

A Word From Us

In the animal welfare field, we're often so engaged in the hard work of saving animals' lives and trying to prevent suffering that we sometimes tend to neglect ourselves. "Our heart's desires are always larger than what any one individual or one group can do," says clinical psychologist Linda Harper, and coping with that reality can lead to stress and burnout. But there are ways to work healthier, and an organization's management team can develop strategies to ensure that awareness of stress and compassion fatigue issues permeates the work culture, so that the needs of the human animal don't get lost in the chaos. Read our story "Feeding the Fire (Without Burning Out)" on p. 26 for tips and resources.

Sometimes saving lives is about smarter population management practices in the shelter. In our Life Preservers department this issue (p. 33), learn about fast-tracking, a system that helps move the most adoptable animals out as quickly as possible—to the benefit of those who may need more time to recover from sickness, develop home-friendly behaviors, or catch an adopter's eye. And our feature "Better With Age" (p. 22) checks in with organizations that have developed ways of promoting older cats, so that those adorable kittens don't get all the attention from potential adopters!

Does your organization have innovative strategies for highlighting older animals? Have you found that certain approaches to adoptions, fostering, or offsite events help you save more lives and find more quality homes? We want to hear about them! Email us at asm@humansociety.org. Your organization could inspire the field's next big success story.

MAKE PLANS TO
ATTEND OUR CONFERENCE
"The Outdoor Cat: Science and
Policy from a Global Perspective,"
Dec. 3-4, 2012, Marina del Rey,
Calif. For more information,
please visit [humansociety.org/
about/departments/hsisp](http://humansociety.org/about/departments/hsisp).



Cover Me

I love your magazine and couldn't imagine our profession without it!

I am concerned about the photograph on p. 41 ("Talking TNR," July-August 2012) where the ACO "shows off" a feral cat to a little girl. Maybe it really isn't a feral cat in the trap, but if it is, it should be covered. Feral cats are very stressed by the trap/transport event, and keeping them covered has a calming effect on many feral cats. Covers can be purchased or made from old sheets and blankets. This also helps

eliminate scratches and bites when the cat is carried. We all want to treat these animals as humanely as possible, and carrying without a cover is very stressful for them. I'm hoping the photo doesn't encourage others to do the same.

Thanks for letting me vent, and keep up the good work!

—**Suzette Stitely**

*Executive Director
Baywater Animal Rescue
Cambridge, Md.*



When we posted a callout for answers to this issue's Coffee Break question—If you were designing an animal shelter, what are some of the features you'd include?—Facebooker **Jan Widdows Rebmann** went beyond the architectural concept and said, "I would employ a social worker to help staff debrief." If that answer hits home for you, check out our feature on stress management (p. 26).

We posted an adorable black cat promotion from Black Cat Rescue (check it out at youtube.com/watch?v=OdYvAinwWyc). It brought out fans of these Dark Knights, and expressions of bafflement about why they sometimes struggle to get adopted. "We have this one black domestic longhair cat at the Quincy Animal Shelter, and as soon as you open the cage he hops on your shoulder, just wants to be held and cuddled and then he starts nibbling on your ear. ... He is just the sweetest thing, and I don't know why people have this thing about not wanting to adopt them. ... I just don't get it," wrote **Lori J Ryan**. Others chimed in, including **Linda Riggie Jones**, who said, "I have two black cats that I've adopted. They are the sweetest & funniest cats. They run to the door to meet me and also to meet anyone who has come to visit. Black cats rock!" We couldn't agree more!