

A Breed Apart

I was thrilled to read Carrie Allan's "A Tribute to Mutts" (January/February 2010). I have two rescue mutts myself. Not only are



they healthier and unique, they were more fun to watch grow. My Lab/basset was hilariously all out of proportion—little head, huge ears, tiny body, and enormous paws. We had no idea what she'd look like

when she was grown. She is still out of proportion, but there's nothing I would change. Thanks for reminding me why my shelter mutt was the best investment I've ever made.

— CYNTHIA MARLATT, MORRISON, COLORADO

I have two mutts, and all of my animals have always been mutts. I do feel it's the right thing to do to adopt a dog who needs a home rather than one who's been bred and born on purpose. Like Carrie, I also genuinely prefer mixed breeds for the same reasons she gave. And like Carrie's dog Coltrane, one of mine is getting older, and I keep thinking I'll never find another like him. And I won't. But God will send me another animal that needs a home and needs love, and he or she will be a unique addition to our family. May there be more articles like this and more people who love and appreciate mixed breeds!

— THERESA THEVENOTE, MARKSVILLE, LOUISIANA

My husband and I are the human part of a multiple-mutt household. All of our dogs are rescues from shelters or someone's "trash" left on the rural road on which we live. They range from those showing features of probably a purebred parent, to our Mollie, who resembles a mix of several animal species with a touch of alien thrown in for good measure. In my 16 years of volunteering at nursing homes, I have always had a mixed breed at the end of the leash. It is my way of showing people the kind souls who inhabit these sometimes strange-looking dog bodies. I wish those individuals spending exorbitant amounts of money for the current fad of designer breeds would visit their local shelters and adopt a true original.

— KATHY SMOCK, HURLOCK, MARYLAND



I so loved Carrie Allan's article about mutts. As an adoptive parent of six mutts over the years (including one senior dog) from local shelters, I can attest to their "onederfulness." Thank you again for the article.

— TERESA AMOS,
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

The Right Message

I just wanted to once again let you know what a great job All Animals does in explaining what The Humane Society is all about! When I joined after Hurricane Katrina, I had no idea that the organization was involved in so many different aspects of animal welfare. Being a long-time vegetarian, I am very impressed that each issue includes pages devoted to why and how people can reduce their meat consumption. As a national organization, you are doing a wonderful job explaining the harm done to animals, people, and the environment by raising animals for food.

— MARY ANN LEER, SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA

Leap of Faith

I am troubled that The HSUS would affiliate with organized religion ("Two Part Harmony," January/February 2010). A 2008 American Religious Identification Survey by researchers at Trinity College



in Hartford, Conn., found that 15 percent—34 million adults—gave their religion as "none." Another 5 percent—12 million adults—answered "don't know" or refused to reply. Thus, around 45 million American adults evidently are not churchgoing. I think it best that The HSUS remain a completely secular organization.

— DARRELL MORGAN,
GREENWOOD, INDIANA

FAITH OUTREACH PROGRAM DIRECTOR CHRISTINE GUTLEBEN

RESPONDS: Animals have friends in many areas of American life, including in religious communities. The HSUS believes that the humane treatment of animals is a cause that deserves attention everywhere—home, work, both sides of the aisle in the halls of government, at social venues, and, yes, at places of worship, too. Our campaigns on behalf of animals draw support from one of every 28 Americans, and that requires a very big tent. Our arguments are not with each other, but with those who exploit or mistreat animals. Learn more at humanesociety.org/faith.

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WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

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



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