



AMERICAN HUMANE

Protecting Children & Animals Since 1877

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, AMERICA!

This month, Americans are celebrating the values that make this country great. Values like integrity, generosity and compassion. Protecting the vulnerable. Doing the right thing because *it's the right thing to do.*

Today, we animal lovers have a lot to celebrate, too! Because of programs like the American Humane Association's Second Chance® Fund, severely abused and neglected animals are receiving life-saving medical treatment. These animals are frequently in desperate shape, and shelters can't afford the costs of keeping them alive — their only chance for survival is often a helping hand from American Humane and you. By contributing to American Humane, you are standing up for one of this country's core ideals: protecting the defenseless. Again, because *it's the right thing to do.*

We depend on our animals for love... they depend on us for protection.

Luckily for animals like Hope, Bentley and Mya, **Americans love helping an underdog** (as well as an “undercat,” “underhorse,” etc!). We want the little guy to win because it reminds us that dreams can be accomplished with integrity, determination and teamwork. As famous world leaders like Truman, Churchill and Gandhi have said, a people will be judged by how they care for the weakest among them.

Hope Springs Eternal...

Hope is a greyhound in New Hampshire that almost starved to death less than six months ago. A mere 38 pounds, her ribs and hips jutted from her body. A greyhound rescue group received her when Hope's owner, a track employee, dropped her off. With financial support from the Second Chance Fund, the rescue group was literally able to have hope for Hope's sake! Hope was de-wormed, vaccinated, and then started nibbling her way back to health. With constant veterinary monitoring, she was fed small, frequent meals in order to avoid refeeding syndrome, a common condition when treating chronic starvation. Less than a month later, she had gained almost 20 pounds! Everyone has been amazed by this sweet dog — from the vet and the rescue organization to her new foster family. Despite her past, she continues to be a trusting, gentle “ray of hope” to all who know her!



(over please)



The Christmas Miracle

Bentley, a cat who came to be known as the “Christmas Miracle” by the Illinois vet who saved his life, started off the holidays in bad shape. His owner relinquished him to a shelter on Christmas Eve because she couldn’t afford the medical treatment for gashes on his head and cheek. Inexplicably, part of Bentley’s tail was also missing. While the owner said the cat had returned home in this condition, the shelter staff strongly suspected he’d been used as part of an organized dogfight. Touched by Bentley’s case, the Animal 911 technician fostered him at home until he could be adopted. Thanks to the medical care made possible through a grant by the Second Chance Fund, Bentley is doing so well now that his new family can hardly believe he almost died last Christmas. They say he is a warm, playful cat, who — being part Siamese — always has a lot to say. This “Christmas Miracle” is a true example of shelter and clinic staff, Animal 911 and American Humane working together to protect the vulnerable!

With a history that spans more than 130 years, American Humane continues to honor its mission to defend the defenseless...

We may never understand why some of our fellow Americans cruelly abuse and neglect animals. It’s a baffling and deeply disturbing part of our culture. Fortunately, we aren’t waiting to find out before we take action. For many of the animals rescued by the Second Chance Fund, there just isn’t time for debates. From shelter and clinic staff who work through the night, to volunteers who love the animals back into shape, to you — our tireless supporters who have made American Humane what it is today — we are doing what it takes to make things right for the animals who depend on us.

Often this means taking immediate action to free animals from abusive situations. As we appreciate our many freedoms this month, we also know how special and fragile they can be. Animal advocates also understand how important freedom is for animals — the freedom to live abuse-free and be loved!

Horses Freed to Start a New Life

Recently, the Second Chance Fund responded to an urgent request for help from a California horse rescue organization. The group had been notified of 25 horses that were being held at a facility in another state and were suffering from severe malnutrition and infection. Photos showed split hooves, knobby legs, emaciated bodies and matted fur. Funds were desperately needed to rescue the horses and transport them to California. Here they would be rehabilitated and eventually adopted out. What makes this story even more unusual is that the facility



holding the horses was also an equine rescue group! These horses had already been rescued once, but there were not sufficient funds to provide the necessary care and the horses were again in dire straits. Fortunately, this situation proves to be the exception and not the rule. The majority of animal welfare organizations across the country make extraordinary efforts to save animals while operating on very tight budgets. But it serves as an important reminder that no matter how well-intentioned an agency may be, we must always place the animals' welfare first.

