

# Voice For Animals

460 Buckfield Road, South Paris, ME 04281

**\*\* Winter 2004 \*\***

*Dear Friends,*

*With the death of Dewey, the miniature dachshund, who was drowned in Newmarket, New Hampshire last summer, in Canaan, Maine, the cruel beating of a golden retriever by a neighbor who bragged about it, and the loss of thousands of creatures after three successive hurricanes in the Southwest, we are reminded that there is still much to be done for animals in addition to the massive spay/neuter efforts we undertake on their behalf.*

*In this issue you will read about our on-going spay/neuter work, ways to set up a family evacuation plan which includes animals an article written by someone who refused to turn her back on an animals in need and much, much more.*

*As we enter the Holiday season and the coldest months of the year which lie beyond, we ask that you consider remembering the animals who need your support. They give so much and ask so little in return. Won't you please help us make their Holidays brighter, their winters warmer, and their lives safer? They are depending on all of us to see them through.*

*There is so much left to be done for these wonderful creatures that the task often seems overwhelming. Recently, I came across the poem which follows speaking to me about the success of our accomplishments and the courage we all need to do more. I hope it warms your heart as much as it did mine.*

*For the animals,  
Caryl McIntire Edwards*

## **Say Not the Struggle Naught Availeth**

by Arthur Hugh Clough ( 1819-1861)

*(This was taken from a tribute to the memory of Gretchen Hersman in the **In Defense of Animals** magazine, Spring 2004)*

*Say not the struggle naught availeth.  
The labor and the wounds are vain,  
The enemy faints not, nor faileth,  
And as things have been, things remain...*

*For while the tired waves, vainly breaking  
Seem here no painful inch to gain,  
Far back, through creeks and inlets making  
Comes silent, flooding in, the main.*

*And not by eastern windows only  
When daylight comes, come in the light;  
In front the sun climbs slow, how slowly!  
But westward, look! The land is bright!*

# Voice For Animals

460 Buckfield Road, South Paris, ME 04281

**\*\* Winter 2004 \*\***

## In Memoriam

*“Dust thou art, to dust returnest,”*

*Was not spoken of the soul.*

*fr. “A Psalm of Life” by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*

- In memory of Orrel Handy Frost of Cape Neddick, Maine and on behalf of her beloved husband, Charles Frost of 4 Ledge View Lane, Cape Neddick, Maine. Given by friend Lisa M. Palmieri.
- In memory of Josephine (“Flying Machine”) Edwards- You came from the Animal Welfare Society in West Kennebunk on August 12, 1986-my birthday. You were rescued from an apartment where you had been kept in a closet and regularly beaten. You found love in my home-even so, it took you **six months** before you came near enough to me to let me touch you and another six before you snuggled in my lap. You were named for the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century song *“Josephine in her Flying Machine”* because you jumped and climbed and flew from place to place as if you had to make up for your long weeks of incarceration in first a closet and then a cage. How did time fly so quickly? You were young and so suddenly you became old... You gave so very much love and you will always be remembered with much love in return.
- In memory of Balzac (“Zickle-Pickle”) Edwards. A wonderful, sweet, gentle happy guy! You outlived all the other animals who moved here from York (including your litter mates Oliver and Noir-Elle) and you lived each day of your life with the utmost dignity and love. You are sorely missed.
- In memory of Charlie (“Chuchie Pie”) Edwards- You also came from the Animal Welfare Society. You were brought there by humane agent, Jeanene Wilson, having been taken, matted and caked in feces, from yet another abusive home. The manager had saved you especially for my mother and you and she became very bonded. When she died, you grieved deeply, and I believe you thought that I had stolen her from you. With much effort on both of our parts we came to be friends and ultimately family. May you find happiness in chasing butterflies and finding my/your mother once again. Caryl Edwards
- In memory of Chloe-my money colored cat. Your quiet, gentle ways brightened all of our days. Four years was hardly long enough. Lymphoma stole you from us far too quickly.
- In memory of Phoenix Edwards. You came to my home on an October morning in 1997. I believe you must have been eating in my garage, along with other cats in the neighborhood. You had been hit and dragged by a car. Your tail had been sheared off,

# Voice For Animals

460 Buckfield Road, South Paris, ME 04281

**\*\* Winter 2004 \*\***

you had septicemia, and you had been shot! How could you ever survive?? And yet you did! You were neutered and then you and I began a medicine routine (fighting over it daily). Thank goodness I won! You made the front page of the Lewiston Sun Journal, looking for a home. It was felt that you would not do well in a household with other animals because you only seemed to trust people, but everyone who called had many animals, so you stayed in my multianimal household, trusting only me and any other human who might have been visiting. You were a curmudgeon without question! But I hope I can always be worthy of the love and trust you showed me. You will always be cherished and always missed.

