

The Voice

Newsletter 2

Winter 2009

Animals in Zoos Deserve Better Treatment

Caryl McIntire Edwards

To the Editor:

A recent article in the York Weekly about the June 13 demonstration in front of York's Wild Kingdom spoke quite glowingly of the zoo itself and the keeper there but reported very little of what those of us holding signs had to say. The plight of elephants was mentioned but was not researched further and reported there. I would like to add this information now.

Elephants are social animals who live in extended family groups. Bonding is lifelong. Females will stay with their mothers, aunts, sisters, and other female relatives for their entire lives; males stay with their mothers for up to 15 years. Additionally these creatures are highly intelligent and can travel more than 30 miles a day.

York's zoo (like others zoos) is unable to meet the

Continued on page 2

Animal Care Givers and the Foreclosure Crisis

Tips for homeowners facing foreclosure:

- Ask family, friends or co-workers to care for your pet while you relocate to pet-friendly housing.
- Ask your veterinarian or boarding facility for low-cost boarding or a payment plan while you relocate to pet-friendly housing.
- If you cannot take your pet with you, Petfinder.com can be a great resource for finding a shelter or rescue organization in your area where you can surrender your animal and which does not euthanize adoptable animals.
- Never leave your pet behind in a vacant home or set it loose to "find its own way." It is inhumane and may violate animal cruelty laws.
- Be aware that if you leave a pet behind, when a mortgage lender takes possession of the home, your pet will be taken to the local animal control agency or shelter, where it will be at risk of an uncertain future that may include euthanasia. You could also face possible criminal charges for animal abandonment.

Tips for mortgage lenders during the foreclosure process:

When beginning delinquency foreclosure proceedings, ask the homeowners if they have pets. Offer them American Humane's *Tips for Homeowners With Pets When Facing Home Foreclosure* so they can take appropriate steps to care for their pets. (The tips are available at www.americanhumane.org.)

- Check for pets during monthly delinquency inspections, both inside and outside the home, and, if possible, ask neighbors if they are aware of any pets in the home.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1** Animals in Zoos Deserve Better Treatment
- 1** Animals Caregivers and the Foreclosure Crisis
- 3** The Plight of Equines in Tough Times
- 4** Downeast Shark Tournaments
- 5** Vegan Corner

Continued from page 1

physical, psychological, and social needs of elephants. The elephant who resides there is confined to a very small area, a tiny fraction of a natural home range. What other elephant does this one have to relate to? Obviously, no other, and this impacts the psychological life of that animal greatly. In other zoos, elephants may be kept in small groups which are then separated and shuffled from one place to another, thus breaking up the vital bonds which have been formed.

The problems caused by intense confinement, unnatural conditions, and lack of space are legion. I have listed some below:

- These practices shorten elephant lifespan by decades. This was documented in a peer-review survey of 4,500 elephants, published in the journal *Science* (December 2008). It found that Asian elephants in European zoos had a median lifespan of just 18.9 years compared to 41.7 years for wild elephants in an Asian logging camp. African elephants' median lifespan was 16.9 years compared to 56 years for free-ranging elephants in Kenya's Amboseli National Park.
 - Many of the elephants on display in zoos survive on a daily diet of painkillers and anti-inflammatory medications to mask captivity-related ailments — the direct result of inactivity from confinement in artificial and restrictive zoo enclosures. Because vast range areas cannot be provided, elephants in zoos spend their entire lives inactive in tiny enclosures, standing on concrete or hard compacted dirt. As a result, they suffer extremely painful arthritis and recurrent foot infections which become lethal over time and are the leading cause of euthanasia in captive elephants.
 - Neurotic behaviors are common consequences of severe confinement. Neurotic reactions can take the form of rocking or swaying, head nodding, and other repetitive motions.
- Breeding programs in captivity have largely failed, with high stillbirth and infant mortality rates. Without the complex social network that they depend on, new elephant mothers in captivity are ill-equipped to nurture infants, causing many of them to die. Inexperienced mothers would normally learn from other females in the family herd, who help ensure the infant's survival. Zoos cannot begin to accommodate these vital social structures.
 - Zoos in cold climates pose additional health threats to elephants, who originate from warm, temperate regions of Africa and Asia, forcing them indoors for months at a time, into cramped enclosures that are even smaller than their inadequate outdoor areas. Forced indoors, elephants stand on concrete surfaces in their own urine and feces, which can lead to foot infection, joint disease, and psychological problems stemming from boredom and stress.

Zoos are consumers, not preservers of elephants, causing them to die decades before their natural time. As reported in the article, we did get negative responses from pedestrians and people in vehicles; but we received positive responses, as well. We have concerns, grave concerns, and the elephant issue is only one of them. To remain silent in the face of what we deem to be wrong is tantamount to complicity.

