



Chaining's Victims

Amanda Arrington, Terri Rutter, and Adam Goldfarb ("A Dog's Best Friend," Mar/Apr 2009) are my heroes. When I was a child, my sisters and I had a collie mix we called Dodi. We lived in an open neighborhood—no fences. My dad would tie Dodi up in the backyard a lot. Some boys on bikes would ride through our yard. Holding small branches just out of Dodi's reach, they would hit her on the nose while she barked and cried. We couldn't always be around to stop them. One day Dodi broke the rope and attacked one of the boys. (The boy was not hurt.) A complaint was filed and Animal Control took Dodi away. We never saw her again.

At age 10 I learned a valuable lesson. None of my dogs were ever tied up. They had runs or fenced backyards when outside.

— CYNTHIA PACHECO, AMARILLO, TEXAS



WASHINGTON HUMANE SOCIETY

Pack hunting ("Hound Hunting: No Life for a Dog," Jan/Feb 2009) should be outlawed in every state for its barbaric, heartless abuse of innocent animals. Starved, blinded in one eye, and desperate, a hound found its way to our door seeking food and water. His gentleness stole our hearts as we took him in and revived his broken body and soul. My husband and I cherish animals and are dedicated to doing all we can to help. Giving to your organization assures us that we're not alone in this fight. — JOAN TSHIRLIG, RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

Puppy Mill Fallout

Regarding "Pressure Mounts Against Petland" (Mar/Apr 2009), we all know the conditions in puppy mills are usually less than humane. However, I've witnessed the brand new hell some of these animals have to endure in their new homes. Since our local Petland opened, I've seen an absurd increase in the number of purebred and designer breeds in the four shelters I work with. They're often suffering from congenital defects or neglect, or they were turned in when the person discovered he or she wasn't able to care for a new pet.

Please remember the other world after Petland has sold a puppy. It's often not much better than where the animal came from.

— JENNIFER DOLL, DVM, SOLON, IOWA

A Poor Sport

Living on a 1,000-acre-plus wildlife sanctuary, I have been involved in cases where hunters intentionally and admittedly refuse to aid in the prosecution of poachers. The answer to cracking down on poaching ("No Place for Poaching," Mar/Apr 2009), as well as most other wildlife problems, is to wrest control of

the state wildlife agencies from the sport hunters and place it into the hands of people who care about all wildlife, not just the "game species," as well as the whole ecosystem. Hunting is on the path to extinction and the change to a holistic wildlife management system is inevitable, but the sooner it becomes the norm, the better for all species involved, including nonhunting humans.

— DAVID KVERAGAS, NEWTON TOWNSHIP, PENNSYLVANIA



I was just reading "Truth in Numbers" (Mar/Apr 2009). The numbers of animals who are being put down every year is very disturbing. I don't think that people in the community realize how big

the problem is! I think the billboard or poster of the pets being put to sleep every year would work well in Ohio. Most of the people I know end up going to Petland because you can pick up a "designer dog" quickly. Many people don't realize that purebred dogs and cats can be found at the local shelter. I didn't realize that so many were being put down, and there's no reason for it.

— JESSICA STROBEL, COLUMBUS, OHIO

Contact Us WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Send your feedback, and please include your contact information. Letters may be edited for clarity and space.



THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES

All Animals/The HSUS
Letters to the Editor
2100 L Street, NW
Washington, DC 20037

allanimals@humanesociety.org

Fur Real

I just watched the horrible video of the raccoon dog being skinned alive, and I cry every time I think about those poor animals. Can't we stop the countries that do this? Thank you for bringing this to my attention. I didn't even know these beautiful creatures existed until I read your magazine.



— MICHELE BERWICK, GREENVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA