIntire household. Even in his last illness he always exuded so very much love and it will always be returned to him. Until we meet again... Given in loving memory by Caryl McIntire Edwards.

In memory of Tulip McIntire Edwards often referred to as "Tulip-a lot" because her playfulness sometimes got her into a lot of trouble. An annual physical did not reveal the tumor on her pancreas and she always smiled. In pain, and unable to move more than a short distance she waited for me to return from my honeymoon so that she could say goodbye. Tulip you will live on in my heart always loved and deeply missed. Until we meet again... Given by Caryl McIntire Edwards

In memory of Sammy the King: How can you say goodbye to a friend of sixteen years? He arrived one day in 1986 when my niece decided I needed another cat. The vet pronounced him approximately three and thus his claim to nineteen years. He outlasted two husbands. He was my buddy: He didn't care much about food; he only wanted ME. He didn't much like other cats but he was cool with dogs. A beautiful jet black animal with a Siamese voice that demanded attention. Always a finicky eater, the cruel irony was the cancer that took him developed in his mouth c

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causing a huge growth that blocked his tongue and inhibited his ability to swallow bringing him to the point of starvation. He was Top Cat in my house from the day he arrived and I always introduced him as the King. I adored him and miss him dreadfully. Alethia Mays In memory of Mommy Cat 10/85-12/02

“I tried for years to find another name for this lovely girl but nothing else would do. She was a beautifully marked tiger cat who came to me from my vet. He appeared with this sweetheart (at two years) and her daughter (at two months) and said, ‘You don’t have to take them both.’ Oh right! This beautiful girl never did a wrong thing in her life. She knew how to play and do the cute thing although she never taught her daughter how to. When she purred it was a lovely series of musical notes. She was a mater of the ‘Silent Meow.’ Her ears were enormous, giving an alert look to her serene countenance. She was a treasure who charmed everyone who came near her. She seemed so healthy until suddenly she wasn’t. I expected to have more time with her...This was too soon. My three brave but aging felines (Sammy –14, Mommy Cat-12, and Baby Cat-10) made the trip from Virginia to new Hampshire with me in 1998. They adjusted beautifully and I expected to have much longer with them. When Sammy went last September, Mommy Cat moved up a rung on the ladder. She immediately assumed her new rightful position. Always respectful of Sam, she would let him select his spot and then slowly snuggle up to him. Now my beautiful Mommy Cat is gone, as well.” Submitted by Alethia Mays, Wolfeboro, New Hampshire.

In memory of George McIntire Edwards, who died October 2003, who lived the last year of his life totally blind but found his way around our home with out any trouble. Sleek and beautiful, there was a reason why you were named Georgeous George. You and a few of your siblings found good homes, the others from your feral colony were trapped and killed by exposure to truck exhaust (obviously not a Voice project). I am so glad to have had the pleasure of your company for seventeen years. You will always be loved and deeply missed. Until we meet again... Caryl McIntire Edwards.

Cats and Biomedical Research

The July issue of the American Anti-Vivisection Society indicates that while cats have surpassed dogs as the number one companion animal in American households. It states that more than 59 million cats are living in 30 million households and some veterinary practices are devoted exclusively to their care.

Many people prefer cats to other types of companion animals because they are easy to care for, provide loving companionship, have wonderful personalities, and are beautiful to watch. Yet some animals never reach loving homes. They are used in a wide range of invasive research projects including spinal cord injury, vision, sleep, cancer, Parkinson’s disease, genetic disorders, auditory studies, neurological research, HIV/AIDS research and to test new veterinary drugs and treatments.

According to U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) statistics kept from 1973-2000, the peak year for cat use was in 1974 when 74, 259 cast were used. The most recent information available indicates that in the year 2000 over 25,500 cats were used in research and testing and scientists report the 12,5354 of these individuals experienced pain and/or stress. These figures do not include cats used in breeding or dissection.

Crystal Spiegel, the author of one of the articles in this particular issue concludes the perhaps cats are used “because they have been characterized so well in the past or because they are small, docile creatures who are easy to obtain or breed and maintain. However, none of these reasons scientifically or ethically justifies their use.”

