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For
Animals

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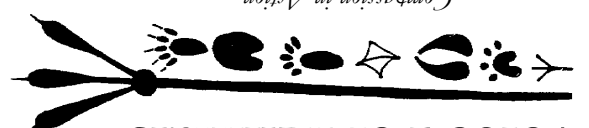
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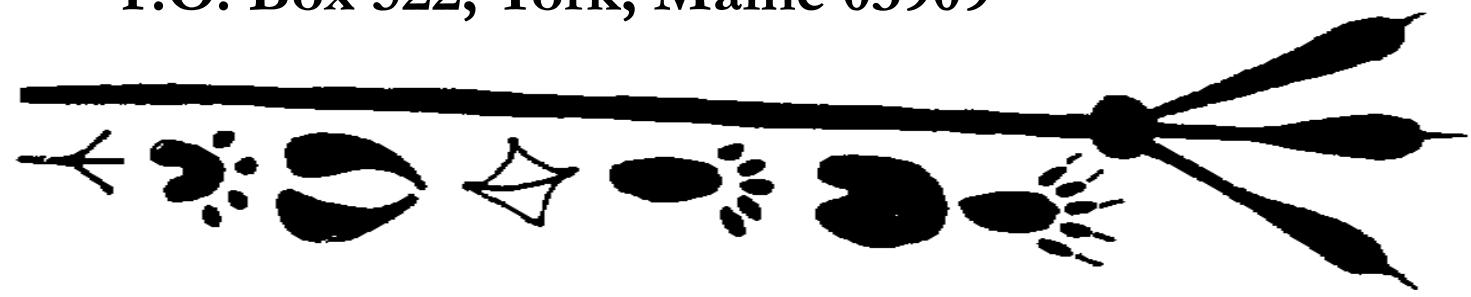
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Fall/Winter 2007

Voice For Animals

P.O. Box 522, York, Maine 03909



The Voice- 2007
The Newsletter of Voice for Animals

President's Message

As the temperature drops and the nights are dark and cold, it's difficult to think about the outdoor animals. In New England, the winter weather is tough for all animals, wild and tame alike. In New Hampshire there is an effort underway to present a bill that will improve the shelter requirements for outside dogs. On October 14 the Million Dog March took place in Concord. Many people gathered with their dogs on the Capitol lawn to show support for this upcoming bill. Voice for Animals believes that all dogs should have inside accommodations and live as part of a loving family. It is heart breaking to witness a back yard dog tied outside day in and day out living a solitary life, without a friendly voice or warm touch. Dogs are pack animals and living a lonely existence goes against their instincts. We encourage you to report any cases of dogs without proper shelter to your local authorities, or to Voice for Animals. If you are feeding outside cats during the cold months, please consider providing some type of shelter with straw. Small plastic dog houses can be picked up at yard sales for the cats, or plastic barrels on cross legs stuffed with straw works well. Don't be afraid to speak up on behalf of an animal in need and go that extra mile when a situation presents itself to you. One by one we can make a difference in the lives of these animals.

Candy Burrell
President

Voice for Animals Turns Twenty

On Saturday evening, October 27, Voice for Animals held its Twentieth Anniversary Celebration at the First Parish Hall in York with about twenty five people in attendance-an exceedingly good number for such a stormy day and evening. The event was covered by the York Weekly.

Caryl McIntire Edwards, Executive Director and founder spoke of seeing a need to found such an organization which would provide more support to animals in the Seacoast area, particularly cats who often received no help at all.

On December 2, 1987 Voice for animals was founded in York Village, Maine with the help of Linn Pulis and Will Anderson, then with the newly formed Maine Animal Coalition (MAC) based in Portland.

Through newsletters and Letters to the Editor the public was informed of the plight of animals and reminded that each one matters.

For a number of years McIntire Edwards took all of the "cat calls" from the town of York (and many from other towns, as well). Their individual stories made their way to local newspapers.

Ferals were dealt with, as well, and with the help of Dr. Gerald Beekman, who then had a practice in York Those in York Village, York Beach, and elsewhere were neutered, inoculated, and returned to their original areas-our first T-N-R (Trap-Neuter-Return) effort.

In 1998 McIntire Edwards was residing in the Oxford Hills area where she had taken a teaching job after her mother's death. Although she would have preferred to have stayed in the Seacoast area it was not to be but the

presence of VFA there continued. And the organization found its voice for animals in Oxford Hills, as well, making national news because of its rescue efforts during the ice storm.

It was the following year that VFA began operating in Waterville and Richmond, Maine and Milton, NH.

Through the years which have ensued since 1987 much has been accomplished for animals. We have been helped enormously by grant monies procured, allowing us to continue our spay/neuter operations in various sites across both states, provide medical assistance when we were able to, and continue to educate the public on very important animal protection issues. Most gratifying of all has been our work with animals who have been rescued from horrific situations-animals who might have been deemed expendable but for our efforts and who, through consistency and love were given a new lease on life. Many of their stories are highlighted in our annual newsletter in a section titled *Never Turn Your Back on an Animal in Need*.

In the past few years our newsletters have tired to educate our readership on a variety of animal protection issues to help them advocate in an informed manner.

Now, with the addition of a grant writer to our board, we are focusing on greater cohesiveness among the far-flung sites which will make more monies available to us, helping us to enlarge our efforts for all animals.

Our guest speaker for the evening, Katie Lisnik (her bio follows), spoke "Of various animal laws and the

tangible benefits of grassroots efforts... the York Weekly correspondent stated. (See more on this below.)

We hope as much will change for the animals in the next twenty years as it has in the past twenty. If that is to happen though, we all must do our part.

(The York Weekly Article written by Rob Levey can be found in the November 7 issue or on the seacoastonline web site.)

(Information presented by Katie Lisnik at the Anniversary meeting and provided here by her-klisnik@hsus.org.)

Katie Lisnik was born and grew up in Maine, specifically Waterboro and attended school in the Massabesic system. An animal lover from as far back as she can remember, Katie first wanted to pursue a career in veterinary medicine. She attended college at the University of Vermont, where she earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Animal Science and a minor in Wildlife Biology. During her time at UVM, she enrolled in an animal welfare course that changed her career path. Energized to work on animal welfare issues, she was accepted into the Tufts Veterinary School through their Animals and Public Policy program and earned her Masters degree. After returning to Maine, she took a job as the Program Coordinator of the Animal Welfare Society, and early in 2007, made the change to The Humane Society of the United States where she works as the Maine State Director. Katie resides in Portland with her husband, three cats, ferret and rescued Amazon parrot.

Laws in New Hampshire and Maine for 2008

Maine Bills for 2008

Maine is in the second regular session during 2008, which means bills are limited to Emergency, budgetary or those submitted by the Governor. There are a few that have also been carried over from the 2007 session. These include a bill, LD 680, to increase the amount of money going to the Help Fix ME program by removing some feed license fees from the General Fund and rerouting them to the sterilization fund. Calls will be needed to committee members on the Agriculture Committee and the Appropriations Committee. We also have LD 57, which turned into a working group and is concerned with setting up a voluntary program to make slaughterhouses more *humane*. No results have come out yet from the working group.* LR 3086 is a Department of Agriculture Animal Welfare Program bill, which makes a few changes to definitions

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and will try to define a crime against animals within the domestic violence laws. LR 3026 will clear up confusion surrounding the vendor fee as it should apply to a litter of dogs or cats, not one solo animal. This bill will also call for some form of reporting if a motorist hits a domesticated animal on the road. LR 2634 has also been introduced and concerns ethical dog breeding in the state. There will most likely be a few more bills concerning animal welfare on one level or another, so be sure to keep informed and reach out to those involved so that you stay up to date.