- In memory of Willie who disappeared when my husband was taking him to the vets. Whatever happened to you? I tried so hard to find you and never did. Your memory will always be cherished and prayers for your safety will continually be made.
- In memory of Wilbur, a pig, caught by a step granddaughter in a pig scramble and brought to this property. Because it was all anathema to me I searched far and wide for a sanctuary where you could live safely all of your days. I finally found one which seemed to be acceptable for you. After much negotiation, I left you and money for your keep. Phone messages were consistently answered until I said I was coming to visit and then I received a letter saying that you had escaped and had been killed by a pick up truck. It may be true, but there are so many things which do not add up. You gave so much and asked so little. From the moment of your birth until the moment of your death (however it occurred) you always were so very much more than meat. You make us realize, once again, how desperately we need more farm sanctuaries across the country and especially, for us, here in Maine and New Hampshire Caryl McIntire Edwards

To each of the animals who shared my home and my heart may you find butterflies to chase and know always how much you are loved. Until we meet again... Caryl McIntire Edwards

- In memory of Dewey, the miniature dachshund, stolen and murdered for the love of a man... You are now safe and free, may your person find comfort in the knowledge that the Rainbow Bridge will one day bring you both together again...Caryl McIntire Edwards
- Emmy was a shy little stray. It took me two years to capture and spay her. She was so happy that she was no longer continuously in heat and having kittens. She had a couple of very happy years just doing kitty things until she became a victim of a hit and run in front of my house. Shame on whoever you are for not having the decency to stop. (Joyce Gracie)

# Voice For Animals

460 Buckfield Road, South Paris, ME 04281

*\*\* Winter 2004 \*\**

## CHAPTER REPORTS

### **Milton, New Hampshire**

#### Trap-Neuter-Return-The Only Humane Solution

Millions of cats are killed in shelters each year because they are not adoptable. We believe that feral cats deserve to live and should not be destroyed because they are wild. All across the country and in Europe a feral cat management program called Trap-Neuter-Return ( TNR), is having a dramatic impact on solving feral cat problems. The TNR solution is a proven system in which feral cats are humanely trapped, vaccinated, and neutered by veterinarians. Kittens and tame cats are adopted into good homes. Adult cats too wild to be adopted are returned to their colonies to live out their lives under the watch of voluntary caregivers.

TNR works. The breeding stops as populations are gradually reduced. The cats are vaccinated against disease and are fed on a regular schedule. The annoying behaviors of breeding cats, like fighting, yowling, and spraying cease. Fed cats will not have to scavenge for food in trash cans and dumpsters. Eradication doesn't work. Trap and remove schemes-which must be done on an ongoing basis-is extremely costly to communities. Because feral cats are wild and unadoptable, "removing" invariably equals killing. What's more, other cats move in to take advantage of the newly available resources, breed prolifically and quickly begin forming a new colony. The ineffectiveness of eradication is well documented.

TNR is the humane, non-lethal method of population control, is more effective than trap and kill, and is more reflective of a caring society.

For more information check out this valuable web site: [www.wildaboutcats.com](http://www.wildaboutcats.com)

### **Waterville-Winslow Chapter**

We have been very busy, as usual, with rescues and fundraising. The rescue of a large number of cats who were living in cages in a homeless person's van took a lot of time and resources, fortunately most of those cats have been adopted now. We continue to foster the unadoptable ones, those we feel need extra care, or that are feral. We also have been helping low income people with the cost of their pets' medications and treatments, as funds allow. We have had several bake sales as well as a yard sale; most recently we had a bake sale at Sam's Club in Augusta. Our volunteer bakers have been tremendously

# Voice For Animals

460 Buckfield Road, South Paris, ME 04281

**\*\* Winter 2004 \*\***

generous, helping us to raise some much-needed cash to pay for medical assistance for the animals we rescue. We are working on an ongoing raffle, and an event in January to sustain us through the winter. This year's walkathon was not as successful as last year's, and we are going to revert to the old format again next year to regain the ground we lost. We are still working on the refinement of our database, trying to keep better track of vet records and animal histories. The local veterinarians are very helpful, always willing to see an animal on short notice, and always available to answer questions. We hope to have our chapter newsletter out by early December, time permitting.