Please check out our web site www.voiceforanimals.net for current information, animals for adoption, and updates throughout the year.

More Than Meat Series

Solitary Confinement By Barb Townsend

Each time I drove by, the old horse was in the same place. Standing still, at the edge of her corral along the driveway to the house. It was as close as she could get to her people. Every day the cars came and went as she stood there watching, apparently waiting for someone, anyone, to pay her some attention. But instead, it was as if she were just an old tire swing, once a part of someone's life but now, long forgotten.

It brought tears to my eyes to see this beautiful animal looking so sad and alone. What an awful way to spend a life, day after day, year after year, with not a friend in the world, never anyone to speak her name or to rub her nose. She lived her days and nights alone, in silence, without companionship. Solitary confinement.

My heart broke. I knew that I had to do something. I finally saw one of the occupants of the house and asked if I might visit the horse. He shrugged and said "Sure". I asked the horse's name. "Sierra".

I spoke softly to her, but Sierra appeared disinterested. Her eyes were glazed over, not really focusing on anything in particular. She accepted the carrots that I offered her, but she seemed to be a million miles away, like a person that endures continuous emotional pain or confinement. So began our friendship.

In the weeks that followed, Sierra and I slowly developed a bond. Was it Trust? Friendship? Love? Truly, it was all of these things and more. Sierra can make me laugh or cry. She seems eager to give. She's a good listener. I know that Sierra's love and trust are precious gifts that I have been given.

I try to visit my friend at least once a week, carrying carrots in my back pocket and sometimes an apple in my hand, (which she always spots right away!). As I approach her corral and call to her, I notice her ears twitch and she looks around with bright, expecting eyes. I talk to her. She stamps the ground. I give her carrots and pull up the tall grass beyond her reach and feed it to her. She snorts and shakes her head. How happy she is.

When it's time for me to leave, I promise I'll be back, but I'm not sure she believes me. She follows me along her corral all the way to the sidewalk, where I turn to head home. She snorts and neighs loudly. I laugh. She stamps the ground. (One day I was shocked to see this old, sway-backed horse *running* along the sidewalk side of her corral to catch up and walk me to the end of her fence!) At the corner, I tell her I love her and that I'll see her again soon. Sierra is alive again. She feels. She loves. She has a friend.

Additional information about horses: 1986 Kentucky Derby winner, Ferdinand, was sold to a Japanese enterprise in 1994 when none of his progeny showed as much promise as he had. Last year at age nineteen he was sold to a Japanese slaughterhouse. Not one person who made money from his ability lifted a finger to save him from this terrible death.

There are horse slaughterhouses left in the United States, as well. All of them based in Texas. In fact, The Humane Society of the United States asks that we contact our representatives to vote for HR 857: To prohibit the slaughter, import, export, trade, and transport of horses for human consumption. Bill sponsors Rep. John R. Sweeney (R-NY) and Rep. John Spratt (D-SC) A move in the right direction...

Another Bill Voice Urges You to Support

Downed Animals HR 2519 and S 1298 sponsored by Rep Gary Ackerman (D-NY) and Sen. Daniel Akaka (D-HI)

To require the humane euthanasia of livestock too sick or injured to walk and prohibit USDA certification of meat from such animals for human consumption.

Encourage your senators and representative to vote in favor of this issue. It is vital that your call, fax, or write to let them know your views on this.

How Do I Choose A Veterinarian?

