

# THE VOICE

December 2014



## President's Message

Dear Friends,

Having passed more than 25 years of advocacy we are anxious to begin working on fulfilling our entire mission which, as we have stated here before, would involve a rescue/sanctuary for companion and farm animals.

Mostly Voice for Animals is known for helping cats, but it has helped dogs in the area, as well-just on a smaller scale. Admittedly, there are fewer dogs here who are in need of help, but the ones in the South do. Many rescue groups are now bringing them up but there are always those who are left behind. We hope to fill that gap, bringing them here, giving them shelter, and finding them loving, permanent homes while helping to end the southern overpopulation crisis for good.

As we have mentioned before, we also plan to rescue those who are not often included with dogs and cats: horses and other farm animals. Their need is great! VFA has already cared for some, and we would like to increase our involvement in their rescue and permanent care.

We know that many people share our passion, compassion, and ultimate goals; we just have not met them yet! There are plenty of jobs for people who choose to work with us from fundraising to hands on work with the animals in our care.

Email us and tell us how you would like to be involved [voiceforanimals.1987@gmail.com](mailto:voiceforanimals.1987@gmail.com).

There is a spot in Voice for Animals for you and your friends. There are so many animals who desperately need us all.

***Until they speak to everyone as clearly as we hear them through our hearts, there is a great and urgent need for you to join with us in becoming a Voice for Animals.***

*Caryl McIntire Edwards*

## Help Us Out

If you have not already sent us your email addresses please do so now! It allows us to spend less money on postage and more money on the animals. Send to [voiceforanimals.1987@gmail.com](mailto:voiceforanimals.1987@gmail.com) and you will receive future newsletters in this way.

Similarly, if you receive both an email and a hard copy of this newsletter, let us know-it was a mistake. Also, if your email or regular address (if you are still using that with us) changes, please let us know, otherwise we will not be able to continue to provide you with our newsletter and important updates.

## Voice for Animals Needs YOU!!



Over the past few years a number of hardworking members have moved away and we have not been able to fill all the spots they have left behind. We need help in just about every area: trapping of ferals, fostering, fundraising, and long-term planning, to name a few. Please email us [voiceforanimals.1987@gmail.com](mailto:voiceforanimals.1987@gmail.com) and offer your particular expertise. We really need you, but more importantly the animals do. You may be THE person who helps us to realize our future goals.

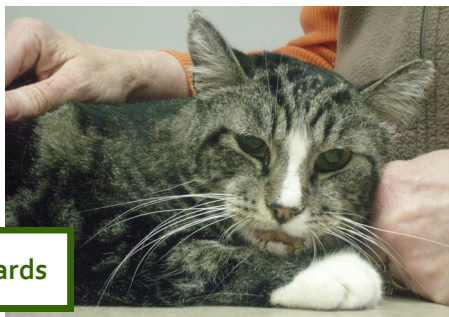
## Tributes

Weep not for me though I am gone into that gentle night.  
Grieve if you will, but not for long,  
Upon my soul's sweet flight.  
I am at peace, my soul's at rest,  
There is no need for tears;  
For with your love I was so blessed  
For all those many years.  
There is no pain, I suffer not;  
The fear now is all gone.  
Put now these things out of your thoughts,  
In your memory I love on.  
Remember not my fight for breath,  
Remember not the strife.  
Please do not dwell upon my death, but  
celebrate my life.



Buddy McIntire  
Edwards &  
Lucky Edwards.

In memory of my wonderful Buddy McIntire Edwards (1996-2014), who came into my life as a companion (buddy) for my mother's dog Charlie (Princess Charlotte). Charlie ended up with me after my mother's death and was very lonely because I was gone all day. The moment she met Buddy, Charlie, who did not particularly like many other dogs, fell in love with him and he did become her buddy. In 1999 when I lost two beloved cats, Tidgie-Widdle and Monkeyboy, and then my twin brother, Bobby, in a span of six weeks, he became my buddy, too, sensing my deep sadness and never leaving my side. The pattern initiated then continued throughout our time together. He loved me and everyone else who came into his life, but always me the most. He always forgave me for any mistakes I may have made. I, on the other hand, NEVER had anything to forgive him for. Thank you for eighteen years of devotion. Until we meet again, my Buddy, best boy...