Caryl McIntire Edwards

York Weekly July 15, 2009 (Some of this information was taken from a fact sheet put out by In Defense of Animals.)



Sadly, many zoos still use force and dominance to manage elephants. Historically they have been "managed" through the use of "bull hooks," a heavy rod with a sharp hook at one end. Often, this is embedded in the soft tissue behind the ears, inside the ear or mouth, in and around the anus, and in tender spots under the chin and around the feet. It may be used to strike them between the eyes, as well.

A group of animal activists organized by Barbara Bonsignore held anti-zoo signs across street from *York's Wild Kingdom* every third Saturday from June to September. Hundreds of passersby were educated on the cruelty of keeping animals in zoos. Barbara says she will be holding protests of this sort every summer until the zoo is closed.

The Plight of Equines in Tough Times

Times are tough for all animals, including equines. Here are some rescue sites. Please pass this info along. It may prevent an equine from starving to death or going to slaughter.

www.newenglandequinerescues.com

Below is information about fostering equines taken from their web site.

Do you have an extra stall?? ...for a quarantined horse?

Could you take on a project? Do you have the space, time, and ability to retrain or recondition a formerly slaughter bound horse?

Could you put an older horse out to pasture?

Could you hold something until we can find it a permanent home??

Do you have a quarantine barn? Stall? Run in?

We have lots of horses who need lots of different things...but we need foster homes. We can't pull more from slaughter until we have a place to put them.

We have all different kinds of fosters, and all of our fostered horses get ANGELS (see ANGEL page). If you can take on a horse, including basic care expenses, please let us know. NEER pays for the big and expensive stuff. The foster pays hay and grain, and anything above and beyond, that they can afford, and all expenses are tax deductible. Fostered horses can be either already quarantined and coming from another foster, wherein they would be quarantined, inoculated, wormed, floated and trimmed, or, if you have the capacity to quarantine for 30 days (minimum 25 feet away from all other horses, and no visiting escapees:), then you could take a horse, straight out of the kill pen. You would then work with NEER to get the horse vetted and updated on everything needed to get ready for their new home. (Some fosters fall in love, and the horse never leaves. We like this...).

Fosters always have first right to adopt. But remember, even when adopted, a NEER horse is still a NEER horse...NEER retains ownership at all times to try to protect the horses that we have already saved once, for as long as we can...this has always been our policy. But assuming that fosters are meeting their 'contractual obligations', and working with NEER to keep the horse safe and healthy, we would never remove a horse from a foster or adoptive home that loves it. (That would defeat the purpose, don't you think?).

Money spent on a fostered horse (above and beyond regular maintenance) will be put toward any adoption fee, but we are more concerned with good homes than we are adoption fees. All different needs, All the time.

Fosters can write off their fostering costs.

Check out www.saveyourass.org, as well. This is a New England non-profit donkey and mule rescue organization.

Mules are hybrid equines resulting from the mating of a donkey stallion and a horse mare. (Hinnies, who are much smaller, and not often bred now, are the result of mating between a horse stallion and a donkey mare.)

For an interesting read on equine and all hybrid animals check out www.messybeast.com

Specifically on equines go to <http://www.messybeast.com/genetics/hybrid-equines.htm> and to www.madamzebra.com/Hybrid-Equines.html

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Continued from page 1

- If pets are suspected to be on the property, the inspector or mortgage lender should call the local animal control agency or animal shelter and ask that an officer come to the home for suspicion of animal abandonment and/or neglect.
- In most cases, an animal control officer can request a warrant to enter the home and seize the pets if food, water or shelter is insufficient. If a seizure of the animals occurs within a time period in which the mortgage lender is waiting to legally seize the home and foreclose, the animals will be kept safe. After that time, though, their futures are less certain, and they may be euthanized if not adopted.

Note: Mortgage lenders should consult with their district attorney's office to verify the local applicability of these tips.

