I’m a speech-language pathologist with a passion for wildlife photography. It’s hard for me to find time to shoot, but when I do, I become relaxed and tranquil. During the Gulf oil spill, I felt helpless and devastated watching the images of oil-soaked birds. I channeled those feelings into photographing birds in my area. This great blue heron looked safe from any harm in the Viera Wetlands. He was such a beautiful and graceful bird, blissfully ignorant of the environmental devastation occurring hundreds of miles to the west. Seeing him made me happy—and in that moment, I felt at peace.

— Karen Rodriguez, Cocoa, Florida

Do you have an inspiring photo of a favorite pet or wild animal? Send it to us for possible publication in All Animals, along with an explanation of 150 words or fewer about why it’s meaningful to you. Photos should be at least 300 dpi at a size of 5-by-7” and at least 2 MB.

To upload your photo and information, visit humanesociety.org/yourbestshot.

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