



The Charles family adopted Bosh from the Washington (D.C.) Animal Rescue League. At left, Olympian Gus Kenworthy (top) and friend Robin Macdonald (bottom) spend time with (from top) Mama, Jake and Mishka.

## AHEAD OF THE GAMES

WITH ONE EYE STILL ON SOCHI, HSI CONTINUES WORK TO PROTECT STREET DOGS

// BY RUTHANNE JOHNSON

**IT WAS GUS KENWORTHY'S BIG DAY** in Telluride, Colorado. The Winter Olympian had just come off a whirlwind media tour, and his hometown was honoring him with a parade for winning a silver medal in slopestyle skiing. Posters of him covered the town. He was even having a street named after him: Gus' Way.

Yet there he was at his mom's house before the parade, rolling up the carpets and putting out pee pads for the mother dog and two puppies he'd befriended in Sochi—survivors of a pre-Olympic street dog cull. His mom was adopting the mother dog. The puppies, Jake and Mishka, were headed to Denver to live with him.

During the parade, he carried the pups

in his forearms, tucked against his chest. Carrying Mama was his friend Robin Macdonald, a Canadian sports photographer who had stayed behind in Sochi for a month after the Olympics working to get the dogs released. Remembers Kenworthy: "People were, as usual, very excited to meet the dogs and to get to see them."

Rescued with the help of Humane Society International, the dogs have shined a light on the plight of street dogs across the globe, particularly in the host cities of worldwide sporting events like the Olympics and World Cup. As HSI's Kelly O'Meara notes, "Unfortunately, it's common for governments to take drastic and often cruel actions when at-

tempting to address the street dog issue quickly. Greece leading up to the 2004 Athens Olympics implemented a very visible and cruel dog cull." Beijing was suspected of doing the same in 2008.

In an effort to curb this kind of cull mentality, HSI is asking sports committees such as the International Olympic Committee and FIFA, the governing body for the World Cup, to consider humane street dog management practices such as mass sterilization among the criteria for selecting host countries. HSI also intends to collaborate with governments to implement spay/neuter programs in the host countries of upcoming events, such as Russia for the 2018 World Cup.

One success story comes from Bhutan. In 2008, the country implemented a mass roundup of street dogs in the weeks leading up to the coronation of its king. But after seeing the suffering of these dogs in pounds, government officials began working with HSI to implement a mass sterilization and vaccination program that remains ongoing today.

HSI has continued the efforts in Sochi, bringing 10 more dogs to the U.S. in late March. Staff and volunteers at the Washington Animal Rescue League in Washington, D.C., have given the dogs the royal treatment: Kong toys stuffed with peanut butter, bones to chew on, daily walks and reading time. By the end of April, eight had found homes, and there are plans to bring more over.

Meanwhile, life in America has been one big cushy adventure for Mama, Jake and Mishka. “They definitely love sleeping on a bed, on a couch, on you,” says Macdonald.

The two pups went swimming for the first time near their home. “Jake loves the water,” says Kenworthy. “Mishka, not so much. But he’s getting a little bit more daring each time.” Though the two sometimes play rough, they fall asleep on each other afterwards like the best of friends.

In Telluride, Mama (now known as Mamushka) is pretty famous. During the town’s busy ski season, people would often come into Pip Kenworthy’s vintage consignment store just to have their picture taken with her. Companies have donated toys and other supplies to the dogs, and Gus bought Mama a dog bone tag that features the Olympic rings on one side and her name on the other.

At the local park, she’s as fast as a gazelle when playing with her dog friends and chasing the ball. At home, she goes from one soft chair to another as she shadows her new owner. Says Pip Kenworthy: “She couldn’t be more perfect.”

## ONE STEP AT A TIME

HSUS PROGRAM REWARDS THOSE WHO HANDLE WALKING HORSES THE HUMANE WAY // BY SARAH KOWALSKI

**WHEN TWO WILD-EYED TENNESSEE WALKING HORSES** arrived at an equine therapy center outside St. Louis last October, trainer Gary Lane immediately recognized the telltale signs of past abuse: anxiety, muscle tension, fear, inability to relax.

For Tennessee walking horses, that abuse likely took the form of soring—the intentional infliction of pain on a horse’s legs and hooves to exaggerate the breed’s high-stepping gait for competitions.

Lane worked with 10 owners throughout the two-day, sold-out training clinic, held by Friends of Sound Horses. Only after lessons in equine biomechanics and the importance of a horse’s emotional well-being did the owners begin riding, with the focus always on keeping the animals relaxed. Lane led riders through exercises that got their horses to swing their backs, lower their heads and release tension through their necks and jaws.

By the end, all 10 horses were showing improvement, but none so much as the two who’d once been abused. “You see a softening in their eyes,” says Lane, as well as relaxed jaws, slower foot movement and deeper breathing. “... They will give you their feet. They just relax.”

Thanks in part to a grant from The HSUS’s “Now, *That’s* a Walking Horse!” program, more will get the chance to do the same. The grant will allow Friends of Sound Horses to host another clinic with Lane this October to reach other owners who, as FOSH president Teresa Bippen says, want to learn “how to ride their horse in a healthy manner.”