## **Oxford Hills Chapter**

The Oxford Hills chapter has been busy using grant money to get cats (and a few dogs) spayed and neutered. In all, we were able to help fifty-four cats and three dogs (thanks to the Ahimsa grant). We continue dispersing food to several people who regularly feed stray cats. We have not been as successful trapping them and, as a result, several colonies have had kittens. If we are able to catch any and someone is interested in fostering or adopting please call Betsy at 935-4045.

Because one of our members is a teacher in a local school district she has access to the "school bulletin board." It, therefore, became a goal to contact every individual who offered kittens and puppies "free" to a good home. The project started off fairly well. Appointments were set up, carriers were provided, and arrivals were closely monitored. However, the last family had many cats and kittens. The Voice member went to visit this home and discovered that forty felines were using one litter box filled with dirt which was already saturated with urine. She provided more cat boxes and litter. She also set up appointments which were rarely kept. Additionally, most of the cats were sick with feline leukemia. Euthanasia was offered but the family preferred to allow the cats to experience that horrible death which is associated with the disease.

When it became obvious that few animals would be neutered and that it did not even seem important to honor the people who generously offered help, one of the state humane agents was called. She arrived at the home, tucked away on a back road (How many are like this?) and told the woman of the house in no uncertain terms that the cats needed to be taken care of and that she would give her one month to do so. When she returned, all of the felines were gone. Where? Did they die the miserable deaths of leukemia cats? Were they abandoned or were they killed? We will never know. Additionally there were at least seven dogs chained to stakes outside. One, a Dalmatian, had given birth to a large number of puppies. The woman complained about the dog who had impregnated her dog. She was advised that when she left a female in heat outside she would have to take what she got... The only good thing that happened here was that the puppies were taken to a shelter and all were promptly adopted and the family was put on notice. Did we stop suffering? Hardly! What we did do was save the lives of some animals who never should

# Voice For Animals

460 Buckfield Road, South Paris, ME 04281

**\*\* Winter 2004 \*\***

have been brought into this world. And how many times is this repeated on back roads and in hidden driveways across the country?

This year the web site was checked again. A student known to the Voice member was offering kittens (also known to have leukemia). When asked if she would like help she responded to an e-mail in big letters 'YES!' "How many cats do you have?" she was asked. "The Big Number 15!" was the response. There seems to be no end; but we must strive to see that there is an end...someday. We owe these animals no less.

We have had a few bake sales at Pet Quarters in Auburn. If anyone in this area is interested in donating items for future sales they can also call Betsy in Fryeburg at 935-4045. Your efforts help these animals tremendously.

The Oxford Hills Chapter was also represented at PetFest 2004 held at the Oxford County Fairgrounds. It was a rather rainy day but many good contacts were made and our name got "out there."

## **York Chapter**

The York chapter has become revitalized. We are now working with Earlene Blaisdell, ACO from North Berwick, who has largely paid for all of their animal expenses out of her own pocket.

Elyse Kehl, of Kittery Point, is also to be commended. When she discovered that the property she and her husband were building on was overrun with stray and feral cats she did not turn her back on them. Voice for Animals will be helping with this effort. Additionally, Whitney Boyd of Kittery has worked diligently to trap and place the cats left behind by careless neighbors in the trailer park in which she lives. Ramona Abella, a social worker from Portsmouth, is also to be commended for the donation cans she faithfully connects each month and Deb Seigny and Tom Nelson for rolling up the coins and seeing that they are deposited in our bank account. The Kennebunk Savings Bank also helped by donating grant money to support our on-going efforts.

As with each chapter, we need more people, more time, and more money. There is so much to be done.