*This group attempted to put some "humane" regulations on slaughter, namely separating goats and sheep when slaughtered so that they did not see their companions being slaughtered. This opened up the whole issue that goats and sheep are very social creatures and actually are more stressed out by being alone in a slaughterhouse, as they were killed one by one than by

NOTES

being in a group. Out of this issue came the working group which is looking into Dr. Temple Grandin's work on a slaughterhouse set up which makes it easier and less stressful on the animals involved. Katie Lisnik and Christina Perkins (formerly Conners) are members of this group. (K.L.)

Continued Below

Raffle Winners

Garden Stick/Weathervane Farmington, N H	Dave Lessard,
Bluebird House York Beach, ME & Melrose, MA	Mary Vasel
St. Francis Garden Statue Peru, ME	Florence McDonald
\$100 Gas Card Kittery, ME	Peter Lamandia

New Hampshire Bills for 2008

LSR	Sponsor	Title	Intent
2051	LaLiberte	Licensure for bird breeders	License exemption for people who raise birds
2055	Skinder	Definition of necessary shelter for dogs	
2151	Vaillancourt	Care of dogs used in racing	Cage size, exercise, etc.
2181	Vaillancourt	Square footage of caged poultry	Defining the size of cages
2278	Parkhurst	Misrepresentation of service animals	Misrepresentation of need to use them
2292	Phinizy	Animal population control program	Elimination of Part A Eligibility
2327	Wendelboe	Establishing a waiver option for live-racing tracks	Simulcasting without live racing
2351	Skinder	Regulating the use of drugs on wildlife	Requested by Fish and Game-allowing them to be the only entity that can use drugs on wildlife
2352	Bulis	Regulation by Fish and Game Department baiting for game birds	
2423	Tilton	Definition of "service dogs"	To make it more secure for people with invisible disabilities to take a service dog into public places
2446	Lawrence	Allowing 50 caliber pistols To take game animals in the state	
2507	Webb	Pertaining to animal cruelty	
2649	Roberge	Allowing veterinarians to inform town clerks about dogs who have been euthanized	
	Kenney	Dog fighting	Has not been filed yet

We will post any new bills that come up on our web site.

Never Turn Your Back on an Animal in Need

Early in the winter last year Deb Sevigny of Berwick began noticing a cat hanging around her house, but it was only briefly in the early morning hours or at night. If the cat saw some one, he quickly disappeared. Concerned for his wellbeing, she set up a feeding station in her garage. She observed that, although very skittish and nervous, he WAS eating and drinking and that was a most important first step. One extremely cold night the door of her house flew open and a terrified, freezing cat walked inside. For that night Sevigny tried to keep him separated from the animals who were a part of her family. In an effort to keep everything calm, she called Isa Thomas of *Another Chance Animal Rescue* and got some tips which would get her through the next twenty four hours. But that is as far as it got her. The next day the terrified animal became aggressive and tried to bite her. Sevigny put in a frantic second phone call to Thomas, who came over immediately. Thomas worked with the cat for a very long time and then took him home to continue the bonding that she had begun. Sevigny put word out about the cat all over the area but there was no response. He was more than likely a drop off. Thomas, who is quite knowledgeable about cats, said he was a pure bred *Norwegian Forest Cat*, dumped off in spite of his pedigree-not that pedigree matters to those who care about animals but it does matter to those who care about money. Thomas is the hero of this story. It took her at least six months of steadfast devotion and remarkable patience before she brought this terrified animal around. Now he is a member of her family bearing the proud name Thor which reflects his Scandinavian background, his large size, and the feisty personality with which he came. Kudos to Isa Thomas for the great job she did and hugs and kisses to Thor who has found a forever home which is all he ever really wanted anyway.

*If I can stop one Heart from breaking
I shall not live in vain
If I can ease one Life the Aching
Or cool one Pain*

*Or help one fainting Robin
Unto [her] Nest again
I shall not live in Vain.*

(Emily Dickenson Poem # 919 written 1864, first published 1890)

Letters to the Editor

Dear Voice,
The “Free to a Good Home” article really got to me. When we arrived here in Alabama, the former owners of our new home had left a mother cat, three kittens, and a pregnant cat who gave birth to four kittens a week after we arrived. The shelters were all full and we were told to put an ad in the paper reading “Free to Good Homes.” We chose not to do that because down here dogs are adored and cats are throwaways. They do awful things to cats who are obtained for free. I took one mother cat and her four babies to the county shelter where I knew they would be put down but we knew they would not be abused. I kept one mother cat and her three kittens. By the way, I also drove five cats 1500 miles from Maine to Alabama! We have a house full of cats now. I’ve spayed and neutered and gotten shots for the mother and her three kittens. I try not to ask too much about where cats go. I’m too soft hearted to be able to handle it. Even our relatives take their older cats to the shelter and keep only males. Thank the good Lord my husband loves cats, also. That’s one of the reasons I married him!!
Sincerely,
Deborah Smith.

Dear Voice
I thought you might enjoy this story. Yesterday I was roller-blading in the morning and out of the corner of my eye I saw something quite large that was starting to pass me. I immediately knew it wasn’t a car because it wasn’t on the road-it was in the field! I turned my head to look at it and saw it was a young deer (no white spots, so I could tell it wasn’t a yearling). I immediately asked myself, “Why was a deer running a long side of me during the day when deer are usually sleeping or just relaxing in the woods?” The only thing I could figure out was that this deer was in a playful mood and wanted to race! So I started skating as fast as I could to see if I could keep up with the animal-I couldn’t. After a couple of minutes (it seemed much longer) the deer was a few hundred feet ahead of me and slowed down and started to turn, I think so that it could cross the road, then started running and bounding at full speed again. That happened three times (!) and finally, at the end of the field which is about a half a mile long the deer

retirement fund.
If employed, consider reducing amount of your paycheck, setting aside a particular amount for unforeseen animal bills.
Reevaluate your monthly budget-remove extras.
If you are unemployed, contact your local Employment Development Department to see if you qualify for benefits including unemployment services, disability insurance, employment benefits employment assistance.
Set up a savings account for emergencies.
Purchase veterinary insurance.
Budget a monthly allowance for preventive veterinary care.

Friends of Animals Spay and Neuter Certificate Information

Spaying and Neutering Certificates may be purchased on –line www.friendsofanimals.org or to order by mail call 1-800-321-PETS (1-800-321-7387) and request and application
Female cat \$65.00
Male cat \$51.00
Female Dog \$ 90.00
Male Dog \$64.00
Check with FoA to see which veterinarians in Maine and New Hampshire accept their certificates.

