



Welcome to the new look of *Animal Sheltering*! It's been three years since our last overhaul, and we're trying to keep our magazine new and fresh for you.

We still have the same great content, though—good news, inspiring stories, and information that helps you work better and smarter to save animals. This issue, along with a feature about shelters and rescues that have worked with local prisons on programs to train and socialize dogs and a 101 on what makes for an effective shelter website, we're also debuting a new column, Humane Law Forum. Written by an expert on animal law, the column—which will alternate with Shelter Medicine in every other issue—will highlight legal issues that animal welfare organizations may confront. Check out the first column on p. 49!

While our appearance has changed a bit, we're still operating with the same goal: Helping you help the animals. If there's information you need, let us know! We really do respond: The website story in this issue was slated after a caller asked for a copy of a 1996 article on Web design. We realized it was high time we updated it.

We're here for you, so write to us at asm@humanesociety.org to let us know what you think, what's working for you, and what you need from us.

—Carrie, James, Jim, and Amy
Animal Sheltering magazine staff



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Squirrel Supporter

I just read your article on squirrels (*Wild Things*, Sept-Oct '09, p. 18) and I wanted to both compliment and thank you for it! Well done!

I happen to be a big fan of those “plucky rodents” and am always trying to teach people to tolerate and appreciate them more. I will be including this article in my wildlife binder for our dispatch staff so that they too can better understand them and talk to the public about them.

—Scott Giacoppo
Chief Programs Officer
Washington Humane Society
Washington, D.C.

The Little Guys

Thank you for the great article in *Animal Sheltering* magazine helping to raise awareness of the value and needs of small companion animals (“Don’t Forget About Us,” Sept-Oct, p. 14). Their prospects for being adopted are just as important as those of everyone else at a shelter. I think that because of the difficult aspects of working at many shelters, people are sometimes too overwhelmed to recognize that. But times are changing, with the shelters you featured leading the way. And your article will help more and more small companion animals get the recognition they deserve. Thanks so much!

—Paula Spencer
San Anselmo, Calif.

A Fair Idea for Volunteers

I wanted to share a great idea that our director, Donna Howard, came up with recently for the Flagler Humane Society. Due to present economic conditions, our shelter could no longer afford even a part-time volunteer coordinator. Our applications from potential volunteers were piling up.

Donna organized a volunteer fair. One Saturday morning, all the potential volunteers were invited to come to the shelter, where small booths were set up highlighting each individual volunteer opportunity available. There was a “lead” person (active volunteer) in charge of their particular area. They decorated their booth and gave out information and answered questions. These lead volunteers did a wonderful job, and it was then their responsibility to follow up with the names for future training.

Over 60 people showed up [and] walked from booth to booth. Some signed up for more than one area.

It was a home run ... and probably the best volunteer orientation we've ever had.

—Amy Beilman
Vice President, Board of Directors
Flagler Humane Society
Palm Coast, Fla.