



For some people, companion animals are much more than companions. This issue's cover story ("Someone to Watch Over Me," p. 34) explores how veterans' hospitals around the country are using the unconditional love provided by dogs to help heal the psychic wounds of soldiers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. And the benefits are mutual, as military veterans help rambunctious shelter dogs develop the manners that will make them more adoptable.

Among our usual mix of stories, you'll also find a feature about the complex relationships between people and dogs in Third World countries, a Humane Law Forum on the thorny issue of adopters who give an animal to a third party, and a "101" Department

explaining the importance of basic intake exams.

Beyond our pages, you'll find tips galore at Animal Care Expo, set for May 4 through 7 at Disney's Coronado Springs Resort in Orlando, Fla. Expo is the world's largest training conference and trade show for animal welfare workers. It offers workshops on cutting-edge techniques, displays of the latest products in the field, and a chance for you to network with your peers and get reinvigorated about the life-saving work you do. For information, go to animalsheltering.org/expo or call 800-248-EXPO.

—Carrie, James, Jim, and Shevaun
Animal Sheltering magazine staff

Protect Against Carbon Monoxide

I wanted to share with you all an important, eye-opening experience that happened here at our shelter. Our vet clinic staff smelled smoke and thought they saw smoke. I figured it was the heat kicking on for the first time here in chilly Massachusetts. It happens every year when the heat first goes on ... smells like burning for a few minutes.

Just for safety's sake I called our fire department and asked them to come out to check our carbon monoxide levels. Immediately when they walked in, the detectors started picking up readings of carbon monoxide from 30 to 44 [parts per million]—when they should be zero.

Thankfully it was less than an hour from the time staff noticed it until the fire department came out, but carbon monoxide is

odorless and colorless, so it was quite by accident that it was detected. The paramedics came out to monitor our staff as a precaution, and none of the staff monitored had any symptoms of exposure. After [staff were] out of the building for only a few minutes, [the readings] were back to zero.

So the lesson learned is to make sure all your buildings and floors have a carbon monoxide detector in them, and that they are working. We used to have one in our clinic, but the anesthesia machines and all our equipment started setting them off on a daily basis, so we removed them. We've updated our protocols and have moved machines around and reset/updated the buildings with new carbon monoxide units with fresh batteries.

The fire chief told me that the carbon monoxide detectors would have picked up a read-

ing at 0.09 and alerted us, and we were at 30 to 44. Had the staff been exposed to that all day, we may have had some real issues ... and I don't even want to think about that. I hope everyone learns from our experience.

On a side note, I also encourage you all who have on-site vet clinics to make sure your equipment is serviced/upgraded and calibrated yearly to monitor the readings of the anesthesia units. Though it's somewhat expensive, it will extend the life of your equipment, keep your pets and staff safe, and generally give your staff the feeling that you are concerned for their well-being.

Leigh Grady, Executive Director
Animal Shelter Inc.
Sterling, Mass.

Good Reading

The November-December 2010 issue of *Animal Sheltering* is one of the best issues yet. Three articles in particular were very interesting and helpful: "Whose Animal is it?" (p. 47), "Rescued from Squalor" (p. 22), and "For Better and For Worse" (p. 8). I'm still working on reading through it in between everything else we do here, but I wanted to let you know that your magazine keeps me up to date in all areas of sheltering.

Rosemary Lyons, Education Coordinator
Pasco County Animal Services
Land O'Lakes, Fla.

Correction

"Once More, With Spirit" (Nov-Dec 2010, p. 14) inaccurately noted that Jackson, the Weimaraner/pit bull mix who traveled across the country on his way to a new home, was at one point scheduled for euthanasia. According to Joe Pulcinella of the Rancho Cucamonga Animal Care and Services Department in California, the shelter which originally cared for Jackson, the dog had gone through a training class, was getting lots of attention from volunteers, and was very adoptable.