Please send us your email Address! We may need to contact you to relate a news item or to announce a special event. The easiest way to do so would be to send you off an email.

Please, also let us know if you do not want to continue receiving this newsletter.

Board of Directors

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not used in your home, but if they are, be sure to place them in areas that are inaccessible to your animals and keep a record of the exact product used. (And, if they are presently being used please contact us for non lethal suggestions). Contact your local veterinarian or emergency clinic if you suspect exposure, as animals will often appear normal until it is too late to treat them successfully.

- Most radiator antifreeze products contain ethylene glycol, which is highly toxic to the kidneys and potentially deadly. Its sweet taste makes it tempting. Unfortunately, ingestion of very small amounts can be lethal. It can cause kidney failure and death in as little as 4 to 8 hours. Your animal may appear drunk but many show no signs at all until he collapses about 8 to 12 hours after ingestion. If you think consumption has occurred contact your veterinarian immediately. To avoid, thoroughly clean up any antifreeze spills and store it in tightly closed containers in secured cabinets. Also dispose of old antifreeze in tightly sealed containers. **New antifreeze and coolant products are essentially nontoxic and are available at many auto supply stores.**
- During the Holidays, animals often have access to foods that are usually unavailable to them. **Make sure animals do not have access to chocolate, raisins, onions, coffee, yeast dough, fatty foods, or alcohol.** Plants can be toxic, as well. These include **mistletoe, holly, boxberry, amaryllis, and Christmas rose. Contrary to popular belief poinsettia, bayberry, winter begonia, and Christmas cactus plants are not toxic, although they can cause vomiting or diarrhea if ingested in large quantities.** If you think a poisonous plant may have been ingested call your local veterinarian or emergency clinic. Liquid potpourri commonly used during holidays can cause severe burns to the mouth, eyes, and skin, particularly in cats. Ingestion occurs when a cat licks the heated liquid in simmer pots or grooms herself after walking through a spill. If you have cats in your home it is probably best to avoid liquid potpourri altogether.

Household Dangers

Electrical cords. Chewing and choking on items such as socks, needles attached to thread or yarn, pennies, their own toys, and many more items. Medications. (If swallowed call your vet immediately!)

Sources of Money for Veterinary Care

AAHA Helping Pets Fund (American Hospital Association)
P.O. Box 150899
Denver, Colorado 80215-0899
Tel. 866-4helppets
Fax 720-963-4401
info@aahahelpingpets.org

The Pet Fund
916-443-6007

Feline Veterinary Assistance Fund
Provides financial assistance to cats and kitten guardians who are unable to pay for veterinary services
Timothy Meeker
FVEAP
1641 Elizabeth Lane
Yuba City, CA 95993
fveap@earthlink.net
Fax 888-301-4264

Help-A-Pet
Tel. 530-986-9504
P.O. Box 244
Hinsdale, IL 60522
Provides assistance to physically and mentally challenged individuals, senior citizens, and children of the working poor who need assistance with animal medical bills.

Good Sam Fund
300E Wilson Bridge Road
Worthington, Ohio 43085
Tel. 614-846-5800
Fax 614-431-4419
dmacmillan@medvet-cves.com

Other Possible Ways to Pay Veterinary Bills

If you are employed, ask for a salary advance.
Get a short-term second job.
Do odd jobs for neighbors and friends.
Have a yard/garage sale to sell items you can live without.
Fundraise through your religious institution, club, or local pet store.
See about a cash advance on your credit card or consider a cash-advance service.
If you have poor credit, consider meeting with a credit counseling service to consolidate loans.
Inquire about penalties for early withdrawal of

turned away from the road wagged her beautiful white tail at me and disappeared into the woods. I couldn't believe the whole thing actually had happened because it was so amazing...

Fred Blonder

Dear Voice

I've enjoyed and still enjoy and get inspiration from your excellent newsletter. You have a wonderful organization! You have provided more pages and can elaborate more on these issues than we can.

We've accomplished pretty much what we set out to do in the early 1970s. We're not growing any younger and still working daily in a very stressful field. I rejoice in how much you have achieved and wish you the very best in 2007.

Sincerely,

Mildred Lucas

Founder

The Foundation for Animal Protection, Inc.
Southbury, CT 06488

Dear Voice,

I am a person living with MS (Multiple Sclerosis) which is a disease of the nervous system. I am given interferons which are supposed to stop the progression of the disease. (They are also prescribed for people who have other illnesses; doctors may also prescribe something totally different for their MS patients.) These drugs are about 30% effective and cost about \$1600/month (depending on which one you use) and it is still up in the air if they are really effective at all! Interferons are produced from hamster ovaries. (Think of all those poor creature who have died!!) The beataseron that I was on for years didn't help me at all and I ended up in a wheelchair anyway. [Drugs] can't protect you from stress.

Some MSers are going the natural help route because their insurance company won't pay for the drugs prescribed or they have researched the statistics and are not happy with what they have seen. The side effects of these drugs are horrible.

Now researchers have isolated MS genes. All that means is that researchers will be able to get the money for more elaborate, long-range studies to better understand the disease and find a cure for it.

I, therefore, have to ask, "What is up with Jerry's Kids?" [They have Muscular Dystrophy -MD]. Jerry Lewis has raised millions for this cause but I have never seen that much progress toward a cure has been made. Are animal labs being used? What kind of research is being conducted? It's all kept very mysterious.

I have just mentioned two illnesses out of the many, many others that people are afflicted with. Think of the medical/drug/research complex and all the animals who will be used in them!! This is not for a moment in time, either. The medical research on defenseless animals will be on-going for many years into the future. In my meager way I try to stand up for these animals by participating in human studies. Michael Moore's film *Sicko* is being released today [November 9, 2007]. It documents in great detail what I have been saying here. Sadly, he is no friend of the animals and has threatened to do a documentary on those of us who advocate for them.

Name withheld at the writer's request

Hello Voice

There is a feral cat that I do not want on my property. It appeared last summer/fall and now has five kittens that are almost on their own. My neighbor has allowed the cat to raise its offspring in their equipment shelter and has been feeding them. Because I have a larger amount of property with fields and a beaver pond the cat chooses to hunt it. I greatly value the birds and the rodents that the cat has been feeding itself and its young on. The rodents are food supply for the fox and raptors amongst others. Now that the cat is around, the birds are too scared to collect seeds from my gardens and the other wildlife suffer, as well.

My neighbor and I are on good terms but when it comes to this issue they value the eradication of the rodents on their property and have a soft heart for the cat and her kittens. Intellectually, they want to keep our relations on good terms and only want the cats relocated but have done nothing. Therefore, I must take action.

I plan to purchase a trap and once it is caught remove it from my location. The town animal control officer told me "they don't do cats," [*what a surprise! - Ed.*] which is vague. I called the state vet office and animal control office and was told it is their [animal control officer and town] responsibility to take it from me once I bring it to them or I can euthanize it or shoot it in the head, but not gas it. I want to rid my property of the cat and most likely the feral population that my neighbor is irresponsibly allowing to grow.

I found your number from the state Audubon in Concord and met with the Society's president and he volunteered to be my PR (public relations) if I need his/their help. If you will take the cat(s) I trap or have another option for me other than releasing the cat back in my area, then please return my email.