(from [www. Peta.com](http://www.Peta.com))

It is essential to choose a veterinarian you can trust. As for references from trusted friends and humane organizations and call the local Better Business Bureau, the Chamber of Commerce, and your State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners to check for previous complaints from clients. To find a holistic veterinarian, call 410-569-0765, or visit altvetmed.com (Continued page 9)

Superstitions About Cats

(Reprinted from the American Anti-Vivisection newsletter)

1. If a cat leaves home while a person is sick and cannot be coaxed back, the person will die.
2. Kittens born in the month of May will bring snakes into the house.
3. When moving to a new home, always put the cat through the window instead of the door, so that she will not leave.
4. If a black cat crosses your path, evil will soon befall you. In England, however, the evil can be canceled if you spit right away.
5. Cats suck the breath from sleeping newborn infants.
6. In North America, dreaming of a white cat will bring good luck.
7. A cat sneezing is a good omen for everyone who hears it.
8. When you see a one-eyed cat, spit on your thumb, stamp it on the back of your hand, and make a wish. The wish will come true.
9. In Transylvania, if a cat jumps over a corpse, the corpse will become a vampire.
10. In Scotland, if a cat enters a room with a dead body in it the next person to touch the cat will be blind.
11. If you have a sty, rub your eyelid with the tail of a black cat; it will be cured.
12. In France, if you find one white hair on a black cat, lady luck will smile upon you.
13. Placing a cat in an empty cradle of a newlywed couple will bring many children.
14. If a cat is trying to get into your house, then he is trying to tell you something about your life.
15. If a black cat walks toward you, she brings good fortune, but if she walks away, she takes the good luck with her.
16. A Witch can take on the shape of a cat to slink around unnoticed.
17. In Yorkshire, if a sailor's wife kept a black cat, her husband would always return safely from sea.
18. Rub a cat's paw with butter, and he will never leave home.

(Loved-Continued from page 1)

thought there was any chance at all that this little guy might make it, I wanted him to have that chance. As the doctor rushed the kitten out back he instructed us to call first thing in the morning.

It was a sleepless night. As the tale of the helpless kitten with the fighting spirit made its way through the Voice For Animals network of volunteers, Dr. Slack kept vigil.

The next morning, phones were ringing in three counties with the happy news that the kitten had made it through the night. He was awake and responsive, eating and drinking on his own. Everyone was elated. We called him Phoenix.

He immediately stole everyone's heart. The VFA volunteers who went to visit him, as well as the staff at NEAH, all fell in love with 'Baby' Phoenix. He was the center of attention all that day. The amazing spirit of this pathetic looking little kitten in the incubator touched us all. Dr. Slack thought it best to keep him for one more night, and then Phoenix would be able to go home.

Before I went to get Phoenix the next morning, I went back to Albion to pick up the elusive stray. As I was leaving there the phone rang and it was for me. The voice on the other end of the line said, "We lost Phoenix...he died sometime after 11 o'clock last night". My heart stood still.

I felt sick as I replaced the phone. On the drive home, I cried for that poor little kitten that we tried to save, but couldn't. I cried for all of the other animals who have suffered the same fate, and for all of those that will never know kind words or a loving touch.

I wondered aloud if it had been foolish to try to save him, whether I should have known that the tiny kitten's body was not nearly as strong as his incredible spirit. Right or wrong, it was a judgment call that I had to make in an emergency situation.

There is, however, one thing that I am sure of. In his short, little life, in a world that was too cold and cruel, Baby Phoenix was given the chance to be loved for one day.

Chapter Reports

Oxford Hills Chapter

>The Oxford Hills Chapter has been very busy working with several feral cat colonies over the past few months. We have placed over twenty-eight feral >kittens and cats into loving homes and have begun the Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) process to help put an end to the overpopulation crisis. Several dedicated volunteers have assisted with foster care and low cost/donated food assistance and we are very grateful to all who have lent a helping hand. More volunteers able to provide foster homes for >kittens or assist with trappings are desperately needed. In the Rumford >area, Animal Assisted Therapy work has enabled us to get the word out about our cause and create a larger network of friends. Rescue work has

>helped twenty cats and dogs find permanent homes including some special needs animals that otherwise would have been euthanized without our help. A humane education presentation to school children in Lovell was a great success as well as several small area fundraisers. We continue to provide referral information for animals needing emergency medical attention and have established many good relationships to assist us with this work. Although finances have been very limited, we remain persistent in our quest to secure more funding to make our programs possible. Anyone interested in this rewarding work should contact Anastasia at the above number .