The grant program, designed to encourage opportunities for the care and training of Tennessee walking horses outside the traditional show ring, is one facet of a larger campaign against soring. “We’re not against showing or riding horses, but we are against hurting them,” says Keith Dane, HSUS vice president of equine protection. “There are those who work with the horses in natural, respectful ways. We want to incentivize them.”

Another 2013 grant went to Sandra Tuthill, who has experienced just how beneficial Tennessee walking horses can be. When a back injury threatened to make Tuthill give up riding, a friend suggested she try a Tennessee walker. “Sure enough,” she says, “the way they carry the rider is so smooth and gliding that it kept me feeling like I could continue to ride.”

Tuthill was so impressed with the breed that she began incorporating them into her equine-assisted therapy program at Tuthill Farms Therapy Center in Michigan, where the HSUS grant is helping fund construction of an indoor arena. The program helps people suffering from depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, eating disorders and fear issues, and one particularly gentle mare has proven indispensable. Miss Anny’s smooth gait keeps riders balanced and calm, says Tuthill, and her “quiet demeanor just puts people at ease.”



Sandra Tuthill  
with Miss Anny



**QUOTED**

"I'M PART EDUCATOR AND PART CHEERLEADER," said Jackson Galaxy, host of Animal Planet's *My Cat from Hell*, as he prepared to address animal care, rescue and sheltering personnel at The HSUS's Animal Care Expo in May. "I'm here to tell you about simple ways to enrich the lives of your cat

companions, but at the same time I am here to applaud each and every person who attends." In an interview with HSUS president and CEO Wayne Pacelle, Galaxy also noted the most common problems he sees in cats ("By and large, it's a pretty even split: litter box issues and aggression") as well as his advice for shelters troubleshooting cat problems ("Minute changes in behavior can signal big changes to come").

coyote policy of tolerance, education and nonlethal hazing. They've also banned the use of leghold traps, neck snares, shooting and chemical control for managing the animals. Says Lynsey White Dasher, HSUS director of humane wildlife conflict resolution: "It's one of the most humane coyote management plans I've seen."

**SIGN OF THE TIMES**

THE CAPITAL of Texas continues to be a leader in animal welfare. In 2011, Austin became the country's largest "no-kill" city for shelter animals. In 2013, that policy was widened to include the management of white-tailed deer. And now, city officials are expected to soon adopt a new



**BY THE NUMBERS**

**19** TIMES since 2011, The HSUS has helped rescue animals from North Carolina puppy mills. That includes three raids this March. "It's embarrassing at this point," Kim Alboum, HSUS state director, told NBC Charlotte. Governor and first lady Pat and Ann McCrory are passionate about addressing the issue, she notes; a bill requiring care standards in commercial breeding facilities awaits action in the state Senate.

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# CEASE AND PERSIST

HSUS STRATEGY PASSES KENTUCKY VEAL CRATE BAN

// BY KAREN E. LANGE

**IN 2010**, when Kentucky legislators created a commission to establish care standards for farm animals, HSUS state director Pam Rogers wasn't exactly optimistic it would lead to much-needed reform.

To her, it seemed the Kentucky Livestock Care Standards Commission had been established to block the state legislature from enacting bills to improve animal welfare. The group was dominated by representatives from big ag groups wedded to standard industry practices and the state officials who work closely with them.

There was no one from The HSUS or any other animal welfare group. There was no one who might present evidence of the cruelty of confining veal calves in narrow pens, pregnant sows in tight gestation crates or laying hens in crowded battery cages. And there was no way for interested citizens who were not members of the media to find out when and where the meetings were being held.

Even after Rogers discovered the time and location of the second meeting through her contacts in the legislature, she despaired about having any kind of an impact: She did not understand what commission members were discussing because they refused to provide draft documents they'd developed in secret. She wasn't allowed to speak at the meetings unless commission members invited her, which they weren't about to. And she could barely hear what they were saying. "They were all around a table, and I had to sit at the back of the room. The air conditioner was whirring over my head."

But then Rogers combined her persistence with a strategy developed by Matt Dominguez, HSUS public policy manager for farm animal protection. In October 2011, The HSUS filed a complaint with the Kentucky Department of Agriculture against the commission for violating the state's Open Meetings Act. The HSUS also let the media know about the commission's attempt to keep the public in the dark and used action alerts to get people to call and email. Pressure built. Eventually, after Dominguez, Rogers and HSUS president and CEO Wayne Pacelle met with Kentucky's commissioner

of agriculture, the commission held a public hearing, allowing Dominguez and others to testify.

The result: In March, the commission announced that calves can no longer be confined in individual pens after 2018, making Kentucky the eighth state in the country to ban veal crates. Though a voluntary shift away from crates had been endorsed by the American Veal Association back in 2007, that did not mean Kentucky would take action to make it mandatory, Dominguez says.

"They did it because we made such a compelling case," he says. "What they wanted to do with this commission was to rubber-stamp the worst abuses. What they didn't expect was for us to be a watchdog."



Raised for veal, the male offspring of dairy cows are chained in small crates.

OPPOSITE PAGE, FROM LEFT: ANIMAL PLANET; STEVE SHINN; THIS PAGE: MERCY FOR ANIMALS.

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