Thank you

(Name withheld)
[I contacted not only this man but the Audubon Society, who acknowledged that they were now working with him on this case. I also contacted non profits in the area who deal with cats. On every turn I came up short. The non profit closest to the writer said they would not do feral cats and offered me no solutions. I, of course, live in Maine and it would not be feasible for me to go to the Concord area to search out this animal. I responded several times to the man who had written me but did not receive a reply until about six months later when he told me the cat and her kittens had mysteriously disappeared. This letter represents very accurately how people most concerned about eco-systems feel about feral cats.-Ed.]

Hello, Voice
Just wanted to send a quick note and let you know how Tippy is doing. It's month two of prozac for Tippy and the difference is amazing. She is still the same affectionate dog, the biggest difference is she doesn't seem to "sweat the small stuff" as much. Tippy is calmer. She eats her food slowly and seems to enjoy it more. [My husband] and I both keep working on training and lots of exercise. We recognize she is a dog we will always need to be vigilant with. Knock on wood this will continue.

The next step is to try kenneling her for a few days. Tip is too exuberant for our dog sitter so we are now in the process of finding a kennel that can accommodate Tip's needs.

I will keep you updated as we progress.

Thank you for your good wishes!

Best regards,

Joanne

[This email came in response to last year's article about the behavior modification program at Tufts University. -Ed.]

Dear Voice,

Your article about road kills which appeared in the Christmas '06 issue of the Voice for Animals newsletter has given me a lot to think about and, as a result I have come up with a few questions which I am listing below. Why is driving safely for animals not included in driver's education curriculum? It should be mandatory!! It could make a huge difference!

Why are automobile companies still allowed to advertise speed as a major selling point? For many years the advertising of cigarettes has not been permitted, why, then, is speed which is one of the major causes of

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accidents and death still permitted to be shown in commercials?

Would pressure exerted by many of us on large insurance companies make a difference? If so, how would we go about doing this?

I want to play a part in significantly reducing the numbers of animals killed or injured on roads and highways within my lifetime. Sally Corey (If you have any suggestions about how people can effectively bring change in this area email them to us at Carylsmunkyboy@aol.com or write us at Voice for Animals P.O. Box 522, York, ME 03909 and we will post them on our web site.)

Tributes

In memory of Sammy, beloved companion of Nancy Bogenberger and Peter Lamandia, Kittery, Maine
In memory of Theodore McDonald, husband of VFA member Becky McDonald from Jean M. Holmquist (Aulenback, Inc.) Mexico, Maine and Minnie Akers and Julie Gribbin of Andover, Maine.

In memory of Teddy McDonald from David and Lesley Buzza, Cora Stauffer, and Sandra Blankenship.

In memory of Theodore McDonald given by Joleen Goodreau.

In memory of Mori Berry, beloved companion of Michelle, Howie, and Maddie Berry given by Sharon Clay, Joan Walsh, and Deb Sevigny.

In memory of Lowell, beloved dog of Sharon and Jeff Clay given by Joan Walsh and Debra Sevigny.

In memory of Barkley, the dog everyone was afraid of. She had been abused and abandoned and with no one to trust, feared what would happen to her next. Then one day she came into our lives and she learned to love and trust. The most wonderful and amazing transformation occurred: she became the dog she was always meant to be-happy, free, loving, and so very beautiful!

Her time with us was SO short. A brain tumor carried her away. Dear Barkley, beautiful girl, we miss you so much, but we know that you are happy and safe where you are now. Soar like the butterfly you are, dear, until that wonderful day when we all meet you once again at the Rainbow Bridge...

In memory of Gladys, a longtime member of the McIntire Edwards family, who arrived there in 1995 because the woman in the home in which she had resided had decided to "downsize" from her two inside cats-littermates-to one. She arrived as Georgie Girl but because George was already a member of this family

Natural Cleaning Recipes

Toilet Bowl Cleaner

Sprinkle baking soda inside toilet on all surfaces Mist with a mixture of one cup white vinegar. Stains: make a paste with lemon juice and borax and apply to stain. Let sit for 5 minutes and then scrub with brush.

All Purpose Cleaner

Dissolve ¼ cup of baking soda in warm water along with ¼ ounce of sweet orange or lemon oil. Use on counter tops and floors.

Furniture Polish

Mix 1 cup olive oil and 1/2 cup lemon juice. Shake well and apply to a cleaning cloth. Use a dry cloth to remove excess oil from furniture.

Carpet Freshner

Pour a box of cornstarch in a Ziploc bag along with ¼ oz. of lemon essential oil. Squeeze and rub the bag to disperse the essential oil throughout the powder. Let sit for at least 24 hours. Lightly sprinkle the powder on your carpets, let sit for 15 minutes (don't walk on it) then vacuum.

Natural Cleanser

For area where something a bit abrasive is needed, sprinkle baking soda onto area and then scrub using a damp sponge. For a little more cleaning power, mist the baking soda with a mixture of 1 cup white vinegar and ¼ ounce lemon essential oil.

Dust Mite Prevention

Dust mites, a leading cause of allergies, can be contained with eucalyptus oil. To kill dust mites in bedding, wash linens in hot water and add ¼ ounce of eucalyptus oil to the cold or warm rinse cycle. Mist the mattress pad and/or mattress with pure eucalyptus essential oil before putting on clean sheets.

(Source: info@rainbowmeadow.com Rainbow Meadow 494 Brooklyn Rd., Jackson, MI 492010)

Insurance Coverage

On September 10, 2007 Progressive Insurance Company introduced Pet Injury Coverage, included at no extra charge for customers with Collision coverage. The company will pay up to \$500 if a customer's dog or cat is hurt (which will help with veterinary bills and medicine) or dies as a result of a car accident (and will help with euthanasia fees).

Progressive Pet Injury Insurance is available in 46 states and the District of Columbia; it's not yet available in North Carolina, New Hampshire, New York, and Virginia but the company hopes to offer it in those states soon.

As an added bonus for being a Progressive customer, you can receive a 5 percent discount on a pet insurance

policy from Embrace and Pets Best pet insurance companies.

Pet First Aid and Fire Safety

The American Red Cross offers a 4-hour Pet CPR & First Aid course that comes with a pet first aid manual and first aid kit. Pet owners learn how to perform rescue breathing and what to do when a pet is choking. They learn how to stop bleeding, splint broken bones, and how to treat a pet who had gone into shock. The course material also covers preventing and handling poisoning emergencies and how to deal with sudden illness. The class is also offered to groups, such as animal rescue organizations and firemen.

As a fire safety measure, pet owners are purchasing emergency response decals that identify pets in the house, and they are donating specialized pet rescue equipment to their local fire districts.

Additionally, the non-profit organization H.E.L.P. Animals sells SurgiVet's Muculloch Medical Animal Recovery Masks for \$55. The set includes three different sized cone-shaped masks that can be use with any sized animal from a tiny bird to a Saint Bernard, according to product information. (This information was provided by VFA member Susan Bucknam of York Harbor, Maine.)