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- (Source: American Humane Association)

Help ensure the way life should be for our companion animals by supporting the Animal Welfare Program in the following ways:

- * **License your dog. 85% of the fee goes directly to AWP.**
- * **Buy an Adopt specialty license plate. \$10 goes directly to AWP.**
- * **Contribute when filing your MAINE taxes via tax check-off box #7.**
- * **Make a personal donation using the contact information below.**

To make a donation or report animal cruelty or neglect: 207.287.3846. 1.877.269.9200 (toll free). animal.welfare@maine.gov



The Downeast Shark Tournament Is Downright Shameful

Voice for Animals joined with the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), Maine Animal Coalition (MAC), Maine Friends of Animals (MFOA), and the Wildlife Coalition of Maine (WAM) to oppose the summer 2009 shark tournament. Shark tournaments like the Downeast Maine Shark Tournament are cruel spectacles that further devastate shark populations and ocean ecosystems. Populations of species targeted at shark tournaments are in serious decline, some plummeting by over 90% since the 1970s. Mako, blue sharks, threshers and porbeagles – frequently the prizewinners are extremely vulnerable to the threat of global extinction. Kill tournaments are grotesque displays where sharks are hooked, bled, suffocated or repeatedly gaffed. Recently, several tournaments have chosen to go entirely catch and release – a step in the right direction toward protecting shark populations.

The Downeast Maine Shark Tournament only encourages this ecological disaster and fosters the tragic misconception that the only good shark is a dead one.

(Information provided by Katie Lisnik of HSUS)

1211 Companion Animal Calendar Contest

Do You Have a Special Picture of Your Companion Animal???

If so, please share it with us. You might find the animal's picture on our 1211 calendar!! Just send a picture of your companion animal along with the \$25.00 entry fee. It could be a cat, dog, rabbit, horse, farm animal (one who has a forever home, please) or other animal. Send to Carylsmunkyboy@gmail.com.

Never Turn Your Back on an Animal in Need: *Rose Bud*

We were spending the long Labor Day weekend at camp and nothing even remotely eventful had happened until Sunday evening. We were safe and snug in our beds but were kept awake because the coyotes were so close it was as if they were leaning against the camp. I remarked to my husband that I had never heard them closer.

In the morning I awoke first, as I always do, to make coffee for everyone else. Looking out my kitchen window I saw the cutest Beagle staring back at me, obviously pleading for help. What had happened??

I looked again and she was nowhere to be seen. In a panic I rushed out the door and called. The Beagle, quite obviously a female, came to my side immediately and I brought her inside.

Where had she come from? How had she gotten there?? It became very obvious that she had been the object of the coyote howling during the night. She must have been chased to our camp and hid under one of the vehicles or the porch until the sun came up and her pursuers retreated.

She was skin and bones; her tail was raw; and her ear had been ripped but she was still alive and relatively well!

Our first task, after feeding her, was to find out where she belonged. In the past we had been able to facilitate several reunions right there in that town but this time seemed different.


A neighbor told us that animals were dropped off there all the time now and no one was able to keep up with it. Of course, it is illegal to abandon animals and that is why they are abandoned at night and in remote areas so the perpetrator(s) can never be caught and punished. She had no collar and finding her people and her home was not looking good.

Not being able to find the ACO we took her home and began to make phone calls from there. The ACO had had no reports of a missing beagle, neither had the local veterinary hospitals, or the shelters. It was beginning to seem that someone had not minded at all if their little dog had become supper for coyotes.

Her nails were terribly long and it became quite obvious that she had not spent much time inside a house. She was not housebroken and she initially cowered at any quick movement or loud noise. She had been abused.

We got her shots and after all attempts to find people who cared about her were exhausted we had her spayed.

We thought we might then place her through Voice for Animals or through Beagle Rescue but she won our hearts with her sweet, gentle nature-and not just our hearts, but those of the other two dogs and the cats in our home, as well.

She has become our Rose Bud, "Rosie." A sweet dog in grave need whom we could not turn our backs on. We gave her the gift of safety and ultimately love and she has returned the love to us a thousand fold. What would we now do without her dear presence in our lives 

Vegan Corner –Barbara Bonsignore

Nut French Toast

1 ½ cups water
4-6 slices whole-grain bread
1 ¼ cups raw cashews or other nuts
1 tsp. vanilla, almond or orange extract
1 tsp. tamari
cinnamon to taste

2 Tbsp. whole-wheat pastry flour

Blend all ingredients except bread and cinnamon in blender. Dip 4-6 slices wholegrain bread in batter (*keep stirring batter*). Sprinkle with cinnamon. Bake in oven at 350 on oiled cookie sheet until both sides are lightly brown, approximately 10 minutes preside, turning once. Sprinkle with more cinnamon. Serve with real maple syrup and/or fruit topping.

Fruit Topping

3 ripe bananas
½ cup raisins
1 peeled, quartered orange
½ cup boiling water
juice of 1 lemon

Pour boiling water over raisins and let sit until plump. Blend all ingredients in blender until smooth.

These recipes are from Barbara Bonsignore's cookbook ***Cooking with Compassion-a Gourmet Vegan Recipe Book*** \$20.00 from Barbara Bonsignore at 8 Hutchins Street, Concord, NH 03301-3208. All proceeds go to low cost spay/ neuter of dogs and cats.

