

## A Word From Us

Normally in our Show Me the Money department, *Animal Sheltering* features fundraising ideas. This time, though, we're talking about fundsaving via a recent tax court decision that has implications for those involved in animal rescue and fostering work. After all, as Benjamin Franklin mentioned, a penny saved ...

We have our usual great mix of stories for you, but wanted to highlight a recent alert to the Washington Federation of Animal Care & Control Agencies that caught our attention. In her note, Denise McVicker, deputy director of the Humane Society of Tacoma & Pierce County, referenced an article on microchipping from a publication of Ohio State University by researcher Linda K. Lord. Among its tips: "Avoid interference by scanning away from computers, metal tables and fluorescent lighting. Remove any metal collars prior to scanning."

McVicker noted, "We did our own 'test' here with my dog, who has an Avid chip. When using the Home Again scanner and the tag and collar ring were on top of his neck, we could not locate the chip, no matter how many times he was scanned or how slowly. When the collar was flipped so the metal part was facing the ground, the chip was found within a moment of scanning. ... Since this seems to be an issue, I believe all who might scan animals for microchips should be made aware of this potential for not picking up chips."

We couldn't agree more! Lord notes that the main thing "is to slow down and scan the whole animal." With multiple frequencies, she says, scanners can't handle speed; slower scans will be more accurate. Read Lord's entire article at [bit.ly/pDM5Dn](http://bit.ly/pDM5Dn).

Reader Paula Snyder wrote in with questions about an older story, "The URI Challenge," (January/February 2007, p. 53). Snyder writes, "With regard to stress reduction, which is better, to confine felines in condos 24/7 and socialize them within their condos, or to risk transient stress by having the same handful of volunteers work with the same cats three days per week, with a predictable routine of bringing them individually to a visiting room for one half hour at a time for individual attention?" Snyder was concerned about the advice against moving cats from one place to another. "Many of our cats come in already overweight, and keeping them sedentary isn't helping," she wrote.

We asked our sheltering experts. "Personally, I think it should depend on the individual cat," says Inga Fricke, director of sheltering and pet care issues at The HSUS. "If the cat is shy, easily stressed, and unhappy being handled, then making the living environment as happy as possible is paramount—assuming, of course, that they have ample living space to begin with. Life in a 2-by-2 box is unacceptable even if they get daily exercise sessions. If, on the other hand, the cat is outgoing and seems fairly well adjusted, giving her the opportunity to run and play is always a good thing. Alternatives like creating novel living spaces that give them the luxury of *both* is the ideal. From my perspective, enrichment programs should be flexible and based on the needs of the individual animal, rather than a 'one-size-fits-all' approach."

Just keep in mind that socialization spaces shared by multiple kitties (who don't live together on a daily basis) must go through a full cleaning between playtimes so that playtime doesn't end up passing along germs. See the July/August 2011 article "Spot-Cleaning Cat Cages" for more information!

—*Animal Sheltering* magazine staff

### Facebook fans fire off:

In response to our story about Wall-E, the puppy who survived euthanasia and proceeded to get thousands of adoption applications ("Here for a Reason," July/August 2011, p. 22), Facebooker **Jolly DogHouse** wrote, "My question always is: Where were those people before all the publicity? For instance, the dog who was supposedly euthanized, but 'came back to life.' Where were all the adopters before the little guy was euthanized; how come no one wanted to adopt him before that?" **Ann W.** noted: "Agree this kind of publicity is a mixed blessing. Good for the animal in the story, but those people applying from all over the country are overlooking many adoptable animals in their own communities. Let's support local shelters instead of looking for dramatic stories online."

*What do you think? Talk to us about our stories or what's going on in your community at [facebook.com/animalshelteringmagazine](http://facebook.com/animalshelteringmagazine), or email [asm@humanesociety.org](mailto:asm@humanesociety.org).*



**CORRECTION:** In the story "Spot-Cleaning Cat Cages," (p. 39 of the July/August 2011 issue), a caption identified Roy Silguero as an employee of the Frederick County Humane Society. Silguero is in fact a staff member at Frederick County Animal Control in Maryland, and the pictures showing spot-cleaning done right were taken at that agency. We regret the error.