Winter Hazards and Your Pet

- Prolonged exposure to freezing temperatures affects animals just like people. Even short exposure to subzero temperatures can cause frostbite on your pet's feet, nose, and ear tips. Indoor pets who are not acclimated to winter temperatures should not be left outside in cold weather for long periods of time. If your animal is staying outside for any period of time avoid electrical heating devices which can electrocute if they become wet or chewed.
- The chemicals in rock salt or other ice melting products can irritate and burn the pads of your pet's paws and cause serious problems if ingested. Signs could include excessive drooling, depression, or vomiting. To prevent problems store ice melt in closed containers during colder weather. If rodenticides are ingested by your animal they can cause serious harm, including sever bleeding, kidney failure, and even death. Signs of poisoning occur 2 to 14 days after ingestion and include bruising of the skin, pale gums, coughing up blood, and blood in the urine or stool. VFA would hope that rodenticides are

Breaking News:

As we were preparing to go to press this was received from Steve Jacobsen of the Animal Welfare Society via Katie Lisnik, HSUS/ME

At approximately 1:25 PM today I received word that one of the judges in the Seizure case has signed the paperwork giving ownership of the animals to the State of Maine Animal Welfare Program (AWP). This is very good news and it means that The Animal Refuge League of Greater Portland (ARL) and The Animal Welfare Society (AWS), as lead agencies in this seizure will now be able to prepare for the eventual adoption and placement of these 300+ animals.

It should be noted that this action is separate from the criminal proceedings and from any other known legal proceedings currently in place such as the \$190 million law suit which has been reported.

As we go forward with plans for placement through the ARL and AWS as well as through other agencies selected by ARL and AWS and AWP please be reminded of [the following]:

“...little will change immediately when these animals are passed to the state. Our responsibilities, our daily routine, and the challenges will still be with us. Once the animals are well, spayed and neutered, and assigned to a shelter then the adoption process will begin. We will be slow, careful, deliberate and humane in our processes. These animals are as much a part of all of us as any we serve.

Susan Britt, Norma [Whorley], Christine [Fraser] and myself will be working on protocols for all adoption agencies to follow. We also will address which animals are available first, adoption information materials, applications, qualifications, needs, etc.”

“I know it has been a long wait and major effort and it will be even longer but it must be done correctly for these animals, for all who have worked so hard, and for the agencies who have put so much on the line on their behalf.....”

This effort now going on for 87 days has only been possible with the help from many of you and the organization(s) you serve and support. We thank you all and promise to do our best as we enter the next chapter of this event.

Best regards,
Steve

Deceased Dog Still Unidentified

The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) is offering a reward of up to \$2500 for the information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for abandoning a cocker spaniel, between seven and nine years old, in an air-tight plastic tub outside the New Hampshire SPCA (NHSPCA) located on Portsmouth Ave. in Stratham. The dog was found dead, apparently from suffocation and there were indications the dog had struggled to escape.

The Case: On Sunday, October 14, shelter staff sorting donations left outside the NHSPCA discovered a dead Cocker Spaniel in a plastic container. This black and white, female Cocker Spaniel was found in a dark blue Sterilite bin marked Bar Stuff with Christmas bows in the bottom. The dog who appeared to be approximately 7 to 9 years of age, had a light purple collar with blue and yellow flowers.

This inhumane and cruel act causing immeasurable suffering and resulting in death is a serious crime. For identification purposes photographs of the dog, are now posted on the NHSPCA website. “Above the link is a posted warning [because we know] that it may be very disturbing for viewers to see,” stated investigator Steve Sprowl. “We are hoping to [find] a witness who knows the identity of the dog. Further,” Sprowl states, “I have given the dog the name MIRANDA which is significant in two ways: The first, simply to give her the dignity of a name and the second is in anticipation of the day when the perpetrator will be read his/her MIRANDA Rights when being arrested.

Norris, Inc. of Greenland, NH (www.norrisinc.com) has now donated an outdoor surveillance system valued at over \$6,000 to the NHSPCA. With additional donations from concerned citizens they were able to purchase extra cameras to complete the donated system. This system will ensure that next time an animal is abandoned on their doorstep, they will be able to identify the perpetrators and bring charges.

The case is currently under investigation by the NHSPCA with assistance from the Stratham Police Department. Anyone with information may call the NHSPCA investigator at 603-772-2921, extension 111 or call the Stratham Police Department.

To view pictures and read more about the case go to www.nhspca.org/MostRecentRescues.htm (Source: Steve Sprowl, NHSPCA)

she became Gladys. Feisty at first and right to the end, she was also capable of great love. In the end her name changed from Gladys (“Gladdy”) to Gladiola, the beautiful flower she had become. We miss you so much but look forward to the day when we all shall be together again...

In memory of Winston, the throw-away cat no one wanted. On the plaque which rests above his ashes, it says, “*Winston, this will be your forever home. Finally at peace, the cat no one wanted who touched all of our hearts.*” Until we meet again at the Rainbow Bridge...

TNR Tips

Humane traps should be used for trapping feral cats. There are several brands that work well including Tomahawk, ACES Tru-Catch and Havahart. Traps with back doors make it easier to transfer the cats out of the traps and into transfer cages. Trapping should be done the day before the spay/neuter appointment. It's okay to let the cat stay in the trap (covered with a towel) overnight inside, in a warm or cool (depending on the weather) spot. Female cats must be held for 4 days after the spay surgery to make sure they recover well. Accommodations must be roomy enough and warm during this recovery period. If you have questions about trapping cats or any aspect of Trap Neuter Return (TNR) please email Candy Burrell at feralrzule@aol.com

Chapter Reports

Oxford Hills

The Oxford Hills Chapter has been busy trying to get as many animals (mostly cats) spayed and neutered as possible. Though our group here is small in number, we have each taken stray animals into our homes with the hopes of finding a permanent, loving home for them. We have also helped to find homes for fish and a rabbit. We have been helping to fix a colony of cats in Norway, Maine in conjunction with Responsible Pet Care, the shelter in that area. Additionally we are working to relocate a colony of cats in Chatham, New Hampshire. Normally, we would return the cats to their already established location, but unfortunately it is not an option in this case. One of our members continues providing food and cat litter to people who would not otherwise be able to afford this expense. We have been grateful to Dr. Monique Kramer, a veterinarian in the Oxford Hill area passionate about helping animals who have no human care givers. She has provided discounted services to us

Milton NH Chapter Report

In NH we have been providing Trap Neuter Return (TNR) services to a multitude of sites. We have received several calls from area mobile home parks, industrial parks and neighborhoods to help with abandoned cats and kittens. Our efforts have yielded over 14 litters of kittens this season and we spayed and neutered 80 adult cats. The kittens and tame adult cats have been put up for adoption. The feral adult cats have been returned to their sites and supported with food. Please keep in mind if you are feeding outside cats that it's imperative that they are spayed and neutered. A pair of un-sterilized cats can multiply in great proportions over a couple of years.

Richmond

The feral colony there has stabilized but food and spay/neuter assistance is provided to needy people in the area.

Waterville-Winslow

We have concentrated much of our efforts this year on dealing with the elderly animal in our care. We have spayed and neutered a few animals and helped a few people pay for emergency care for their pets.

