A Word From Us

Most of us got into this work for the animals. (It certainly wasn’t for the high pay!) We hoped to make a connection with creatures in need, to save more lives, to make a change in the world. And it’s often the time we spend with the animals that’s most rewarding.

That said, now and then it’s necessary to stop and look around and deal with practical matters that, if addressed, can make the world better for both animals and people. In this issue, we delve into several, including partnerships between shelters and “friends of the shelter” groups, relationships that can be especially helpful to municipal agencies (p. 24); and methods to get your board members engaged in one of their primary roles: fundraising (p. 41).

Especially for rescue and other unsheltered groups, our Beyond the Shelter offers a look at how to acquire or prove your 501(c)(3) status for donors and tax purposes—happily, not as odious a process as you might imagine (p. 55).

In a less wonky vein, in our Life Preservers department (p. 35), we talk to the top two contestants in the 2011 $100K Saving Lives Challenge run by the ASPCA. Learn about how these organizations approached their goal to save more animals’ lives than they had the year before.

They met the challenge with enthusiasm and flair, and we congratulate them, the rest of the contestants, and all of the groups out there that are working to help more animals. Tell us about what you’re doing at asm@humanesociety.org, or get in touch on our Facebook page at facebook.com/animalshelteringmagazine.

Facebook fans were excited to see the signs of the Shelter Pet Project spreading across the country! We’ve been getting reports of the campaign turning up on billboards, bus shelters, and television sets. This sighting in Baltimore (above) got Facebookers Jill K. and Martha P. reporting that they’d spotted the campaign in Uniontown, Ohio, and Pittsfield, Mass. If you spot the campaign in your neck of the woods, let us know. Go to facebook.com/shelterpetproject.

I was recently made vice-president of our local humane society, a volunteer position, probably more on the strength of my enthusiasm than my experience in the animal welfare field (about a year). I’d love any back issues of Animal Sheltering magazine you can spare. I’ve found lots of good information from reading the ones that have come since I subscribed last year, and I know there is lots of good information that I’ve missed already. Thanks for the great work you are doing!

— Paula Thomson
Anderson Humane Society
Lawrenceburg, Ky.

Editor’s Note: Thanks for the note, Paula! Subscribers can email us any time for back issues at asm@humanesociety.org.

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We group all of the fat cats together in one of our colony rooms. By placing them together, being fat becomes a novelty and makes them a feature rather than just a “Wow, look how fat that cat is!” We call our room the “Large and Lovely” room. When we put them all together in a theme room, they get adopted like hotcakes. This prompted us to group animals in other ways and create more cute themes. It really works!

— Karen S. Walsh, LVMT
Executive director, McKamey Animal Center
Chattanooga, Tenn.