Bobby Edwards

Rescues should never be about ourselves; they should always be about the animal in need. When we met Bobby and earned his trust, after well over a year, it was a shock to learn that he had end stage kidney failure. The vet who neutered him checked him for nothing it turns out, but certified him as being in good health. We would certainly have been on top of his illness if had we known. However, the silver lining in this great sadness is that because of our bonding, Bobby was able to die a peaceful death surrounded by those he had learned to love and trust-far different from what his death would have been had he remained outside. Perhaps that was exactly why our bonding occurred and this kind of death was our gift of love to him. Until we meet again, Bobby...

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## What's New with Cats in Maine and New Hampshire?

In Maine there has been a lot of talk about better coordinating transport efforts in-between shelters and rescues in the state. There is a growing network of shelters and rescues who talk regularly and update each other on how many cats they have and to arrange for transports within the state. There have been many trips between Aroostook county and groups in southern Maine, bringing down kittens and cats as space is available here. I think this is an excellent example of shelters and rescues not just focusing on their own community, but looking at how they can help the state as a whole.

In New Hampshire, I don't believe efforts such as these are as far along. There is the New Hampshire Federation of Humane Organizations, but I'm not sure how frequently cat transports come up. Both ME and NH have some good TNR programs scattered around, but both states need more concerted efforts to target TNR and also increase the availability of services to needy regions, and better access to affordable s/n services.

Katie Lisnik

lisnik@hsus.org

HSUS National Cat Efforts Coordinator

## The Vegan Corner

### Chewy Molasses Spelt Cookies

Yield: 1 dozen cookies

Prep Time: 15 Minutes

Cook time: 12 Minutes

Ingredients:

1/2 tablespoon ground flax mixed with 2 tablespoons water

1/4 cup vegan butter

1/4 cup natural cane sugar

2 tablespoons blackstrap molasses

2 tablespoons pure maple syrup

1/2 teaspoon pure vanilla extract

1 teaspoon ground ginger

1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon

1/4 teaspoon ground cloves

1/2 teaspoon baking soda

1/4 teaspoon fine grain sea salt

1-1/4 cups light spelt flour

1/4 cup diced candied ginger (optional)

2-3 tablespoons sugar, for rolling (optional)

Preheat oven to 350F. Line 1 large baking sheet with parchment paper.

Mix flax and water in a mug and set aside for a few minutes. Stir to combine.

In a large bowl, beat together the butter, sugar, molasses, syrup, vanilla, and flax mixture until smooth and combined.

In the same bowl, beat in one-by one, the dry ingredients (ginger, cinnamon, soda, salt, cloves, and flour) until just combined. Be sure not to over mix.

Fold in diced candied ginger if using (or skip this step).

Shape dough into small balls and roll in a bowl of sugar (optional). Place balls 2 inches apart on the cookie sheet. Carefully flatten ball slightly with hand so it's about 1/2 inch thick.

Bake cookies for 12 minutes for a crispier cookie, or 10 minutes for a softer cookie. Cool on the pan for 5 minutes before transferring to a cooling rack for another 10-15 minutes. Enjoy!

Notes: You can probably swap the light spelt flour for all-purpose flour if desired. This recipe can be doubled if you desire 24 cookies instead of 12. You can use a combo of cane sugar and turbinado sugar for rolling (the turbinado makes it really crunchy), but you can use all cane sugar if you prefer.

