

Hope on the Rez

I just finished reading “A Mission of Hope and Healing” (November/December 2009). As tears flowed down my face, joy spread through my heart. Nowhere in our country is neglect more widespread than on Native American reservations. What once were a proud people are now some of the poorest and most hopeless. It makes me prouder than ever to be a member of an organization that sees the need to help these people care for their animals and to educate them. I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

— KIM BUTLER, DOUGLASVILLE, GEORGIA



“A Mission of Hope and Healing” is a very nice article addressing the complex issues facing rural communities. But on page 18, in the passage that reads “with no access to preventive medicines, ani-

mals pick up parasites from horse manure or mange from ticks in the sagebrush,” both claims are medically impossible. No internal parasites of horses infect dogs or cats. Our pets contract intestinal parasites from eating carcasses, eating or walking through infested grass or soil, or hunting and eating rodents and rabbits. Sarcoptic mange can be contracted from the environment in areas where wildlife are present, but that is through direct infestation of the brush with mites that then infest another warm-blooded animal. Skin parasites of dogs don’t infect ticks, though ticks in the sagebrush could spread any number of blood-borne diseases. Thank you for your publication and your help to animals.

— ELIZABETH A. LAYNE, DVM, BOZEMAN, MONTANA

Let’s Stay Together

I was delighted with your article, “A Lifeline for Struggling Pet Owners” (November/December 2009). As an extremely hard-core dad to six angel baby cats, I worry daily what will happen to my babies when I am gone. I am not in the best of health; when I saw your article, it was a godsend. Keep up the good work!

— JOSEPH THOMPSON, GOLDEN, COLORADO

EDITOR’S NOTE: We’re glad the story has given you peace of mind, Mr. Thompson. Right in your backyard is Denver’s Dumb Friends

League, an early partner with The HSUS in pioneering programs for pet owners in need of assistance. For a list of animal welfare organizations throughout the U.S. that offer financial assistance, foster care, and other services—and to find pet care and behavior tips—visit humanesociety.org.



MEHMET SALIH GULER/ISTOCK

Don’t Fence Them In

I am deeply troubled by the barbaric practice you exposed to your readers of penning foxes and coyotes to be mauled by starving dogs (“No Escape,” November/December 2009). How can a civilized society permit such a cruel “competition”? Please focus your talents and energy on enacting/enforcing federal and state laws banning this heinous blood sport nationwide. Please keep your members advised of your efforts, and tell us how we can help.

— DIANE SEWARD, POTOMAC, MARYLAND

Thank you for the excellent article on wildlife penning. It was fantastic. I am just a housewife who heard Jeremy and Christin’s story on our local news channel a few months back and e-mailed them. I am now trying to help get this outlawed. I sent the article to as many folks as I could find addresses for.

— B.J. WOLFF, PENSACOLA, FLORIDA

EDITOR’S NOTE: The HSUS is actively fighting fox and coyote penning, which occurs in the Southeast and Midwest. In North Carolina, home to more than 100 active pens, we are supporting a bill to prohibit the practice; we’ve also backed efforts to end penning in Florida, where the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission plans to examine the issue in February. Readers who live in states where pens are allowed can write or e-mail state legislators demanding an end to this cruelty. Learn more at humanesociety.org/wildlifeabuse.

No More War

Thank you so much for your informative article “War on Wolves” (November/December 2009).

It is distressing that the wolf is singled out as the animal to be killed by any means possible. The good that wolves are responsible for is overlooked: keeping moose and caribou herds healthy and strong by thinning out the weak, feeding many other animals with their leavings. Every effort should be made to help them increase instead of reducing their populations to the lowest possible survival rate. The alternative is extinction.

— CHARLES A. BAYNE, ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND



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