



Heather Cammisa (left) and St. Hubert's help shelters with outreach, spay/neuter services and intake.

ST. HUBERT'S ANIMAL WELFARE CENTER NEW JERSEY

Good Behavior

At St. Hubert's Madison facility, an ASPCA-funded training center provides no-cost behavioral assistance to dogs from more than 50 organizations. More than 4,000 dogs graduate each year from courses as varied as basic skills and sports training. The center also rehabilitates cruelty victims, including two of 23 dogs rescued by Humane Society International from a South Korean dog meat farm in January.

Human Training

On any given day, representatives from 30 animal organizations might be attending one of St. Hubert's professional education programs, which address topics like shelter customer service, behavior modification and humane wildlife management. At its summer camp program, underprivileged youths help train dogs and learn about animal issues.

On the Move

St. Hubert's recently bought a transport and mobile adoption vehicle that it plans to deploy to rescue partners in Pennsylvania, Virginia, Mississippi and other states.

BEYOND STATE LINES

N.J. SHELTER BUILDS NETWORK TO HELP THOSE IN NEED // BY KELLY HUEGEL

WHEN HEATHER CAMMISA embarked on a massive HSUS research project that would change the face of spay/neuter advocacy, she was well aware of the challenges of animal rescue and sheltering. Before joining the HSUS staff in 2007, she was an animal control officer and cruelty investigator in New Jersey and headed the Jersey Shore Animal Center. But what she saw during trips to the Gulf Coast region still startled her.

As spay/neuter initiatives manager for The HSUS, Cammisa visited 50 shelters in Louisiana and Mississippi, gathering data and helping to create programs to raise spay/neuter rates and decrease euthanasia numbers. She saw shelters with scant resources struggling to manage huge intakes, and spay/neuter and shelter adoption rates that were well below the national average.

In 2010, when Cammisa changed jobs to become president and CEO of St. Hubert's Animal Welfare Center in northern New Jersey, she began to bring animal organizations in the Deep South into St. Hubert's extensive network. Last year, St. Hubert's took in 1,411 cats and dogs from shelters and rescues in New Jersey as well as Mississippi, Virginia and other states.

It's about "thinking of the very big picture," says Cammisa of her commitment to helping ani-

mals and organizations from near and far.

The big picture also includes advocating humane treatment for all animals. In 2014, when the New Jersey Legislature was considering a bill to ban gestation crates for pigs, St. Hubert's hosted a Great Crate Challenge, inviting people to spend four minutes locked in a small cage (one minute for each year a typical sow spends in a gestation crate). While the legislation was ultimately vetoed, the event helped shine a light on the cruelty on factory farms.

"Heather Cammisa has never said no to a request to help an animal in need," says Kathleen Schatzmann, HSUS New Jersey state director. From speaking at Humane Lobby days to training animal control officers, "there's really nothing Heather doesn't do."