Waterville-Winslow Area Chapter

The Waterville-Winslow Chapter has been very busy fundraising to keep up with the costs of taking care of the large number of animals coming in over the last few months. Our walk-a-thon was a great success and it was wonderful to see so many young people participating this year.

We are also reaching out to, and working with, other rescue groups in the Central Maine area. We all know that working together we will be able to do more for the animals than any one of us can do alone.

We worked with a wildlife rehabilitator, who also helps cats and dogs in her community, when she was trying to find homes for 28 cats. The W-W chapter of Voice For Animals paid for the medical care, including spay/neuter surgery, for nine of those animals.

We also assisted an animal refuge that took in 15 cats living, three to a carrier, in a van with a homeless family. Waterville-Winslow took in eight of those animals. All of the female cats were pregnant, and a young male cat remains in serious condition in one of our foster homes. These animals were forced to eat and sleep in

their own waste and therefore required a lot of care and medical attention. Our donors and supporters who heard about the plight of these poor animals, contributed greatly toward the cost of those medical bills. We are happy to report that three of these animals have already been adopted into wonderful new homes! The mothers and their babies remain in foster care.

We also work with a local sanctuary, allowing them to use our web site to find homes for their adoptable dogs. We continue to work regularly with our local humane society, where we share the care of cats at satellite adoption locations, and work together in many other ways in our ongoing effort to help as many animals as possible.

Milton, New Hampshire Chapter

The volunteers from Milton NH are busy this time of year with kittens, kittens and unfortunately more kittens. The message that they would like to send is that sterilizing and stabilizing feral cats is critical to reducing the numbers of unwanted births. More than 50% of all kittens born in the wild will succumb. We can all work to reduce the amount of

>suffering that these animals endure by using the Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) method. We humanely trap the feral cats and get them spayed or neutered, vaccinate them and return them to their group or colony. (kittens are put up for adoption) We support them with food and shelter. We would like to stress to the city and town governments, and managers of mobile home parks and apartment complexes that removing the cats from your sites will not solve your cat problem. We recommend the enforcement of spay and neuter rules and the implementation of a TNR program.

This will manage the problem for you and ultimately it will go away. Eradication of cats is ineffective.

York Chapter

Despite the fact that the chapter is not now very active, Voice continues to pay for spay/neuter programs and medical assistance. We are also working on a feral colony in Wells and have just begun work on a feral colony in South Berwick. In the future the chapter will be revitalized and more programs will be started.

Contacts

Oxford Hills—Anastasia (207)925-1670

Waterville Winslow—Barb (207)334- 5775

York Area—Caryl (207)743-6290

Milton—Candy at (603)335-4099 evenings and weekends only

Richmond Area—Joyce Grace (207)737-2589

Voice for Animals—(207)743-5371

TARA

As Told to Voice by Her Family

Forest View Veterinary hospital mentioned here is now defunct. Additionally, as mentioned elsewhere, our newsletter is later in getting out this year but as a tribute to Tara we felt it was important that this be printed here anyway.

Tara came to us on March 26, 2001. She had been thrown from a car into a snow bank and had been found by our mail carrier. Because she was badly injured she was treated by Dr. Chamberlain at Forest View and later came home to live with us.

A year later on March 21, 2002, Tara woke up happy and excited, as she usually did. She played with the other companion animals in our home, as was her habit, and enjoyed her usual morning treats. Just before noon, she started coughing a little and vomited. Because we knew little of her background we felt we wanted her to be examined immediately.

We called Forest View and were told that our usual veterinarian was not available but that Dr. Carmody, whom we did not know at all, was available and would see us.

After completing the examination Dr. Carmody told us that he could find nothing wrong with her but to be safe, he wanted to take a blood test and some x-rays. We chose to wait for her but he said that because one of the machines was not working that it would be several hours and that we should go home and wait for his call. Because we trusted our vets we kissed her good bye telling her not to worry because we would be back in a few hours to bring her home.

At four o'clock Dr. Carmody called us and reported that Tara's liver enzymes were "off the chart" and that she would need a liver biopsy. We said we wished to bring her home for the night and would bring her back the next day for continued testing. It was at that point that he told us that she was not breathing and that he and Dr. Holbrook, another veterinarian, were helping her to breathe manually. He asked what we wanted him to do.

