COMMUNITY // FEEDBACK, FOLLOW-UPS, AND FACES THAT INSPIRE

IN MEMORIAM

Robert Wilson (1926-2013)

“I’m not very fond of cruel and unusual punishments, as applied to either human beings or animals,” the late Robert Wilson said last spring, discussing his $2 million challenge grant to help The HSUS campaign against gestation crates. “Hogs are the most intelligent of the animals that we eat. … [Yet] they are basically in prison.” The retired hedge-fund founder leaves behind a legacy of generous charitable giving, and his 2012 gift to The HSUS would prove to be a game-changer: Prior, just two national restaurant and grocery chains had adopted policies against the crates. Now, there are about 60. “Bob Wilson enabled us to focus like a laser on one of the most inhumane and archaic factory farming practices in existence,” says Paul Shapiro, HSUS vice president of farm animal protection. “By enabling us to put so many resources into fighting gestation crate confinement, he helped spell the doom of the gestation crate in the United States and perhaps even around the world.”

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Cats Rule

I always look forward to my copy of All Animals, but I was never so excited as when I saw the January/February issue with Lil Bub on the cover. Lil Bub, Grumpy Cat, and their likes never fail to put a smile on my face. More than that, Internet cat celebrities show the non-cat owning world just how cool these animals can be. My hope is that after seeing these sweet, funny animals online, more people will be encouraged to give loving homes to cats.

— VANESSA SMALETZ, PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

Every One Is Deserving

I have been enjoying the January/February 2014 issue of All Animals. The article (“The Cult of Purr-sonality”) about cats that become Internet sensations due to their unusual faces or talents is fun. However, it brings up a concern. This article might prompt people to seek out and adopt cats with super cute or odd faces, or unusual talents, over those without—perhaps even with the objective of placing their own cat videos on YouTube. What about all of the wonderful, regular cats without special faces or talents? They have their own beauty and mannerisms that I hope the public at large won’t overlook.

— LUCIELLEN CAMELIA, KIRKLAND, WASHINGTON

EDITOR’S NOTE

Thank you, Luciellen. You make a valuable point. Our goal behind this story was to celebrate cats and show just how captivating they can be. And in doing so, we chose to feature personas who support adoption and give back to shelters and rescues. With each issue, we also strive to show the magic behind the more “ordinary” cats—like this issue’s Muse, for example—in hopes of inspiring adoption.

One Gardening Fanatic to Another

I applaud you for including Nancy Lawson’s Humane Backyard column in All Animals. She speaks to my passion for both gardening and wildlife preservation. Thank you!

— CHERYL ANN QUIGLEY, WEST HAVEN, CONNECTICUT
WE ASKED, YOU ANSWERED

Our Facebook page buzzed—to the tune of more than 3,000 responses!—with fans telling us about their all-time favorite animal characters.

Stevie Honaker  Mickey Mouse, who has influenced more children to dream, laugh, and be positively loving.

Jessica Jimenez  Babe the pig. No other movie made me feel like I could be whatever I wanted to be like Babe did.

Lyn Levin  The Grinch’s dog Max. ... He put up with a lot and was still loyal and faithful!

Maria Panariello  Charlotte and Wilbur from Charlotte’s Web. It always warms my heart and brings a tear. On the flip side, Daffy and Bugs ‘cause I’m from New York and sarcasm’s in our blood.

Becky N Kevin Jones  I received a copy of Black Beauty for Christmas in 1965 at age 7. Opened my eyes to the plight of animals and changed my life forever.

Brittany Marie Norman  Free Willy! I have a tribal orca tattoo on my wrist and I want to work with preserving and making waters safe for these creatures!

Mary Salata  Snoopy! Does his own thing, sly sense of humor, not afraid to dream big.

Maricruz Acuña  I always loved Bambi. ... It was the major influence in my converting to vegetarianism.

Alexandrea Marcella  The cast of Homeward Bound. “You’ve learned everything you need to know, Chance; now all you have to learn is how to say goodbye.” Cry. Every. Time.

Constance Paras  Winnie the Pooh and all his animal friends! Such a diverse group of characters that loved each other through all their differences!

Starr Haun  Dory from Finding Nemo because I think she is funny and I love that a compassionate animal advocate [Ellen DeGeneres] voiced the character.

Mai Hernandez  Sylvester the cat. I sure loved watching him when I was a little girl. I have always been very allergic to cats; I would pretend Sylvester was mine and on one of his many adventures.

Heather Rose Legge-Click  Archimedes the owl from Sword in the Stone. A curmudgeon, but an honorable one.

Jackie Racioppo Galiani  Definitely Scooby Doo—he makes us all laugh and Lord knows, that is what we all need!

Roxanne Terramagra  Lassie—’cause that kid was always stuck in the well and she didn’t make fun of him.

Daisy Wasson  Mine is the Black Stallion. No one could get me to read before this. ...

Patty Antel  Dumbo. Shows that it’s OK to be different.

Susan I Adams  It was the dog in Call of the Wild. ... I read it when I was quite young and impressionable. He was independent, loyal, and heroic. I wanted to be like that!

Angela Snapp  Old Yeller! That story led me to a lifetime of caring for abandoned and abused dogs, and it’s been a happy life!

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Letters to the Editor

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