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### Sweet Potato Soup

Serves: 6

2 tablespoons olive oil

2 medium onions, chopped

2 medium carrots, peeled and diced

1 large celery stalk, diced

Handful of celery leaves

6 cups peeled, diced (about 1/2 inch) sweet potatoes

2 bay leaves

1 tablespoon salt-free seasoning blend (such as Frontier or Mrs. Dash)

1/2 teaspoon dried thyme

1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg

1 cup rice milk or light coconut milk, or as needed

Salt and freshly ground pepper to taste

Fresh parsley for garnish

Heat the oil in a soup pot. Add the onion, carrots, and celery and sauté over low heat until the onions are golden.

Add the celery leaves and sweet potato dice. Add just enough water to cover all but about an inch of the vegetables. Bring to a simmer, then stir in the bay leaves and seasonings. Simmer gently, covered, until the sweet potatoes and vegetables are quite tender, about 20 to 25 minutes. Remove the bay leaves.

With a slotted spoon, remove about half of the solid ingredients and transfer to a food processor along with about 1/2 cup of the cooking liquid. Process until smoothly pureed, then stir back into the soup pot. Or, simply insert an immersion blender into the pot and process until smoothly pureed.

Add the rice milk or coconut as needed to give the soup a slightly thick consistency. Season with salt and pepper. Simmer over very low heat for another 10 to 15 minutes.

Serve at once, or let stand off the heat for an hour or two before serving, then heat through as needed. Garnish individual servings with sprigs of fresh parsley, or chopped leaves.

## New Hampshire News

### Legislative Session Recap

Because of you, we had an incredible session for animals in the Granite State! Early in the session we defeated the Ag Gag bill ensuring that whistleblowers working to expose heinous acts of animal cruelty in agriculture will not be punished. This victory was followed by the defeat of three separate bills that would have created unfair and unnecessary regulations for our state's humane societies. Five animal protection bills were passed including increased penalties for illegal trapping that results in the death of a domestic animal and a pet protection bill ensuring survivors of domestic violence have legal options to flee with or return for their pets and livestock! Canine Veteran's Day is now an official state holiday and will be held on March 13th each year – stay tuned for events in 2015. People struggling financially to get their pet spayed or neutered will now have an easier time receiving assistance from the state's Plan B program even if they are not currently on another state assistance program. Lastly, service animals came out ahead with increased protections for them and their caregivers.

A huge thank you to each of you for your efforts in ensuring 2014 was a stellar year for animals in the Granite State. Now that the legislative session is over, your elected officials are home in their districts. It's the perfect time to call them and ask for a meeting. Let them know you care about the protection of animals. To find out more, check out our Advocate Toolkit here. <http://www.humanesociety.org/action/toolkit/>

Our New Hampshire State Director will be hosting free grassroots meetings in many of the Legislative Districts this fall to discuss our priorities for 2015. Please email [lhamrick@humanesociety.org](mailto:lhamrick@humanesociety.org) if you are interested in participating. You can also follow our state legislative efforts on our New Hampshire Facebook page.

Lindsay Hamrick  
New Hampshire State Director – State Affairs  
[lhamrick@humanesociety.org](mailto:lhamrick@humanesociety.org) 603.401.0287

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## Maine News

### Disappointing Election Results

Dear Friend,

There is disappointing news for Maine's bears, as Question 1 appears to have fallen short in last night's election.

Maine is the last state in the country to allow the cruel and unsporting practices of bear baiting, hounding, and trapping. Unfortunately, it was very difficult to overcome the active involvement and spending by the state, which caused so much confusion for voters despite Maine being the only state to rely on all these extreme hunting methods. It was an unprecedented infusion of state resources into a political campaign, and that involvement was grounded in fear and scare tactics.

The close vote strongly suggests that the defeat of Question 1 is not a mandate to continue these inhumane, unfair, and unsporting hunting methods. We sincerely hope that Maine officials take a careful look at how controversial these methods are with the public and how every other state has, to one degree or another, set a different course for dealing with bears. The opponents of Question 1 will court continuing controversy and our focused campaign energy if they simply preserve the status quo. We are also calling on the Maine legislature to take up the issue of state agencies funneling money and resources into political campaigns, which is in the interest of clean elections regardless of where you stand on the issues.