"Can't you leave her on the machine awhile longer to see if she resumes breathing on her own?" We were then told and finally understood that there was no machine. We both became hysterical and asked how this could have happened as we only brought her in for coughing and vomiting a little and Dr. Carmody, himself, had assured us that there was nothing wrong with her.

Dr. Holbrook supposedly interrupted Dr. Carmody and stated that her heart had stopped beating, but we never heard him. Hysterically, we asked what we could do. Dr. Carmody said he could crack open her chest but that she still might not breathe on her own and that she still would need a liver biopsy. "She will have a tough row to go," he added. And we decided to let our little sweetheart go.

On September 5, five and one half months later, Beth Breton from the clinic called saying how very sorry she was about Tara's death and that she thought we should know the truth about it! From that moment on our lives were forever changed. For us, Tara died twice: once on March 21 and again on September 5. Beth said she had learned from distraught clinic employees that Dr. Carmody had killed Tara. We learned also that Tara had been dead for at least an hour when he called us.

We have been under tremendous emotional stress since that day. Tara was a very special, loving little girl who suffered a lot in a very short time. Our only consolation was that she was the last straw for the clinic's employees. If it had not been for her brutal death, they may not have come forward. Our wonderful companion did not die in vain!

This piece is written so that others may know what actually happened and as a loving tribute to a wonderful dog who deserved the best and got the worst.!

Dorothy Murphy and Geraldine De Rosa.

Never Turn Your Back on an Animal in Need Part One

A Tale of Two Cities and a Tail of Two Kitties

This letter was sent to the Editor of the *Morning Sentinel* in Waterville regarding the work of Voice for Animals member in that area.

“My family and I would like to make your readers aware of the wonderful work the volunteers of Voice for Animals does for needy companion animals in your community and beyond. This angelic group of volunteers has reunited us with our two cats, Babe and George.

When our daughter got sick and had to leave the Augusta, Maine area six months ago, she was forced to leave her precious furry companions. My wife, who could not rest until the cats were home with us in Oregon, where they belong, contacted a friend of hers who volunteers for the cat adoption team in Oregon, who gave us the name of a persona to contact in Best Friends Animal Sanctuary in Utah, for assistance in locating the cats and coordinating the journey home.

Voice for Animals in Waterville was contacted via e-mails from various animal groups throughout the United States. We cannot praise them enough for all that they did to find our cats, obtain medical treatment for them, foster and lovingly care for them, and transport Babe and George to Portland for their journey via Delta Airlines from Portland, Maine to Portland, Oregon.

Your community should be very proud of the thankless work this dedicated group accomplishes. In addition to their deep commitment to homeless, stray, surplus, and lost cats and dogs, they have shown, as

Never Turn Your Back on an Animal in Need (Part Two)

Voice for Animals, Milton, New Hampshire chapter received ten kittens who had been buried alive on Tuesday, May 29. A good Samaritan witnessed a suspicious looking vehicle with two men in it stop at an undisclosed location in Farmington, NH. After the car drove away this person went to investigate the area where they had been. He saw a freshly covered hole with loose gravel over it. He could hear faint sounds coming from it and started digging. He uncovered ten kittens ranging in age from three to seven weeks. He immediately brought them to Voice for Animals for a “safe home” where they were cleaned up and evaluated by Voice member Terry Brewer. All kittens are doing well at this time. Voice for Animals urges people to seek help when overwhelmed with unwanted cats or kittens. Call your local shelter, veterinarian or animal control officer. **Please don't dispose of unwanted animals in cruel ways which can cause irreparable harm or death.**

Choose a Vet (Continued from page 5)

Before making an appointment with a veterinarian you have never met, call or visit to chat briefly with him or her. Ask if emergency service is available and if the clinic offers payment plans, has surgical and x-ray capabilities, and has 'round the clock supervision of hospitalized animals. Once you've found a veterinarian you like, don't hesitate to get second and third opinions from other veterinarians when treatment of any kind is recommended. Never allow your animal to be taken out of sight for treatment.

