

## Veteran Fans

*"Someone to Watch Over Me" (November/December 2010), coupled with the recent NOVA program "Decoding Dogs," provides ample scientific proof that dogs have a lot to offer the men and women returning from war. I hope the military, Congress, and anyone else*



*in a position to support these programs will get busy and get the red tape out of the way so dogs and veterans can get to work finding some well-being and*

*peace of mind. They sure as heck deserve it. The article was well-researched and well-written, and should be read by every citizen and politician in this country. Thanks, Carrie Allan, HSUS, and all the people mentioned in the article for what you do.*

— KATHY SPITLER, CHROMO, COLORADO

*Thank you so much for impeccable timing. I will be taking "Someone To Watch Over Me" with me when our family drives to Washington, D.C., next week to visit a 25-year-old Marine lieutenant, the son of close friends, who lost his left leg and right leg at the knee to an IED that exploded under him in Afghanistan on Oct. 17. I know it was no coincidence that this article was published now, or that our friend's son is at Walter Reed, mentioned in the article.*

*Having exercised dogs destined to be vet dogs—here on Long Island we have a program called America's VetDogs through the Guide Dog Foundation for the Blind—I always wondered how the dogs served returning vets. Thanks to your article, now I know. They not only mend broken bodies but broken minds. Thanks for a very well-written, well-timed piece!*

— SARAH ALDRIDGE, HUNTINGTON, NEW YORK

## Cruelty on Film

*I read the letters to the editor about the cruel practice of bear baiting in your last issue. I have been very disappointed that the Maine Public Broadcasting Network has been running on TV and online, throughout the month of November, a film featuring a positive and romanticized view of the "tradition" of bear baiting in Maine. This involves setting up food sites and shooting or using bows to kill the bears when they come to eat. I encourage readers to view the film in the Community Films section of mpbn.net and send a message to MPBN expressing disapproval of their promotion of this cruel activity.*

— BOYD JOHNSON, AUGUSTA, MAINE

## Factory Farm Effects

*Thank you so much for your continued efforts regarding factory farm animals! This is an issue that many organizations do not touch due to pressure from Big Ag. My husband and I have the misfortune to live near a factory farm that houses 8,000 dairy cows. The effect on our community has been devastating: hundreds of semi trucks going by per day and breaking up the roads, dust from feed in the air, the threat of well-water pollution, and a horrific stench every day, to say nothing of what it could be doing to our health.*

— JUDITH AND GARY JOLIN, PICKETT, WISCONSIN

## Readers Helping Readers

*I am grateful for the recent letters about canine degenerative myelopathy in your magazine. Until I read Leslie Grinnell's letter in the July/August 2010 issue, I had no idea what was wrong with my dog. After reading the letter, I went on the Internet to learn more. Although German shepherds may be more susceptible to this disease, they're not the only ones who can succumb to it. My 13-year-old mix weighs 25 pounds and looks like a mix of Yorkie, Pekinese, and Cairn terrier, maybe, but obviously has no German shepherd background.*

*She too still has interest in life, and I'm putting off euthanizing her as long as possible, especially since I had to have my other dog put down in the summertime due to kidney failure.*

— MARGARET BROWN, HALLSVILLE, MISSOURI

## Tears for Horses

*"Sore Winners" (November/December 2010) brought me to tears and made me heartsick. To read how this beautiful creature, John Henry, was reduced to cowering in his barn stall, covered in a cold sweat and completely engulfed in fear, is incomprehensible. He was terrified that he would once again be subjected to more intolerable pain. That these walking horses are so sickeningly physically abused to deliberately cause such unbearable pain and suffering just to be "the best in show ... the winner" is a criminal act of the highest degree!*

— MARYANN DWYER, STAMFORD, NEW YORK

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