## **Richmond Chapter**

I have been working on a situation with an individual in my town who had too many unsprayed/unneutered and neglected pets. This man claimed to love his pets, but did not understand the importance of spay/neuter or indeed veterinary care at all. I helped him get the female cats he wanted to keep spayed, took 3 to the shelter, adopted one myself and found homes for three others. Caring for one of the cats entailed numerous trips to the Animal Emergency Clinic last winter. This cat was very sweet and affectionate, but also very ill. I kept him in my spare bedroom until he was well enough to place. I

# Voice For Animals

460 Buckfield Road, South Paris, ME 04281

**\*\* Winter 2004 \*\***

convinced him to take one of his dogs to the vet when I discovered she had lost most of her hair and was covered in fleas. Amazingly enough all of these animals had very sweet and loving dispositions. The saddest part of this story is that there are so many other animals out there who do not end up getting the help or the homes that they deserve.

Thank you to the Animal Emergency Clinic in Lewiston and At Home Veterinary Clinic in West Gardiner for helping with these situations.

I went to the Cordice arraignment in Skowhegan prepared to protest and bring attention to his vile act of animal cruelty. Unfortunately only Bob Fiske (Maine Friends of Animals), myself and one other person showed up. We did sit in on the hearing.

I also went to as many press conferences and gatherings as I could in support of the bear referendum.

**For information about individual chapters please call the following people**

**Milton, New Hampshire:** Kim Goodall 603-755-3560

**York, Maine:** Caryl Edwards 207-743-6290

**Oxford, Maine:** Betsy Shivers 207-935-4045; Becky MacDonald 207-597-2323; Caryl Edwards 207-743-6290

**Richmond:** Joyce Gracie 207-737-2589

**Waterville-Winslow:** Dot Bickford 207-453-2113

## **Animal Cruelty Law**

Despite a new law passed that makes aggravated animal cruelty a felony, the news is full of animal cruelty stories. Keith Cordice of Canaan was charged with felony aggravated animal cruelty for beating a golden retriever with a walking stick, leaving him blind and bleeding and dumping him in a gravel pit. Justice Joseph Jabar reduced the charge to a misdemeanor. Gary Monto of Lewiston beat and tossed a cat from a second floor window – he got seven days in jail. The cat had to be put to sleep. John Witham of Augusta backed his truck over the cat carrier containing his girlfriend's pregnant cat following an argument. And we all know about the case of Shannon Walters and Erin Wylie of New Hampshire who drowned Dewey, the little dachshund out of jealousy. These vile people get defended in court. What about the animals? How many more are there out there in this kind of peril? When you hear about cases like these, please pay attention, write letters to the editor, attend the hearings if you can. The state needs to know we want gross animal abuse treated as a FELONY as the law states. This law is useless if not enforced.

## **Spay ME Program**

Maine has a new low-income spay/neuter program to help low-income families and individuals with the cost of spaying and neutering their pets. When New Hampshire

# Voice For Animals

460 Buckfield Road, South Paris, ME 04281

**\*\* Winter 2004 \*\***

incorporated a similar program several years ago, the rate of animal shelter euthanasia (due to over population) was dramatically decreased. To help fund this program, Maine is adding a check off box on the Maine State Tax Form so people can voluntarily contribute to this important program to help control the pet overpopulation problem and reduce the euthanasia rate of cats and dogs in Maine. For other ways to contribute to this program, see the ad in this newsletter.

## **Bear referendum**

As you all know, the effort to ban the cruel and unsportsmanlike practices of baiting, hounding and trapping bear failed, but not by much. Over 300,000 Mainer's voted to end these cruel and unsporting practices. Most of these people did not know these disgusting practices even existed. They are not likely to forget them or who supports them. Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife worked with the Sportsmen's Alliance of Maine and the bear camp owners to defeat this referendum. Many people are questioning the part IF&W, a state agency played in this. A state agency should be working for all citizens of the state. It was certainly not working for the 300,000 who voted to end these barbaric practices.

## **WAM**

A new organization called WAM (Wildlife Alliance of Maine) has recently been formed. This is an organization formed by Maine residents to keep the state's citizens informed about wildlife issues. This is a membership based organization and they need our help to get a good start on protecting the wildlife of our state. Please check out their website at [www.wildlifealliancemaine.org](http://www.wildlifealliancemaine.org).

## **Winter Protection for Dogs**

Cold weather is here with much more to come. If you see a dog tied outside without shelter available, please contact your local police or animal control officer.