While there are divided views about baiting in Maine -- as reflected by the vote on Question 1 -- there is, beneath the surface, an overwhelming sentiment that trapping and hounding of bears is unacceptable. The state's two largest papers -- the Portland Press Herald and the Bangor Daily News -- both opposed Question 1 but called for a ban on hounding and trapping of bears for sport. Although yesterday was not the victory we hoped for, we have still made progress in exposing the world to the cruelties associated with hounding and trapping. The situation for bears must change. It's because of you that we got this close to ending cruel and reckless practices for Maine's bears -- thank you for standing with us.

[khansberry@hsus.org](mailto:khansberry@hsus.org)  
Maine State Director - HSUS  
Campaign Director Mainers for Fair Bear Hunting

## Animal Communication

### Animal Reiki for Shelter Animals

Shelter animals have always held a place in my heart. A situation and environment that they did not choose! Yet here they are confused by the fact they are going to a new home. Through my 12 years of offering alternative healing to animals, I knew that Reiki would be a benefit to these animals who are confused, grieving, upset, lost, and those who have behavioral issues. Reiki is a pure and loving Universal energy source that is channeled through the practitioner to the Receiver. Reiki recharges the cells in the body to allow healing and releasing of emotions to take place. The healing is on all levels; physical, emotional, mental and spiritual. Animals are very connected to this energy and in the sessions they will guide the practitioner to the areas of the body that require attention. The animals know when they are complete and when they would like more. I often have found animals who receive regular sessions to become Reiki Junkies – often lying right down in front of me eager to get started with the session.

In 2011 I began volunteering weekly at an Animal Shelter to offer Reiki and communication to the animals there. And this year I expanded this into a second shelter. I learned how some animals were confused about their location and why they were there, and others were delighted that they were out of a bad situation and were ready to move on. Some have lost self esteem and confidence or had feeling of abandonment. They felt they were not good enough or not ready for a new home. Others were so confident they would jump up and down offering pictures of their preferred new environment and/or people. It has been fascinating. The staff has found it useful, giving them a better understanding of a dog's emotional situation. I work closely with the trainers who then adapt training based on the information gathered—a win-win for the dogs.

Doja had been at the shelter for many months, with no interest from the public to adopt her. When I was introduced to her she was in an outdoor run situated out of sight from passing potential interest. Doja and I spent some time together and I offered her a Reiki session. It was very apparent that she had a 'veil' around her. She had shrouded herself because she had lost her self confidence and didn't feel worthy of a new home. We worked together to clear the veil and increase her confidence and self esteem. It was a heartfelt experience as she opened up her emotions again. When I returned to the shelter the following week I was told she had been adopted the day after her session!

Caesar was a 9 year old mixed breed who had been at the shelter for a while. I was asked by one of the volunteers to have a 'chat' with him to see why he hadn't been adopted. It was so interesting to find that he thought the shelter was his new home – I petted him and smiled, I explained that this was a place to keep him safe until he found his forever home. I learned the following week that he had been adopted within a couple of days.

Katie was not attracting her new home. I initially found that Katie was full of pent up anger and frustration. We worked to clear these emotions through Reiki. On my next visit, Katie was being moved to another shelter in the hope of attracting new attention. There was a lot of upset because of concern this move would set her back emotionally. I decided to tell Katie know that she would be going on a ride to a new shelter to find her a permanent family. I suggested to her that if she did not want to go to the new shelter, she needed to find her new people that day. I gave her Reiki and wished her well. That afternoon I received a call from 3 staff members relaying Katie's story. She had arrived at the new shelter, a car pulled in behind them with a couple who had seen Katie on line and were interested in adopting her. They all met in the parking lot and the couple fell in love with Katie. The adoption papers were completed and Katie had a new home. She didn't even step foot in the new shelter!

