

Letters



Facebook fans weighed in on our question from the September/October issue: *How does your veterinarian go the extra mile for animals?*

Our veterinarian, Dr. Brady Bergin, has gone above and beyond even caring about the bottom line to help the Waikoloa (Hawaii) Nightingale donkey adoption program. He is compassionate and caring, and by volunteering his time, facilities, and technicians' time, is an angel masquerading as a human. Plus, he is an all-around nice person! — BIRD MCIVER, CB HORSE RESCUE

Brady and the Aina Hou Animal Hospital staff rock the house! Our state is so lucky to have them all. Mahalo Brady and the ohana! True compassion and action. — ELIZABETH GLEASON

EDITOR'S NOTE: Check out the next issue of *All Animals* for photos and details of The HSUS's airlifting of the Waikoloa donkeys to sanctuary in the mainland U.S.

Dr. Beth Murray at Abfall Veterinary in Athens, Ohio, has stood by us through thick and thin with a diabetic dog when other vets would not, and cancer when nothing could be done. She has compassion in her veins and a generous heart to equal her intelligence. Thank you, Dr. Murray, for all the times you stood by us with Sky and Rama. Southeast Ohio is blessed to have you. — RICHA ELAND

I am with you on this one, Richa! Dr. Murray has stood beside me and my dear dog and cat friends for the past 12 years. She has helped me through the loss of five wonderful souls in that time. My love and gratitude to Dr. Beth! — SHERRIE GRADIN

Dr. Jocelyn Fox in Vernon, Texas, allowed our shelter to bring in two dogs who had been left at a house when the family moved away to Mexico. She not only shaved off their 2-inch-thick matted coats and treated various problems; she also got them both adopted the next day. Thanks, Dr. Fox! — SUSAN LEE

Dr. Chris Lynch at Southern Maine Veterinary Care has been awesome with my rescue cat, Max. He had a polyp in his ear and needed surgery to remove it. I have another cat and a dog, and every time I'm in the office, he is asking about Max. He is very caring and treats the animals well. — CRYSTAL HALL

JOIN US ON FACEBOOK: What drives your pet batty? Tell us at humansociety.org/aafacebook, and your answer may be printed in our next issue.



Tweet, Tweet!

New issue of *All Animals* is fantastic! There's an article, "From Squalor to Serenity" (September/October 2011), that's heartbreaking but beautiful! @CARYCHEYENNEXO, VIA TWITTER

Stay Connected)))



WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

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Bearing the Brunt

“Bear Country” (September/October 2011) contained a great deal of useful insights and tips, as well as some underlying philosophy that is so important. While I am not trying to rationalize or condone the loss of human life or instances of injury, bears are a) doing only what comes naturally and b) trying to survive in an environment where we are so dramatically encroaching upon the territory they have been used to for centuries.

It is enormously disheartening when humans have so pervasively adopted practices of killing the bears for recreation and revenge, often with the unconscionable methods of using food for bait, following GPS devices to dogs who have treed bears, or permitting dogs to be “tested” using tame, tethered bears—with the result, as the article points out, that over 33,000 bears are wiped out each year in the U.S. by hunters alone.

The article continues by noting that in 32 states hunters are permitted legally to pursue them simply for trophies or bearskin rugs. Can you tell me which are the 18 states that do not?

— DAVID SWOAP, CLEARWATER, FLORIDA

OUR WILDLIFE ABUSE CAMPAIGN

RESPONDS: The states—many of which do not have resident bear populations—are as follows: Alabama, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Rhode Island, South Dakota, and Texas.

Grimm’s Fairy Tale

As a resident of New York’s 13th District, I am very proud of Congressman Michael G. Grimm (“From Puppy Mill to Capitol Hill,” July/August 2011). It is so refreshing to read about a member of Congress doing something positive and, more importantly, for animals! I was moved reading about Sebastian’s rescue and the love he now receives. Thank you, Congressman Grimm!

— CHRISTINA ZACHARCZUK,
STATEN ISLAND, NEW YORK

Sung Heroes

I always have to prepare myself to read each issue of All Animals. Sometimes I must set the issue aside for several days as I know that it will bring tears to my eyes. Often they are tears of sadness and anger, but sometimes they are tears of accomplishment and joy—as it was with “To Protect and Serve” (September/October 2011). With the Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association folks and others, there are so many wonderful heroes who are featured within the pages of All Animals. So inspiring! If I had a phone number for these folks, I’d just have to call each and every one of them to offer my heartfelt thanks, appreciation, and accolades for all of their wonderful work. I hope all of you folks are listening and realize just how special you all are to all of us readers!

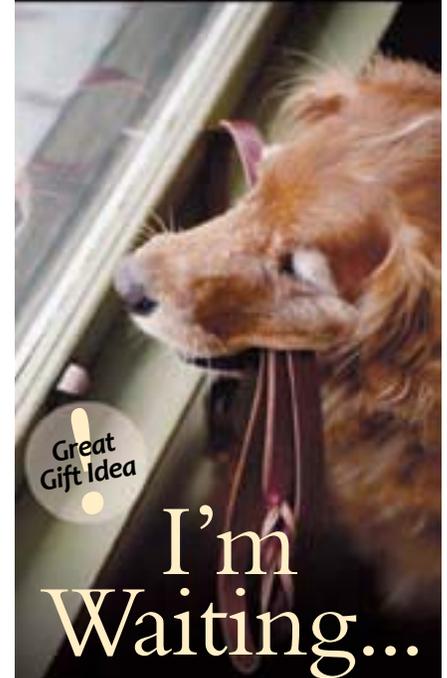
— RICHARD L., VALDOSTA, GEORGIA

Black Market Secrets

*The item “Stacked Deck” in your September/October 2011 issue about the captive hunting industry (a form of animal exploitation I particularly despise) barely scratched the surface of the problem. After reading the book *Animal Underworld: Inside America’s Black Market for Rare and Exotic Species* by Alan Green and the Center for Public Integrity, I learned that the sprawling yet secretive web of wildlife trading extends from the top U.S. zoos and universities down to the most shady and exploitive animal dealers and owners of roadside menageries, killing ranches, and backyard captives, with only weak or sometimes nonexistent laws and enforcement to counter it.*

I could hardly believe such a large and crooked subculture exists in our country with virtually no outsiders (including myself) being aware of it. I hope to see more coverage of this important issue in your magazines and on your websites in the future. Perhaps with more public awareness this cruel industry will begin to be phased out. Thank you.

— DAVID BERNAZANI,
LAFAYETTE, CALIFORNIA



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