Section 7 4015, 2.B. of the "State of Maine Animal Welfare Laws and Regulations" book states "If a dog is tied or confined unattended outdoors under weather conditions that adversely affect the health of the dog, a shelter of suitable size with a floor above ground and waterproof roof must be provided to accommodate the dog and protect it from the weather and, in particular, from severe cold. Inadequate shelter may be indicated by the shivering of the dog due to cold weather for a continuous period of 30 minutes."

Remember – they can't speak for themselves – they need us to be their voice.

# Voice For Animals

460 Buckfield Road, South Paris, ME 04281

**\*\* Winter 2004 \*\***

## **Horse Slaughter** (Human Activist, Volume 6, Number 3)

“Each year about 55,000 horses are killed in a few foreign-owned slaughterhouses in the United States for the overseas horsemeat market. Thousands are shipped live to Canadian and Mexican slaughterhouses. Horses of virtually all ages and breeds-as well as mules, hinneys and donkeys-are slaughtered...

The trip to the slaughterhouse can be a true trail of tears for these sensitive animals. Crammed together and sometimes transported in double-deck trucks, they're often hauled thousands of miles over several days and go 24 hours or more without food, water, or rest. Some animals are seriously injured or die during the journey. At the slaughterhouse, the animals are forced into holding stalls, where they endure blows to the head with captive bolt guns to render them unconscious. But many horses are inadequately stunned and still conscious when they're hoisted by a rear leg to be bled out and dismembered. Many Americans don't know that our "surplus" horses often end up on dinner plates in Belgium, France, Holland, Italy, Japan, and other countries. Opinion polls show that the vast majority strongly oppose horse slaughter, but by maintaining a low profile, the industry has profited on the steady stream of unwanted horses and other equids in this country. A few states have passed laws intended to prevent some of the worst abuses but their enforcement has been weak and criminal convictions are rare.

...The American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act ( H.R. 857/S. 2352)-introduced by Reps. John Sweeney ( R-NY) and John Spratt (D-SC) and Senators John Ensign ( R-NV) and Mary Landrieu (D-LA)-would prohibit the slaughter, import, export, trade, and transport of live horses, other equids, and horsemeat for human consumption. The bill encourages humane euthanasia or placement with an animal rescue organization for homeless horses. It also contains provisions for grants to rescue organizations that accept confiscated equines...

***Urge your federal legislators to support the American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act!***

## **Major Web-Based Initiative Launched to Save Desperate Horses**

In response to the massive "layoff" of pregnant mares engaged "PMU" Industry, United Animal Nations announced the launch of PMURescue.org databases of adoptable horses once utilized in the production of estrogen replacement medications for women. There are 120 horses on the web site today. It is the hope that ranchers and rescue groups will take advantage of this and offer or find homes for these needy animals. It is the hope that this will make the difference between life and death for *many* (they did not say all). For more information go to [www.unan.org/news](http://www.unan.org/news) or to [www/PMURescue.org](http://www/PMURescue.org).

# Voice For Animals

460 Buckfield Road, South Paris, ME 04281

**\*\* Winter 2004 \*\***

## **Put “Downers” Out of Their Misery!**

*(reprinted from the **Humane Activist** Volume 5, Number 4-The grassroots agenda of the HSUS)*

Downed animals, livestock too sick or injured to walk, should be humanely euthanized—not dragged to slaughter. Letting sick animals end up on dinner plates is foolhardy. The Downed Animal Protection Act will create incentives to treat animals with more care and to protect consumers. Urge your U.S. senators to cosponsor S 1298 and your representative to cosponsor HR 2519 by calling the Capitol switchboard at 202-224-3121.

