

Community



Champion Fan

Please keep us updated on Champion Sam ("To the Rescue," July/August). The photo of that amazing boy brought tears to my eyes. Animals should never be treated so horribly. I pray he finds the loving home he has always deserved and that someday this kind of injustice stops forever. Thank you for all the love, commitment, and determination you have in rescuing all animals in need.

— ANISSA MCDOWELL,
VAN BUREN, ARKANSAS

"Sam is all wiggles and love," reports Daisy Balawejder, coordinator of The HSUS's Dogfighting Rescue Coalition and founder of Hello Bully rescue in Pittsburgh. He is being lavished with attention in foster care (see above) while he adjusts to a home setting. To stay posted on Sam's progress, check out Hello Bully's Facebook page.

Factory Harmed Animals

I just read the president's note from the July/August issue. I live in the thumb of Michigan. We have big dairy farms in the thumb. It looks like the cows never go outside to pasture; they just eat, give milk, and rotate around to do it again. The small farmers in the area now supply feed instead of dairy or livestock. The runoff from the big farms soils our beaches with E. coli, and the beaches are shut down until it clears.

I have lived my whole life on the water, 50 years. This year was the first time in my life that swimming in the water left a funny white film on my skin. I am not sure what the cause is for this but cannot help but wonder what these factory farms are doing to our great lake (Huron, Saginaw Bay). I am on board with Meatless Monday. It is a start. Thanks for your eye opener.

— KELLIE SPRAGUE, CASEVILLE, MICHIGAN

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Tweet, Tweet!

Loving the articles in the new @HumaneSociety All Animals magazine.

@DENNISKELNER

Thank you @HumaneSociety for your tireless help for those who can't speak for themselves. You have my support and admiration. XO

@RICARDOMARANO

HSUS investigations have succeeded at revealing terrible animal abuse, like sows kept in metal gestation crates. Follow @HumaneSociety.

@ANNAOLSWANGER



Facebook fans weighed in on our question from the July/August issue:
Does your pet have an inspiring weight-loss story?

GINA BRYANT I'm a foster/volunteer for a small, all-breed dog and cat rescue called the Appalachian SPCA (located in eastern Kentucky). In November of last year we were notified that someone had surrendered a morbidly obese Chihuahua to the local animal shelter. When I saw him, I just knew I had to take him. This guy could barely even stand or walk. He couldn't even muster the energy to get out of his bed and would urinate on himself and his bedding.

A shelter visitor said she recognized him from working at a McDonald's drive-through where his previous owner would order him two cheeseburgers and an ice cream cone almost every day. At his first weigh-in, Merlin weighed 21 pounds. Which may not sound like much, but for a Chihuahua who should weigh maybe 6-8 pounds, it was atrocious. He even had pressure sores on his feet and when he did walk, his legs were bowed terribly. All it took was reduced portions and gradually increased exercise for him to start shedding the weight. I would even make a trail with his food to get him moving.

It's been eight months, and Merlin now weighs 12 pounds. He still has a little ways to go, but the change in his personality and health is astounding. I cried the first time he was able to jump off the couch by himself. Now he runs everywhere he goes, and he's so affectionate and happy-go-lucky. I can never understand how someone could have looked at him in his previous state and thought he was happy. I can't imagine my life without him and now that he's nearing a healthy weight, I know we'll have a much longer, brighter future together.

CINDY MICHALOWSKI I noticed that my extremely active kitty was gaining some weight, but I couldn't figure out why until I decided to do some spring cleaning. I moved my bed and found several destroyed bags of treats that he had stolen from the cabinet in the kitchen! Needless to say, the treats have been moved to a higher cabinet, and I'm trying to substitute interactive play for times that I would normally give treats.

DAVE CHALKER Our local cocker spaniel rescue took in Fluffy Pork Chop, a cocker/corgi who was morbidly obese. With a change in diet and more exercise, Fluffy is down 14 pounds and much healthier. They have been documenting the results at obgsbiggestloser.blogspot.com.



Fluffy Pork Chop is slimming down from a high of 42 pounds.

JOIN US ON FACEBOOK: What qualities would you celebrate in a postcard to your pet? Share your tribute with us at humanesociety.org/aafacebook, where you can also vote for your favorite bento box combination.

New!
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