



Pioneering Spirits

As the editors of the nation's largest animal protection magazine, we strive to bring you stories you're not likely to find anywhere else. Our content ranges from heartwarming to heartbreaking—two qualities that, in this field, are rarely mutually exclusive. Protecting animals requires a wherewithal to confront the truth, no matter how disturbing, about the suffering they endure.

Reinventing *All Animals* three years ago to better reflect this mission, we devoted our first cover story (shown at left) to longtime HSUS employee Susan Hagood and her quiet crusade to save the all-too-

forgotten Eastern box turtle, a creature who'd survived for millennia in habitats destroyed by humans in just a few centuries.

Construction of a central Maryland highway was threatening to bury many of them alive, so Susan enlisted help from state transportation officials, turtle advocates, and her turtle-detecting chocolate Lab, Drew. Together this unlikely team removed hundreds of animals from the path of supposed progress, with Susan collecting data for a study along the way. "They keep me up at night, these turtles," she told us at the time. "You're just haunted by the ones you couldn't find."

As this issue goes to press, we ourselves are haunted by the recent untimely deaths of Susan and another beloved colleague, Sue Farinato, who died within weeks of each other. In addition to her day job helping pet owners, Sue trained shelter workers steeped in dog and cat issues to better handle calls about wildlife in distress. Her Wildlife Aid Brigade was a much-needed addition to community animal protection, and her death blindsided those whom Sue had taught about everything from renesting baby songbirds to humanely evicting squirrely home invaders.

The innovations pioneered by Sue and Susan are key to driving progress in a field where resources are few and challenges vast. This issue is filled with the stories of likeminded souls: people like Ethan Brown and Biz Stone, who've developed a product designed to better compete with products from factory farms, and Tony and Donna Demetriades, who've worked with many people and animals—including another nosy and conservation-minded detection dog—to preserve their property for wildlife.

Such stories resonate far beyond these pages, as our profile of Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association member Lori Pasternak (September/October 2011) did for Santa Fe, N.M., veterinarian Carolyn Fletcher. "She's got a lot to teach us," says Fletcher, who plans to visit Pasternak's clinic in Richmond, Va., observing how it combines low-cost surgery with community service. Fletcher wants to establish a similar clinic to serve her community's rural areas and pueblos. "It's a great model for somebody like me who's just ... starting to get the ball rolling."

The ripple effect—of one advocate inspiring another—keeps our editorial calendar filled with more ideas than we could ever have room for in these 40 pages. It also comforts us in our time of grief, remembering how many lives our colleagues have touched and will continue to inspire even long after they're gone.

— *The Editors*

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➤ **READ OUR STORIES** about Susan Hagood and Lori Pasternak at humanesociety.org/allanimals. Read our sister magazine's profile of Sue Farinato at animalsheltering.org.

(((Stay Connected)))



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Send your feedback to All Animals/The HSUS, c/o Letters to the Editor, 2100 L St., NW, Washington, DC 20037; allanimals@humanesociety.org.



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Captive Casualties

The slaughter of over four dozen lions, tigers, bears, etc. several weeks ago at a private “zoo” in Zanesville, Ohio, is outrageous. Perhaps the sheriff had no option, but I’m not sure.

It is incumbent on The HSUS and every other animal protection organization in the U.S. to mount a campaign to press for laws that will prevent such carnage from occurring in the future. I have begun such in New Mexico.

— MARGARET SEARS,
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

OUR WILDLIFE ABUSE CAMPAIGN

RESPONDS: With some of the nation’s weakest exotic pet laws, Ohio has become a haven for wildlife breeders and dealers, and we have been leading the fight for stronger laws there and throughout the country. Please call Gov. John Kasich at 614-466-3555 and urge him to enact a ban on the private possession of dangerous exotic animals. If your state has weak laws on this issue, share your concerns with your elected officials.

Every Prairie Dog Has Her Day

“Prairie Dog Watch” (November/December 2011) was timely and informative. My husband and I purchased property in Colorado last year and were counseled by the weed control company to “shoot the prairie dogs ASAP,” as they were ruining our hay field. I walk my dog around the hay field each

morning, and we both enjoy the alarm system set up by our resident prairie dog population, warning of our approach. My neighbors to the north were out destroying their population earlier this week (pumping gas down their holes), in anticipation of plowing and planting their fields. What a sad world we live in when the answer is to kill whatever inconveniences us. Thank you for keeping us informed, and keep up the good work!

— LISA AND MIKE EVANS,
ELBERT, COLORADO

More than OK Rescuers

“Here for a Reason” (November/December 2011) highlighted the small town of Sulphur, Okla. The 501(c)3 Davis Oklahoma Animal Volunteers unites animal advocates from Sulphur and nearby Davis in activities to benefit all animals in those localities.

Since 2005, their mobile clinics have spayed or neutered over 1,600 pets of low income households. In the past seven months, they have raised \$25,000 toward construction of a new animal shelter that will serve both Davis and Sulphur. They raise funds through operation of a thrift shop and an assortment of other projects.

It is an uphill struggle, but the Davis Oklahoma Animal Volunteers, under the capable and energetic leadership of Audrey Ridlehoover, is steadfastly advancing the cause of companion animals in Davis and Sulphur.

— CLOVA ABRAHAMSON,
BARTLESVILLE, OKLAHOMA



Facebook fans weighed in on our question from the November/December issue: What are your pet’s peeves?

LISA ROLFEDENUIT: My sheltie HATES when people chew gum. It upsets him immensely, for some reason. If he sees/hears someone blow a bubble, he will move away from them and not look at that person for the rest of the evening.

NICOLE FUNK: My pup is a very attention-motivated dog, and when me or my dad get home, if we don’t go see him first thing before we do anything else, he won’t have anything to do with us—till dinnertime, that is. LOL.

JOIN US ON FACEBOOK: How is your dog a hero for you? Tell us at humansociety.org/aafacebook, and your answer may be printed in our next issue.



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