## **HSUS to Push For a Bill Including Poultry in the Humane Slaughter Act**

Since the 1950’s federal law has required that animals be rendered “insensible to pain” before slaughter. It seems like such a modest requirement reflecting our society’s belief that animals should not suffer unnecessarily. ***Yet this most basic requirement does not extend to more than 95 percent of the animals slaughtered for food in this country—nine billion a year—simply because it excludes poultry!***

To learn more about what you can do check out the web site listed below. (reprinted from the HSUS website To learn more, go to [www.hsus.ga4.org/campaigning/petition\\_for\\_poultry/](http://www.hsus.ga4.org/campaigning/petition_for_poultry/))

## **The Power of Pet Trusts, (reprinted from the *Humane Activist*)**

During the last decade, more than 20 states have passed laws allowing pet owners to establish trust funds to ensure that their animals are cared for after the caregiver has died. It is a movement that continues to gain steam. This type of trust provides peace of mind for caregivers. All too often, people assume that their pets will be taken care of by a friend or relative in the event of their death. However, local animal shelters too often see the unintended consequences for pets who are neglected or left homeless by people who simply do not care. Neither Maine nor New Hampshire has such a law, nor is one pending before state legislatures. This needs to be pursued as one of the many avenues which can reduce animal overpopulation and suffering.

The HSUS’s Office of Major and Planned Gifts is offering a free kit - “Providing for Your Pet’s Future Without You,” complete with a fact sheet, wallet alert cards, and emergency decals to help educate estate planning professionals and pet owners. The fact sheet includes sample pet-care language for estate planning documents. To order the kit,

# Voice For Animals

460 Buckfield Road, South Paris, ME 04281

**\*\* Winter 2004 \*\***

call 202-452-1100 or e-mail [gifts@hsus.org](mailto:gifts@hsus.org). The fact sheet is also available online at [www.hsus.org/petsinwills](http://www.hsus.org/petsinwills).

**The US Department of Defense and Endangered Species**, (reprinted from the *Humane Activist*)

Pending legislation would allow the military to conduct training and testing on the ground, in the air, and in oceans and waterways without any consideration of animals. The DOD *already* has the authority to seek exemptions from regulator agencies in the interest of national security and military readiness. Among the hundreds of endangered and threatened species living in military-controlled areas are bald eagles, whooping cranes, humpback whales, manatees, sea turtles, and Karner blue butterflies.

Urge your US senators and representatives to oppose provisions to the Defense Authorization Bill that would weaken environmental and wildlife protection laws for military activities. To reach your legislators, call the congressional switchboard a 202-224-3121.

## **Fund for Animals Merging with the Humane Society of the United States???**

The September 2004 issue of *Animal People* suggests exactly that. The magazine raised issues about cutbacks in staff and loss of funding, as people who donated to two organizations will now only donate to one. As to what will really happen, only time can tell, but with each passing day the merger appears to be more final.

## **Oh Really?!**

*Animal People* states in its most recent issue (Sept. 2004, pg. 11): “...carrying an unrestrained dog in an open vehicle appears to be specifically illegal only in Maine...” The burning question then is *Who enforces it???* The police do not seem to care. It's as if the law was not on the books. Does anyone have any suggestions as to how this might be remedied so that police **MUST** enforce it?

## **Did You Know?**

Bats are considered one of the most maligned and mistreated animals on our planet. To learn more go to [www.batworld.org](http://www.batworld.org) and click on ‘Wall of Shame’ to be a voice for those who have none.

**Ahimsa \$8,000-a drop in the bucket**

# Voice For Animals

460 Buckfield Road, South Paris, ME 04281

**\*\* Winter 2004 \*\***

Voice received a grant of \$8,000 (to be used on spay/neuter projects and medical assistance) from the Ahimsa Foundation last November. It was a wonderful, much appreciated gift and it was used up SO quickly. In spite of all our efforts; in spite of the fact that there are fewer homeless animals in the Northeast (specifically New England) we still have so very far to go to the day when there are not too many animals, when everyone finds a perfect home, and each one is valued deeply for the wonderful creature he or she is.

## **Where are the Animals??**

Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne devastated many areas of Florida and the Gulf Coast. The editor knows of two national animal organizations which help animals in times of disaster: EARS (Emergency Animal Rescue Service) which is a part of United Animal Nations and the emergency response team of the Humane Society of the United States.

Members of the HSUS team wrote in a recent newsletter of their “heartbreaking” work walking door to door in neighborhoods ravaged by debris, sand, and water, looking for animals. Sand was encountered everywhere which prevented rescue workers from even entering the barrier islands. It was obvious that there were animals to save because cat tracks dotted the sand and a dog howled in the distance, clearly hungry and alone.” By the second day they had rescued only one cat. Where were the animals? The greatest hope would be that they had left the area with the rest of their family but it was feared that many, many were buried under mountains of sand.