York

York has continued to work with people in the area, spaying and neutering, and helping with some animal medical expenses and educating the public on a variety of animal related issues.

Note: This is the last time we will be providing “Chapter Reports” because in 2008 we will be going to a “Site” model with all control retained by the board. The reason for this change is to create a tighter, more cohesive organization which will stand us in much better stead to apply for the grants that will help us to reach our goals.

Progress in Emergency Animal Rescue Maine

County Emergency Resources

This list of statewide resources by county includes:

County Emergency Management Agency: This is the county authority for emergency management, working in close conjunction with **MEMA. EMAs** will have information on any emergency planning and preparedness programs in your county. If there isn't a CERT, CART, or SAR listed in your county, contact your EMA if you would like to form one.

County Emergency Response Teams (CERTs): CERTs provide free training to citizens who wish to learn how to be a volunteer in a disaster or other emergency. During a crisis, there 's no time for others to train you., so contact your local CERT and get trained now-or help to create a CERT in your area.

Community Animal Response Teams (CARTs): Overseen by the State of Maine Animal Response Team (SMART),* these groups plan for how to handle animals during a disaster-from household pets to livestock, including evacuating and sheltering the animals. If you own livestock, you should definitely be involved in your local CART –or work to create one.

Search and Rescue Groups (SARs): These volunteer groups are vital during emergencies. Join one or help start one in your area.

ARES & RACES: Amateur Radio Emergency Service and Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services are groups of ham radio operators who volunteer their time during emergencies. Even if the Internet, radio stations, and TV stations are non-functional, amateur radio operators can still function, and may be the only line of communication in a disaster, if you are a ham operator join an ARES or RACES group or start one in your region.

Red Cross Chapters in Maine

American Red Cross Pine Tree Chapter 33 Mildred Ave., Bangor 941-2903

American Red Cross Mid Coast Chapter 16 Community Way, Topsham 729-6779

American Red Cross United Valley 1180 Lisbon St., Lewiston 795-4001

American Red Cross Southern Maine 2401 Congress St., Portland 874-1192

Androscoggin

Androscoggin Unified EMA

Director: Joanne G. Potvin

Web: users.adelphia.net/~androsema

Email: anem1@adelphia.net

Address: 2 College Street, Lewiston

Phone: 784-0147

AREES/RACES: Androscoggin RACES: contact

through ANEMA, 784-0147

Aroostook

Aroostook County EMA

Director: Vernon R. Ouellette

Web: www.aroostook.me.us/ema.html

Email: akema@aroostook.me.us

Address: 158 Sweden Street, Caribou

CERTs:

Caribou CERT: Roy Woods, roywoods@maine.rr.com

Fort Fairfield CERT: Contact County EMA

CARTs: ACART: Jennifer Howlett

SARs: Northstar Search and Rescue: Randy Michaud

ARES/RACES: Aroostook Ham Radio Association

Cumberland

Cumberland County EMA

Director: Jim Budway

Web: cumberlandcounty.org/EMA/main.htm

Email: budway@cumberlandcounty.org

Address: 22 High St., Windham

Phone 892-6785

CERTs: Brunswick: Clark Labbe clabbe@brunswickme.org

Portland: Fred LaMontagne fjk@portlandme.gov

[Curiosity: This is a very urban county which has numerous people in its population who care about animals and no effort has been made to launch a CART here. Some other counties which do not list CARTs are working on them (e.g. Franklin). There should be no excuse for such an oversight.]

Franklin

Franklin county EMA

Director: Tim Hardy

Email THardy@fncome

Address 140 Main St., Farmington,

Phone: 778-5892

Hancock

Hancock County EMA

Director: Ralph E. Pinkham

Email Emma@co-hancock.me.us

Address: County Courthouse 50 State ST, Suite 4, Ellsworth

Phone: 667-8126

Kennebec

Kennebec County EMA

Director: Kelly Amoroso

Web: kennebeccounty.org/kciepc/emaindex.htm

Email: kciepc@kennebecso.com

its adoption, sale or placement with a licensed animal shelter.

The person abandoning the animal is still liable for any financial obligation, including, but not limited to costs incurred for veterinary treatment, boarding, grooming or other care. Penalties for non compliance shall also apply.

Title 7 4011

This states that cruelty to animals can also include abandonment. This constitutes a Class D crime.

Too often, though, it is the animals, abandoned in the woods and in vacant apartments and houses, who get no justice because no one knows who the perpetrator(s) is.

The Maine Law that is NEVER Enforced- What's up with That???

2087 states that transporting of animals in an "open vehicle" means that a portion of the vehicle is not enclosed by a top and windows or sides. It includes but is not limited to, pickup trucks and convertibles.

A person driving an open vehicle may not transport a dog in the open portion of that vehicle on a public way unless the dog is protected in a manner that prevents the dog from falling or jumping or being thrown from the vehicle.

The exceptions include a dog being transported by a farmer or farm employee who is engaged in agricultural activities requiring the services of a dog and a hunting site where dogs are located or the transportation between hunting sites by a licensed hunter who is in possession of all applicable licenses and permits for the species being pursued during the legal season for that activity.

In practice, dogs are often transported in the back of pick up trucks. They are never pulled over for a violation. Many people in law enforcement transport their own dogs in the same manner. Clearly, they are NOT concerned about enforcing a law which is already on the books. How does one change this behavior on their part especially since it means greater safety for the animals involved?

Update on the J'aime Kennel Seizure

After the August 21st seizure of over 240 dogs of various breeds and sizes, State of Maine Animal Welfare program authorities were faced with a dilemma of caring for and housing these animals. While the court order allowed the dogs to remain on the kennel property, the overall safety of the dogs was top priority and the search for a temporary emergency shelter began immediately after the seizure. Despite best intentions, a temporary shelter was not located until mid September and required significant renovations to make it ready to house the "Buxton dogs", as they quickly became known. While on the J'aime kennel property, over 250 volunteers from local and national groups, including Voice for Animals, pitched in to help clean, care for, and treat the dogs that were in such need. Medical bills quickly racked up during treatments for Sarcoptic and Demodectic Mange, Giardia, Coccidia, Ringworm and multiple parasites. Numerous local vets and vet techs also donated time and space for these wonderful animals. By early October, the temporary shelter was ready, and during the Indictment, the dogs had been awarded as temporary custody of the state pending the appeal process. This was a green light to hit the road, and moving day was a great collaboration by local and national groups, under the guidance of the Maine Animal Welfare Program. After a successful day of transporting, the dogs settled quickly into their new digs. They immediately began to stretch out on their Kuranda beds, and had a nice warm, dry place to sleep, eat and play. As we move into November, the appeal period will come to a close. We are waiting to see if the owners will put up the bond money, which is in excess of \$850,000. This is a crucial part of the case since the lives of these dogs hang in the balance. If no bond money is put up, the dogs become legal property of the State and can move ahead with sterilization and eventually adoption. If the bond is met, then the appeal process will move forward and the dogs will be held into the future. This case has proved already to be a lesson in collaboration and preparedness. Just like a disaster, this seizure stretched local resources and required outside help. To all those who have pitched in, a sincere and hearty Thank you for the wonderful job you have done thus far.