Funding Sources for Families in Need of Help for Companion Animals

(Every year VFA tries to research new sources of support for animals in need.)

www.canineaid.org

www.myjakebrady.com/memorial_fund.shtml

<http://www.shakespeareanimalfund.org/about.html>

<http://www.angels4animals.org/programs.html>

www.themagicbulletfund.org financial assistance for treatment of dogs with cancer

www.smilingblueskies.com financial assistance for health, health care and quality of life for older companion animals

<http://caninecancerawareness.org/>
Canine Cancer Awareness

www.catsin crisis.org/crisisFund.html

Cats in Crisis Must be diagnosed with a chronic medical condition:

-Gillie Fund neurological problems

-Mesa Fund kidney disease

-Stripes Fund heart and thyroid problems

grants.landofpuregold.com/

Helping Harley Fund Cancer treatment for working dogs

www.petdiabetes.net/fund Muffin Diabetic Assistance

www.browndogfoundation.org Brown Dog Foundation

<http://piggerspals.org> Pigger's Pals

www.felineoutreach.org

www.handicappedpets.net

<http://www.themosbyfoundation.org>

www.Doberman911.org

Finally, shop around and compare prices. In helping someone recently Caryl Edwards found that surgery in the animal hospital which the person used was exorbitant for the procedure (\$1400) while another within traveling distance was \$700. The person got the surgery done at the cheaper price and is now a client of that practice, even though it is a bit of a hike for her.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Times are rough for everyone this year but without your support it will be worse for the animals. That is why we need your help. We need you to donate your time so that we may help them. Volunteer services include

- Placing donation canisters
- Emptying existing canisters
- Researching and/or writing newsletter articles
- Picking up donated pet food
- Helping us spread the word at local events
- Manning feeding stations
- Helping at the annual book and yard sales
- Fundraising
- Helping with mailings and membership drive
- Monitoring cat traps
- Assisting at spay neuter clinics

Tributes

From Deb Sevigny in honor of Glenn and Connie Couture and all that they do for her dog, Maggie.

In honor of Deb Sevigny's birthday, July 23.

In memory of Gabe, long time companion of Barb Crider and Marna Waskin. May you all meet again one day at the Rainbow Bridge. Deb Sevigny and Tom Nelson



In memory of Molly, long time companion of Norma Lemire. You will meet again at the Rainbow Bridge someday-Deb Sevigny

RUMFORD FALLS TIMES — Wednesday, February 18, 2009

Popular therapy dog passes



Little Bear McDonald

LEWISTON — Little Bear McDonald went to sit in Grammy's lap in heaven on Feb. 8, 2009. He had been hospitalized at the Animal Emergency Clinic in Lewiston with a sudden blood disorder.

He was born on June 25, 2000 and came to live with his human mother, Becky McDonald, at the age of six months. After the Sept. 11, 2001 tragedy, Bear started

his therapy dog career. Bear and Becky started visiting at the Victorian Villa in Canton and he took to the job, bringing love and laughter to everyone he met.

He would strut on the end of his leash, showing off his wardrobe or costume, and fully expecting everyone to drop whatever they were doing to admire and pet him. He wasn't happy until everyone in the room had paid attention to him.

He later helped start a "visiting dog" group at the Rumford Community Home. Many other dogs and owners joined him, Buddy and Donna Rowe, and Katya and Louise Austin among them. They were later invited to start a program at the Rumford Hospital.

At that time, Angus, owned by Virginia Jones, was one of the only certified therapy dogs in the area. They started and Buddy, Katya, Bear and Sophie became certified and joined the program at the Rumford Hospital.

Bear brought joy wherever he went. He had the heart to love everyone unconditionally every minute of his life. He was always up for an adventure and was truly a blessing to his human family and friends.

He leaves his family, Becky McDonald and Carlton Welch; sister dogs, Sophie and Zephyr, and all the cats he loved to pester of Canton; his "work family" at Archie's/Aulenback; and canine friends, Baxter and Shyann of Mexico.

Days Becky was working, he could be found sleeping in his own chair, looking so relaxed everyone had to stop to pet him and talk to him, which of course, he loved. He never got too much attention.

Special thanks to Dr. Kent and staff in Rumford, and everyone at the Animal Emergency Clinic in Lewiston that cared for him and tried so hard to save our boy.

Want to help companion and farm animals in your area in times of emergency? FMI In Maine contact Katie Lisnik (klisnik@hsus.org) regarding CART (County Animal Response Team) and in New Hampshire contact Patricia Morris Esq. (pmorris@pmorrislaw.com) regarding DART (Disaster Animal Response Team).

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