The Red Cross and most human rescue groups will not accept animals. With luck, this will change one day but it helps no animals now. Although FEMA rolls into operation and coordinates efforts with local and state management agencies there is still no plan set in stone for companion animals, farm animals, and trapped and injured wildlife but there MUST be.

Here in Maine and New Hampshire we have few natural disasters but from time to time we have blizzards, hurricanes, floods, and ice storms. It is imperative that each family in both states have its own evacuation plan which includes the animals who depend on them. United Animal Nations and The Humane Society of the United States (both web sites listed in this newsletter) can help you in setting up your own plan. We all need to do it; we owe the animals we love no less.

## **Tips on Caring for Your Animals in Times of Disaster**

- Always keep a collar and tag on those animals who should normally wear collars. This includes cats who never go out. Make sure it is a breakaway collar, which is

# Voice For Animals

460 Buckfield Road, South Paris, ME 04281

**\*\* Winter 2004 \*\***

designed to slip over the cat's head should the collar get caught on something. Put your name and address on the collar.

- Identify several possible locations where you can take your animals should you have to evacuate.
- Start a buddy system with someone in your neighborhood so they can check on your animals (and evacuate them, if necessary) during a time of disaster when you are not home and agree to do the same for them.
- Keep an extra week's supply of animal food (in addition to your own food) to be used in the event of a disaster.
- Have at least a week's supply of water in storage at all times for yourself and your animals.
- Take several pictures of all the animals in your household (including farm animals) and keep them with your important insurance papers which you would need to have with you in a time of disaster.
- Talk to your veterinarian to see if s/he has a disaster plan.
- If your animal is on long term medication always keep a back up supply on hand, since a veterinary office may not be open for some time following a disaster.
- Have a cat carrier assembled and ready to go for *each* cat in your household or an "evacsack" as an alternative. (It is similar to a pillowcase but is safer and takes up less space than a carrier-you would need to have carrier ready to assemble when you reach your destination.) For purchase call 1-800-338-ACES)
- Have a harness and a leash ready for the dogs in your household. (A harness will provide secure control of the dog should s/he panic.)
- Be sure to provide comfort to your animals.
- Know where to find the animal shelter or rescue organizations in your area.

For more information contact [www.uan.org/ears/companionanimals.html](http://www.uan.org/ears/companionanimals.html). To become a volunteer contact [www.uan.org/ears/volunteer](http://www.uan.org/ears/volunteer). You can also check the website of the Humane Society of the United States ([www.hsus.org](http://www.hsus.org)) and they will provide information, as well.

## **Animals in Darfur, Sudan,**

In the midst of this great humanitarian crisis few have thought to ask about where the animals are. A recent writer to *Animal People* states that "the janjweed militias have killed countless domestic animals and our wildlife has escaped to Chad and Libya. Warfare normally brings epidemics, and the remaining animals have not been spared. Most of the nongovernmental organizations working in Darfur are concerned only with trying to relieve the human suffering. Animals are not receiving consideration. We hope you will look into this. We need drugs and vehicles to distribute them.

*-Mustafa Bakrawi  
Sudanese Animal Care  
P.O. Box 227, El Obied  
Kordufan State, Sudan*

# Voice For Animals

460 Buckfield Road, South Paris, ME 04281

**\*\* Winter 2004 \*\***

[sacepsks@hotmail.com](mailto:sacepsks@hotmail.com)

(This letter written to **Animal People** and printed in their September issue indicates how very tragic disaster situations always are for animals. As in this instance support is provided for people; often none is available for animals.)

**Looking for a Wonderful Home:** Older Morgan-type mare who has recently lost her long time equine companion is looking for a new home. It is hoped that she will be able to find a new long-time equine friend there, as well. She can also be ridden lightly. If you are interested, contact Peg Rearick at 966-3630.

**Thank you!!**

**A huge “Thank you!” to Thomas Grant, an accountant in Waterville, who for two years in a row has done our annual income tax free of charge.**

**A second huge “Thank you!” to Seth Mercier of Waterville for being our webmaster. And not only that, his company Kenbrio hosts our website free of charge.**

**Your kindness and your efforts in our behalf are greatly appreciated.**

## **Board of Directors:**

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