(Source: Katie Lisnik, HSUS/ME)

A Very Touching Example

Most of the 10 billion land animals raised for food each year in the United States endure short, misery-filled lives until they're trucked to a gruesome end at a slaughterhouse. But Bernie Williams, executive producer of the recently released film version of *Charlotte's Web*, made sure the animals featured in this touching story based on E. B. White's classic book didn't suffer similar fates. Williams went the extra mile to ensure the movie's animal stars found permanent homes at Australian sanctuaries, working with Paramount Pictures to secure funding for the move and obtaining contracts to ensure the animals' lifelong care. Williams, a vegetarian and long time animal lover, also shared how the mother of the pig who played Wilbur was rescued from a breeding facility and recalled her simple joy at making a nest for the first time. Bravo to Williams for making a heartfelt concern for animals a cornerstone of this project. (Note: E.B. White created the lovable character, Wilbur, to assuage his guilt about annually taking very bright, curious, and friendly pigs to slaughter after the local country fair was over.-Ed.)

(From Friends of Animals Summer 2007 *Actionline*)

Horse Slaughter Tragedy Still Haunts Us

October 28, 2007

Wayne Pacelle, president and CEO of **The Humane Society of the United States**, released the following statement in response to Saturday's accident on Route 41 in Illinois that resulted in the death or injury of 59 young Belgian draft horses.

"We mourn the loss of these magnificent creatures. I extend my most heartfelt gratitude to the rescue workers, veterinarians and volunteers who rushed to the scene in an attempt to save the injured horses.

The gory details of this accident serve as a reminder of the grisly nature of shipping large numbers of horses hundreds of miles to slaughterhouses in Canada and Mexico.

If there is any good to come from this weekend's tragedy, it will reinforce the need for Congress to pass the American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act which will permanently end the shipment of horses across our borders to end up on a dinner plate overseas."

Current Laws in New Hampshire and Maine

In our last newsletter we pointed out that that in Maine the law states that one becomes the keeper of a cat after feeding her for ten consecutive days. According to Steve Sprowl, of the NHSPCA, New Hampshire has no such law. There is currently only one law on the books for cats in that state: They are required to have rabies vaccinations.

"Under state statute, animals are considered property. If someone found a "stray cat" and decided to keep [her] at their home, they have an obligation to keep the "property for a period of 30 days. If no one claims the 'property' for a period of 30 days. If no one claims the property within that time, the animal legally becomes the finder's property."

Animal Abandonment

In New Hampshire

There are two sections dealing with abandonment of animals.

644:8 Cruelty to Animals says it is a misdemeanor to abandon your animal without making provisions for the animal's care, sustenance, protection, or shelter.

437:19 & 20 abandoned animals.

This simply talks about animals left unclaimed in a holding facility, shelter, vets, humane society, boarding kennel or any other center providing care and treatment for animals.

If you leave your animals there and don't reclaim them within the agreed time, the holding facility sends you a certified letter giving you 7 days to claim it and pay the fees due. If not paid in the 7 days, the animal becomes the property of the holding facility and they can do with it as they deem necessary. This includes adopting the animal out, selling the animal, giving the animal away, or euthanizing the animal.

In Maine

There are also two sections dealing with this issue. Title 17 1038

States that animals abandoned at a veterinarian's office, boarding kennel, animal grooming facility or animal day-care facility is a Class D crime.

If the animal is not claimed within in 10 days after a written notice has been sent, the veterinarian, kennel, facility or individual who has custody and control of the animal is considered the owner of the animals and shall arrange for its care, including, but not limited,

Address: 125 State Street, Augusta

Phone: 623-84-7

CERTs: Kennebec: Kelly Amaroso, kaamoroso@kennebecso.com

Tim Worley, pi@cbintel.com

CARTs: Kennebec County CART: Kelly Amoroso, kaamoroso@kennebecso.com

ARES/RACES: Kennebec County ARES: Bill Akins, william.akers@maine.gov.

Knox

Knox County EMA: Sylvia E. Birmingham

Web: www.knoxcounty.midcoast.com

Email: ema@knoxcounty.midcoast.com

Address: 62 Union Street, Rockland

Lincoln

Lincoln County EMA

Director: Tim Pellerin

Web: www.colincoln.me.us/dep.html

Email: tpellerin@colincoln.me.us

Address: P.O. Box 249, Wiscasset

Oxford

Director: Scott Parker

Web: www.megalink.net/~oxctyema

Email: oxctyema@megalink.net

Address County Courthouse, South Paris

CERTs: Oxford CERT Jamboree Scott Parker

Fryeburg CERT Chet Charette

Sumner/Hartford/Buckfield CERT Tom

Standard

CARTs:Oxford County Animal Response Team**

Allyson Hill

ARES/RACES South Paris ARES Bradley Saunders

Penobscot

Penobscot County EMA

Director: Tom Robertson

Web: ema.penobscot-county.net

Email: tomr@penobscot-county.net

Address: 97 Hammond St., Bangor

Phone: 945-4750

SARS: Dirigo Search and Rescue: Dave Martin

dsmartin@adelphia.net

ARES/RACES: Penobscot ARES Group: Glenn Prewitt

Piscataquis

Piscataquis County EMA

Director: Tom F. Iverson, Jr.

Email pcema@verizon.net

Address: 163 E. Main St., Dover-Foxcroft

Phone 564-8660

Sagadahoc

Sagadahoc County EMA

Director: Misty Green

Email: sagma@clinic.net

Address High Street, P. O. Box 246, Bath

Phone 443-8210

Somerset

Somerset County EMA

Director: Robert F. Higgins, Jr.

Web: www.somersetcounty-me.org

Email: EmergencyManagement@somerset-county-me.org

Address: 8 County Drive, Skowhegan

Phone: 474-6788

CERTs:Town of Bingham 201 CERT; County of Somerset, Team Somerset; Jackman CERT; Robert Higgins, robert.higgins@somersetcounty-me.org

SARs: Mercer CERT: Rick Smith

ARES/RACES: Robert Higgins

Waldo

Waldo County EMA

Director: Dale Rowley

Email: emadirector@waldocountyme.gov

Address 45A Congress St., Belfast

Phone: 338-3870

CERTs: Waldo County CERT: Cony Morse ema@waldocountyme.gov

IMAT: Dale Rowley emadirector@waldocountyme.gov

Pet Shelter Team (CART): Lee Anna Rowley

emadirector@waldocounty.gov

SARs: Gary Drinkwater

ARES/RACE: Gary Daigle via EMA office 338-3870

Washington

Washington County EMA

Director: Michael Hinerman

Email wmema@ptc-me.net

Address: P.O. Box 297, Machias

Phone: 255-3931

York

York County EMA

Director

Robert C. Bohlmann

Web: www.yorkcountyme.gov/ema

Email: ema@york.me.us

Address: 5 Swetts Bridge Rd., Alfred

Phone 324-1578

CERTs: Saco Steven Boucouvlea sboucouvalas@sacomaine.org

Waterboro Pam L' Heureux pam-paul@sacoriver.net

York County Bob Bohlman ema@co.york.me.us

*Sadly, SMART, the overseeing body in Maine, no longer exists.

