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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Tackling a Tough Subject with Grace

I just want to say how much I enjoyed the article “Surge of Compassion” (January/February). It was the most good news I've ever received about the abhorrent practice of the dog meat trade. The Chinese supporters of VShine are superheroes of the first order.

— BOB YANCEY, SORENTO, ILLINOIS

Thank you for the story “Surge of Compassion.” Due to the horrific details of this subject, MANY magazines and readers shy away from printing and reading about this topic! Please follow up on this story and let us know of any progress made.

— USHA GRACE BAILEY, VERO BEACH, FLORIDA

UPDATE: By 2014’s end, Chinese activists had rescued more than 8,000 dogs from trucks intercepted on highways and shut down three slaughterhouses. “The momentum is unbelievable,” says Humane Society International consultant Peter Li. One slaughterhouse, scheduled to open in Mudanjiang City, was ordered to stay because of a legal challenge. Two others, in Zhengzhou and Luzhou, were closed after protests. In Zhengzhou, 30 activists (including three of five sent by HSI) were arrested but released without charge within 24 hours. The 360 dogs from that site were taken to a shelter. Elsewhere in Asia, HSI negotiated the conversion of a South Korean dog meat farm to a blueberry farm, bringing 23 rescued animals to the U.S. for adoption.

THIS ISSUE’S MUSE

RILEY AND MACKIE MIGHT LOOK ALIKE, but HSUS special projects coordinator Bailey Fogarty says the two 10-year-old yellow Labs are like night and day. “I think that’s one of the coolest things about dogs that they really are their own selves like humans are,” says Fogarty, who leads the myHumane platform (read more on page 24). The dogs have at least two things in common: their love for Fogarty … and for mischief. Over the holidays, they wiped out two flowerpots high on a countertop in an attempt to reach a tin of white chocolate bark (Fogarty’s favorite) and shattered nearly two dozen of her grandma’s ornaments with their wagging tails. And then there’s the mystery of the stuffed monkey, which went missing moments after her 8-month-old nephew unwrapped it. Fogarty found the toy a few days later, its entire face chewed off. “I have narrowed it down to two suspects,” she says.

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WE ASKED; YOU ANSWERED

Ask any animal lover what movie inspired their passion for the furred, finned and feathered, and you’ll probably get an earful. Our Facebook fans offered more than 1,000 responses!

NATALIA ROGERS  The animated version of How the Grinch Stole Christmas. Always hated how he treated that poor dog. 😞 Now I have my own dog named Max. 😊

KATHY ESLICK TOMASI  I dearly LOVED Lassie! … In an ideal world every dog would have a Lassie life (maybe not so free roaming).

SCOTT PACE  Benji. I remember when Tiffany was kicked by an unkind person and Benji did his best to save her from this ever happening again. I swore that day to never harm or neglect an animal in any way.

SARA MAGILL DAYTON  Bambi originally. Then City Slickers, when they find out they’re selling all the cows for meat at the end and he saves Norman the calf. Haven’t eaten beef since that day.

ROBERT MEDLIN  After watching Babe I pretty much stopped eating ham or bacon.

SHANNON CASEY  Project X for sure! My heart broke watching what humans do [to animals] for research.

BECKY DEAL BAILEY  Old Yeller. I wanted to learn to cure rabies. I was 5.

PEGGY ANN KNIERIM-GIBSON  Has to be The Fox and the Hound. No matter what, unconditional love and friends to the end!

JENNIFER COPELIN HAGEMANN  Charlotte’s Web put feelings into the iciest of rats to the sweetest of pigs, and even made the tiniest baby spider seem cute.

JOIN US ON FACEBOOK: Marlene Cimons’ myHumane fundraiser was no ordinary feat (see page 24). What creative ways have you raised money to help animals? Tell us at humanesociety.org/aafacebook.

RETURN TO THE WILD

LENNY AND HIS GOAT PALS—Laverne and Shirley—landed in clover after HSUS rescuers removed them from a dilapidated pen at an Alcorn County, Mississippi, puppy mill in October. They now enjoy a half-acre pasture and a warm barn at the home of veterinarian Laurissa Heinz, who assisted with the rescue. The tightly bonded trio is learning to trust people and starting to show off a playful side. Lenny, a miniature donkey, likes to buck and bray and hee-haw across the pasture to Heinz’s other rescued donkey, and the goats are “little acrobats,” says Heinz. The only thing that upsets the three is being apart from one another. After Heinz arrived home with them, the goats “absolutely screamed” when Lenny was taken away for a checkup. “They were not happy until they had their [donkey] back.” Eventually, they’ll all join Heinz’s flock of rescued sheep in a three-acre pasture.