

## Doggone Coincidence

I was in my doctor's office today and picked up a copy of All Animals. Imagine my surprise when I realized that the hoarding situation profiled ("Rescued from Squalor," July/August 2010) was the one from which our dog Yoda was rescued!



Our family adopted her from Washington Animal Rescue League this spring. We visited WARL a few times before finding just the right dog—laid-back and even-tempered, but still curious about everything around her. Congratulations on the great work by all of the agencies involved.

— CAMMIE BACKUS, COLLEGE PARK, MARYLAND

## How Can We Stop the Cruelty?

Thank you so much for putting out a quality magazine dedicated to the protection and humane treatment of all animals! I was devastated when I read about bear baiting in South Carolina ("Torment in the Arena," September/October 2010). I cried and cried. What may I do to help? Who may I write or e-mail? What a sick, unethical practice. I can hardly believe this happens in the U.S.!

— GINGER BALLOU, COCOA BEACH, FLORIDA

Just when I thought humans could not sink any lower in terms of the kinds of cruelty and inhumane treatment they impose upon animals, I read your article about bear baiting. What you described is morally reprehensible. People who are involved in activities sponsored by the American Kennel Club and United Kennel Club should contact these organizations immediately and demand they cut off ties with the hound breed groups that organize these events. Perhaps encouraging people to look elsewhere for their next vacation getaway might be an effective way to stop South Carolina from allowing this barbaric practice to continue.

Thank you for bringing this terrible injustice to your readers' attention. What I found most disturbing about this article is the presence of children at these events. What kind of message does this send to a child? To me, it verges on child abuse. Studies have shown that children who participate in activities involving cruelty to animals have a higher likelihood of becoming abusers of both animals and humans as adults.

— JANET KIDD, FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

### HSUS WILDLIFE ABUSE CAMPAIGN DIRECTOR ANDREW PAGE

**RESPONDS:** Since our investigation into bear baiting, more than 50,000 of you have taken action. The American Kennel Club has since severed its connection to the practice by ending its affiliation with the breed club that hosts these competitions. Several state legislators have taken notice and will pursue legislation in 2011.

Please continue to ask the following agencies to end this practice: the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, 803-734-4007; Gov. Mark Sanford's office, 803-734-2100; and Attorney General Henry McMaster's office, 803-734-3970.

## The Kids Are Alright

It is so wonderful to read about these great kids who care so much about animals and their well-being ("Kids With a Cause," September/October 2010). Everyone needs to know about the horrors of puppy mills. With these kids and their passions, everyone will.

— MARILYN BIRD, FLORAL PARK, NEW YORK

## A Heart for Coyotes

I weep every time I read this magazine. "Inspired Reader Helps End Fox Penning" (September/October 2010) really got my attention because just last week my neighbor was telling me that another neighbor (who has too many dogs in the first place in pens in his yard) was going this week to get a lot of coyotes to put into an enclosed area and turn the dogs in to teach them to hunt. I was stunned. I did not know this was done or even allowed. Is this legal in Georgia, and is anything being done here? I really appreciate your work and efforts in what you are doing. I wish I could do more, but my prayers are with you.

— NAME WITHHELD

### HSUS WILDLIFE ABUSE CAMPAIGN MANAGER CASEY PHEIFFER

**RESPONDS:** Wildlife pens are fenced enclosures where dogs are released to pursue captive foxes and coyotes, and they are legal in Georgia. The dogs are judged on how they pursue the fenced wild animals, who are often harmed and even killed during the chase. It's a tough scene for any neighbor to witness. Please contact your state legislators (find their information at [humanesociety.org/leglookup](http://humanesociety.org/leglookup)) and tell them to prohibit pens in Georgia.

## Note from the Choir

Just a note to say that this was the first time I actually opened All Animals. I read it from cover to cover and found it wonderful! I neglected reading it until now because of my extreme sensitivity and love of animals. I find it upsetting to read about people abusing/neglecting animals, so I would just distribute the issues to doctors' offices or wherever lots of people gather to share in helping the cause. I had this "preaching to the choir" attitude and therefore did not see the need to read this magazine. Not anymore! Keep up the good writing.

— WENDY HENGEN, PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

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