I will often find myself in a situation where I feel an animal would benefit from Reiki. At an Animal Expo in 2013, I had noticed that the cats, available for adoption that day, appeared to be very stressed in this new and noisy situation. I asked if I could offer Reiki to them. I placed some gem stones in the cage and offered Reiki to the cats. Over a short period of time, these cats seemed to calm down and relax. I gifted the gem stones to the cats and returned to my booth. One of the volunteers approached me later to share that the cats remained calm the rest of the day.

At another expo last year I saw a young man with his dog held in his arms. The dog was a recent adoption and was very nervous in this new environment. She had no interest in the other dogs and was totally overwhelmed. I asked if I could offer her Reiki. She lay down almost immediately on the blanket and I channeled Reiki to her. I also used an essential oil to offer courage and strength. She eventually stood up and was ready to move on. The owner came back later in the day to say that his dog had been interacting with the other dogs and appeared to be so much calmer and more secure.

(Continue on next page)

I recently worked with a long time resident shelter dog. This dog was convinced that leaving the shelter was not safe. He felt safe at the shelter. We had worked with him several times offering Reiki and he enjoyed his sessions; however he remained at the shelter, showing no interest in people who stopped at his kennel. On my next visit I explained to him that there may be a family out there who would offer him all the security he has at the shelter, and a couch!! A few days later I received an email that he had been adopted, I saw photos of him on a couch, out walking and generally looking very proud of himself.

Over the last 4 years the healings and changes in these animals has been incredible. The emotions that are felt and cleared continue to keep me humble as each animal is willing to give life another chance. More information can be found on my website, the PHUR program is now looking to expand into other shelters. Weekly Reiki sessions are a free service. Workshops are offered to help connect people to Reiki Level I and Animal Reiki, which expands the volunteer group bringing this enrichment to more animals. (A % of workshop fees is donated back to the shelter).

Many blessings,  
Michele Lowry,  
Reiki Master/Teacher, Shamanic Practitioner/Diviner and Animal Clairvoyant

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## Communicating with Animals

I have been working with animals for over 7 years as an animal communicator. When I first got started, I was simply giving them Reiki. One day it was like a switch was flipped and I started getting images, words, and feelings from them. Yes, I thought I was losing my mind at first, but I was also beyond excited because for most of my life I wanted to be a psychic. My mom used to go to one annually and I was just amazed at the accuracy of the information relayed during the hour long sessions. Now I'm living my dream and am learning something new about myself and animals on a daily basis. It is incredible!

When I tell people what I do for a living, they usually ask, "What do animals want to talk about?" The answer is everything and anything! Sometimes they want to talk about the end of their life, or the signs they are going to give the owner when they are truly ready to "go home." This is often the most difficult decision any of face and I find that people have a sense of peace knowing that their animal is ready and that they may even tell them how they are going to show up to let them know they are still around energetically. Most people consider death to be one of the hardest things to talk about. I love it. I feel like the link I can make with the other side allows people to find healing and often times closure in the most painful of times.

Animals also love to talk about clothing, beds, and blankets. Horses are especially particular about what color blanket they get! They talk about (or complain about) the bit, the saddle, the saddle pad, the way the rider is sitting incorrectly, how to get them to respond more effectively to commands, and how they feel about their barn mates. Yes, this can sound ridiculous at first but if your horse always seems agitated in the stall why not ask them what would make it better? One horse I read this summer had been moved to a stall that didn't have a full view of the hallway where most of the action happened. The horse requested a mirror to be placed in a certain spot and her behavior changed instantly!

Can you imagine having an ache or pain and not being able to use your words to communicate it? How would you let someone know? You may be irritated. You may refuse to move, or you may just keep misbehaving until someone calls me in a last ditch effort to ask what the heck is up! I am not a vet, nor do I ever want to be. I am not an animal behaviorist and I actually have no training experience. I am, however, and empath. I can feel what you are feeling if I tap into your energy. The same goes for animals. This can help you narrow down what area is uncomfortable and most animals are more than happy to offer solutions! I have animals asking for chiropractic care, massage, energy work and sometimes they tell the ferrier how their shoes feel and how they'd like them adjusted. I am always amazed when the owner validates that what the animal relays is confirmed by the people who know much more than I do!