** Oxford county is at the forefront of developing CARTs in this state.

(Source: The Bangor Daily News and Allyson Chase, Administrative Assistant at Oxford County EMA.)

New Hampshire.

Vision Statement

Provide coordination of local resources, emergency veterinary triage and supportive care to pet, farm and exotic animals before, during and after a natural or man-made emergency or disaster, prior to activating additional services and personnel.

Goals and objectives

Develop disaster animal response teams throughout the State of New Hampshire which will collaborate and coordinate under a stand alone nonprofit.

Affiliate with existing local, federal and neighboring state disaster animal response teams (CART).

Provide trained volunteers with opportunities to serve at the local, regional and federal levels during serious emergencies and disasters.

Who is responsible for ESF-16 Animal Health in NH?

The Department of Agriculture, Markets, and Food (NHDAMF) and the State Veterinarian, Stephen K. Crawford, DVM are Responsible for Animal Disaster Planning, Response and Recovery for New Hampshire.

Assure people that the state cannot handle these responsibilities without an enormous amount of personal responsibility on the parts of individuals and communities

Authority

Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act (PETS) October, 2006

Mandates that local and state emergency management officials “take into account the needs of individuals with household pets and service animals prior to, during, and following a major disaster or emergency” when developing emergency preparedness operational plans. It also allows FEMA to make financial contributions to programs or projects “for animal emergency preparedness purposes, including the procurement, construction, leasing, or renovating of emergency shelter facilities and materials that will accommodate people with pets and service animals.”

New Hampshire’s response to the Pet’s Act:

Animal disaster response varies from state to state, New Hampshire has chosen to create a public/private non profit entity NH-DART which will establish well trained, versatile, flexible and semi-independent disaster

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animal response teams throughout NH.

Animal response is based on the Incident Command System a detailed set of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) procedures governing command and control of resources in emergency situations.

Function of the nonprofit named NH-DART

Fundraising/grants for training, equipment, and consulting services to assist appropriate local agencies and organizations which plan for animals in a natural or man-made disaster. The service must extend to local events requiring emergency response.

Coordinate regional & inter-/intra-state training/ education and networking.

Assist with animal evacuation site identification.

In partnership with cities, towns and state agencies, recruit and assist with the establishment of trained teams.

With State agencies, develop training guidelines.

Develop strong partnerships with other organizations responsible for mass cares.

Functions of DART teams

Organize animal rescue teams.

Pick up animals from the incident site.

Evacuate animals.

Organize temporary animal shelters.

Provide for the pets of special needs people during an incident.

Provide trained volunteers for the care, feeding, walking, cleaning area, etc. to shelters during an incident.

Provide emergency veterinary care.

24-hour animal care during recovery period (not to exceed 72 hours)

Provide accurate record keeping and identification of animals during an incident.

The Ideal Animal Response Team consists of

Animal Response Team Leader

Communications Coordinator

Logistics

Operations

Planning

Veterinarian

Transportation Coordinator

Shelter Coordinator

Trained local and regional resources

Trained on call resources or groups available who are knowledgeable in any or all types of animal handling and care.

Currently, there are six teams in various stages of development. Southern NHCART (New Ipswich, NH)

and NHSPCA (Stratham, MH) are the only two that are fully trained. Both teams responded to the Mother’s Day flood and the Nor’easter of ’07. In addition, teams in Keene, Manchester, the Lakes Region (9 towns) and Rochester (7 towns) are forming.

(Source: Power Point provided by NH DART Executive Director, Lora dePlante 300 River Road, New Ipswich, NH 03071, 603-878-3795, 603-318-1949 cell)

It is our duty as residents of areas where no CART/ DART exists to see that one does. The animals are counting on US.

United States

Thanks to new HSUS-backed legislation passed in California and in Congress, and greater awareness by pet guardians, many were able to flee with their animals. For more specific information on the disaster and the rescue efforts go to www.hsus.org

If you have first hand knowledge about specific animal situations which occurred during this fire please send them to Carylsmonkyboy@aol.com or by mail to Caryl McIntire Edwards 460 Buckfield Road, South Paris, Maine 04281 and we will post them on the web site.

World (Iraq)

The Department of Defense is no friend to animals. Under policies enacted by the DOD, helpless critters living in the conflict are often caught in the crosshairs-literally-and treated like enemies of the state.

American soldiers are forbidden from adopting a stray animal they befriended in Iraq.

Pet and stray dogs are frequently killed in an attempt to prevent rabies although research finds that these culls are both ineffective and inhumane.

No prohibition or punishment for cruelty towards animals exists in the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

Please visit the Department of Defense web site (www.defenselink.mil/) and express your concern for animals in Iraq. Specifically state that you want the DOD to enact the following policies:

- 1.) Add an anti-cruelty clause to the Uniform Code of Military Justice
 - 2.) Shift resources to a vaccination strategy for addressing concerns about rabies in Iraq.
 - 3.) Adopt a program that would permit soldiers to adopt a pet from Iraq.
- (Source HSUS web site)

Pet Theft Revisited

According to Merritt Clifton of *Animal People*, pet theft is a bit of a “bogey man” issue, in that it is blamed for more animal disappearances than it actually causes. Certainly, “Free to a Good Home” ads and animals given away or sold at flea markets and yard sales still are a source that Class B dealers readily use, however, according to statistics compiled by him the peak total of 211,104 for dogs came in 1979 and for cats 74,259 came in 1974. The documented number for the most recent year compiled (2005) for dogs was 66,610 and for cats 22,921.

He states that there are other causes for missing companion animals, topping the list would be road kills and predation. As we encroach more and more on ecosystems predators have to look elsewhere for food and often this sadly includes our pets. Recent issues of *The Portsmouth Herald* document the taking of cats by coyotes in both York, Maine and Greenland, New Hampshire and a veterinarian in Norway, Maine has documented the attempted taking of a Yorkshire terrier by hawk *while* he was being walked by his caregivers-luckily the retractable leash he had pulled him back to them safe and unharmed but certainly terribly traumatized.

Additionally, as highways and speed increase our beloved animals continue to become statistics in alarming numbers.

So how can we make the world safe for those we care about? Clearly, staying inside provides security but that does not work for all guardians or all animals. Caryl McIntire Edwards of South Paris provided a fenced in backyard for the dogs in the household and the cats used it, as well, never attempting to climb out. However, the level of safety changed when, just by chance, McIntire Edwards saw a hawk working her way down the limbs of a tree, hoping to make a meal of one of the McIntire Edwards’ companions. A return across the top has solved the problem. In this instance fruit tree netting was used.

If you have other suggestions about ways to keep companion animals happy and safe please email them to the editor at Carylsmonkyboy@aol.com or by mail to Caryl McIntire Edwards 460 Buckfield Road, South Paris, Maine 04281 and we will post them on our web site.

A Special Thank You

Voice for Animals would like to extend a heartfelt Thank You to the Ramsey Family of Gonic, New Hampshire for their generous donation to help the animals. This money has allowed us to set up an emergency fund for needy animals requiring veterinary attention.

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