Spunky Pekingese Ready for Action

Mya, a 3-year-old Pekingese, was left anonymously at a shelter in Ohio. When staff discovered her, they rushed her into surgery because her left eye was dangling out of its socket. Although it's impossible to know for certain, the shelter suspected that blunt force to Mya's face had caused the eye trauma. The next shock for the staff turned out to be a pleasant one: despite her hideous injury, she was happy to be held by strangers! This good-natured little dog cheered up all the more once she recovered from the two surgeries that the Second Chance Fund stepped in to cover. Despite losing sight in the one eye, Mya looks set to enjoy a warm future. During her recovery, Mya's new family visited her daily — even taking measurements for Mya's new hand-knitted sweaters! Her "Mom," thrilled with Mya's feisty personality, said naming her came easy: "She's Mya Pekingese."



Not only does American Humane respond to animals in desperate situations ... We also work to prevent animal abuse and neglect before they begin.

Being proactive is necessary to get ahead of the curve when it comes to helping animals. American Humane's Office of Public Policy in Alexandria, Va., advocates on many state and local legislative issues so that our country's animals will have stronger legal protection in the future. In addition, American Humane conducts extensive trainings to educate animal welfare staff and the public on the humane treatment of animals, pet overpopulation issues and behavior management.

We also have experts on staff that travel across the country to train child and animal welfare professionals on The Link[®] between animal cruelty and human violence. Because of this expertise, American Humane created the Pets and Women's Shelters (PAWS) Program so that women and children staying at domestic violence shelters can bring their pets on-site. American Humane wrote a procedural manual for the shelters on how to implement the PAWS program. We also now have grants available for domestic violence shelters that need start-up money to help them house family pets.

Even monitoring things like the nation's economy is important to preventing animal abuse. For example, as the home mortgage crisis affects families across the United States, American Humane anticipated what this would mean for many pets and created the Foreclosure Pets Grant, a funding initiative to assist shelters. This grant lends financial support to shelters that are inundated with pets from families who can no longer afford to keep them. It's looking ahead and creating solutions like these that help to ensure animals won't end up on the street or abused.

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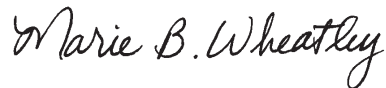


Here are six simple ways you can be a champion for the “underdog” as well as help your own pets!

- ★ **Adopt from a shelter or a breed-specific rescue organization.** If you're thinking of adding to your animal family, adopt! There are a thousand “picks of the litter” out there...
- ★ **Contribute generously.** Put your dollars where your heart is. Your support “keeps the lights on!”
- ★ **Tag or microchip your pet.** Should you and your pet ever become separated, these are two of the best, easiest ways to ensure your reunion.
- ★ **Neuter or spay your pet.** With our shelters overflowing and more than 5 million animals euthanized a year, it's just the right thing to do.
- ★ **Offer your time to a shelter or animal welfare organization.** There's nothing like the gift of your hands-on help.
- ★ **Watch for animal abuse and if you see it, own your freedom of expression and speak out!** Our voice is one of the most powerful tools we have — call the local authorities if you suspect abuse or neglect of animals.

Also, please visit our website at www.americanhumane.org and take a minute to sign up for action alerts regarding issues of interest to you and for more opportunities to make a difference for the better!

For the animals,



Marie Belew Wheatley
President and CEO

P.P.S. We share the animals' personal stories to put a furry face on what your dollars can accomplish. Your gift doesn't disappear into a void but actually saves the lives of animals like Hope, Mya and Bentley. Please renew your commitment today by making as generous a gift as possible.