I could write books on what animals have taught me. The next time you're with a horse, ask him if he's happy. See if he nods or gives you an answer. Pay attention to your senses and see what you pick up. They all have something to teach us and it is up to us to recognize them for the gifts that they are in our lives.

I am available for long distance readings and can be reached at [enlightenedhorizons@gmail.com](mailto:enlightenedhorizons@gmail.com). For more information about upcoming classes so you can learn how to better communicate with your pets, go to [www.enlightenedhorizons.com](http://www.enlightenedhorizons.com).

Sara Moore  
Psychic/ medium for people and animals  
Residences/offices North Conway, NH and Portland, ME

## Maine Citizens Against Puppy Mills

Hundreds of Maine consumers have purchased pups/kittens at Maine's pet stores, only to quickly be faced with exorbitant vet bills and heartache soon after their purchase. Documents Maine Citizens Against Puppy Mills has acquired through the Maine Department of Agriculture, Animal Welfare Division over the last three years, have proven the fact that ALL pups/kittens imported in to Maine to be resold at retail pet stores or bought on line (78% to 84% are mill pups for on line sales) are from an inhumane large scale breeding industry in the mid west. (aka puppy/kitten mills)

Education is the key: this includes educational events at pet friendly pet supply stores and at rescue events, protests at pet shops that sell mill animals, and making changes through legislative efforts. Maine has only three puppy mill pup/kit selling pet stores, compared to nine stores three years ago. We believe education has turned the tides of the large scale breeding industry.

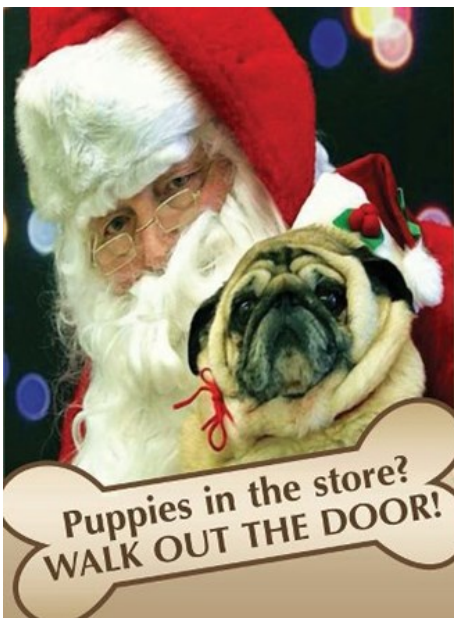
How is a puppy mill different from a reputable breeder? Here are the answers you need.

Pet store/online puppies vs. reputable breeders puppies:

How is puppy milling different from reputable breeding? Puppy mills exist for only one purpose - to make money. In a puppy mill, there may be as many as 30 different breeds and up to 800 or more breeding dogs. Every female is pregnant with every heat, including their first heat at 6 - 10 months old when they themselves are still a puppy. The puppies receive little to no medical attention, are not socialized with people, are almost always taken from their mothers too young, and often start their lives out in the world sick and scared. There is absolutely no regard to the health and well-being of the breeding dogs and when they can no longer produce puppies, the majority of them are killed. Most often, a reputable breeder has great interest in one or perhaps two breeds. The purpose of their breeding program is to continually strive to bring their bloodlines closest to the breed standard. A reputable breeder spends a great deal of time, effort and money showing their dogs, socializing their dogs, having their breeding dogs tested for genetic defects, and being very careful to place their puppies in permanent, loving homes. A reputable breeder will at any time for any reason, take any of the puppies they've bred back into their care for the lifetime of the dog, taking full responsibility for the dogs that they have produced. A reputable breeder wants to know about you and develop a relationship with you. They enjoy updates and photographs of their puppies as they grow and are always available to help with any questions or concerns about their puppies. One of the most important things to know is that a reputable breeder has nothing to hide. They want you to meet the parents of the puppies and see the environment the puppies are raised in. We believe there are many reputable breeders out there, doing a fine job of raising healthy and sound puppies. Buyers must do their homework - contact the National Breed Clubs and find out who the reputable breeders are. Visit the breeder, meet the parents of the puppies, inspect the environment the puppies were raised in, ask lots of questions and if it feels like they're hiding something, they probably are and you'd best be served to move on.