Help Needed to End Unfair Bear Hunting Practices in Maine

Maine Citizens for Fair Bear Hunting, a broad coalition of concerned citizens and organizations has launched a statewide ballot initiative in Maine to halt the trophy hunting of bears with bait or dogs, and to halt the trapping of bears with leghold traps. These particularly cruel and unsporting hunting and trapping practices are widely opposed by the people of Maine, but continue because of the influence of a small number of powerful hunting guides and outfitters, who make tens of thousands of dollars every year by making bear killing fast and easy for their fee-paying clients from other states.

Before hunting season starts, hunting guides and outfitters set up hundreds of "bait stations" by piling junk food including pizzas and jelly doughnuts in the woods. Bears begin daily feedings at these bait stations. When hunting season begins, the fee-paying hunters lay in wait and shoot the feeding bears. In an average year, trophy hunters kill more than 3,000 bears over bait sites.

A smaller number of bears are killed with the aid of packs of aggressively trained dogs fitted with electronic transmitter collars. The dogs chase and tree the quarry, and the trophy hunter shoots the exhausted and frightened animal from a tree.

Maine is the only state in the nation to allow the use of leghold traps to kill bears. In order to qualify the measure for the 2004 ballot, petitioners must gather signatures from approximately 75,000 registered Maine voters by November 15, 2003.

What you can do:

1. Contact Maine Citizen for Fair Bear Hunting in Falmouth to get petitions to circulate.
2. Contact this office if you can man a table on election day to collect signatures.
3. Make a donation to help spread the word support the effort.
4. Write letters to your local newspaper in support of this effort.

If you are able to gather signatures or make a donation, please immediately contact:

Maine Citizens for Fair Bear Hunting

190 US Route One

Falmouth, ME 04105

Phone: (207)781-5155

Fax: (207)781-4646

*Email: info@fairbearhunting.org

*If you send an email, please be sure to include all of your contact information and specify how you would like to help.

Voice for Animals
460 Buckfield Road
South Paris, ME 04281
www.voiceforanimals.net
Return Service Requested

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PERMIT NO.19

**YES! I want to become a member of Voice for Animals.
Enclosed are my membership dues of \$15**

My check, payable to Voice for Animals, is enclosed. My gift will be matched by my employer

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email _____

I don't wish to become a member, but would like to make a donation of \$ _____

Bumper Stickers

Join and receive a hot off the press bumper sticker which has our logo and the message **"I RAISE MY VOICE FOR ANIMALS!"** (additional ones are \$1.50 each)

I want to offer my services to Voice for Animals
My Skills include: _____ Grant writing _____ Fundraising/special events
_____ Other writing skills _____ Computer skills _____ Other

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

Thank you

Voice for Animals 460 Buckfield Road, South Paris, ME 04281

[Www.voiceforanimals.net](http://www.voiceforanimals.net)

Just a reminder...Dues Are Due...

It has now been one year since we have made a major solicitation for membership. Basic dues are still \$15 and each penny goes to help the animals as Voice has no paid positions.

Check out our animals for adoption at www.voiceforanimals.net

V.F.A. Giving Options and Tax Savings Ideas

V.F.A offers a variety of options for your charitable gift to help reduce animal suffering. We will be glad to help you design a personalized giving plan that will provide you with income, gift, and estate tax savings, along with favorable treatment of capital gains.

Tax saving options:

Gifts of Cash

Gifts of Appreciated Securities

Gifts of Real Estate

Pooled Income Fund

Charitable Remainder Trust

Wills and Bequests

If you have any questions, or would like additional information please call:

Caryl McIntire Edwards, Executive Director, at 207-743-6290 or mail in the form below.

confidential reply form

I am interested in having someone contact me regarding a Planned Giving Gift for V.F.A

Name: _____

Address: _____

*Please return to: Caryl McIntire Edwards, Executive Director V.F.A.,
460 Buckfield Rd, So Paris, ME 04281*