***We at Maine Citizens Against Puppy Mills believe going to a reputable rescue or your local shelter is the best way to find your next forever friend. You could be saving a life.***

Lynne Fracassi  
Maine Citizens Against Puppy Mills  
<http://mainecitizensagainstpuppy Mills.com/>



**DONT BE NAUGHTY...  
Pet \$tores=Puppy Mill\$!**

**Adopt Local @  
Petfinder.com**

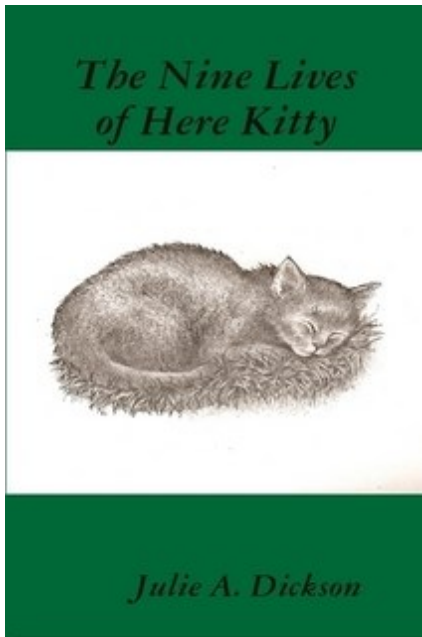
**ADOPT A HOMELESS PET!**

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**WNY Citizens Against Puppy Mills**

**[www.citizensagainstpuppy Mills.org](http://www.citizensagainstpuppy Mills.org)**

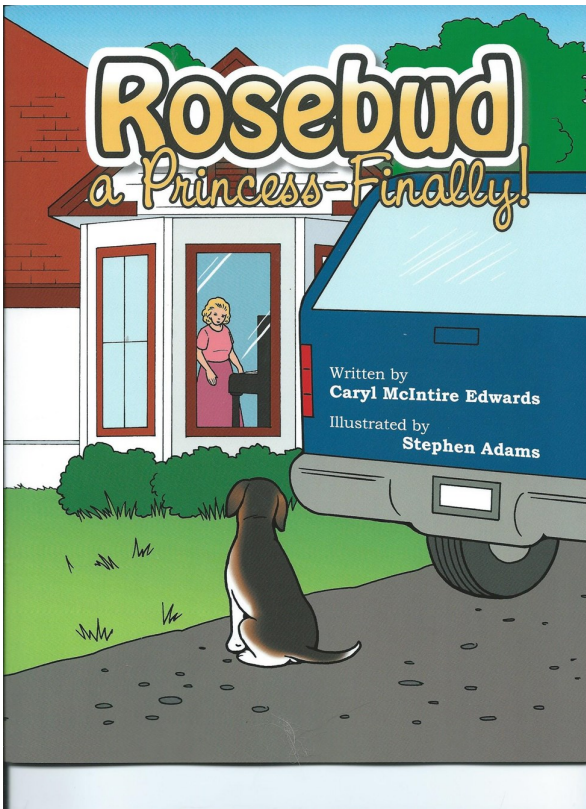
## Book Reviews

Here are two children's books written by Voice for Animals members. Both would make excellent Christmas gifts for children, teaching them kindness and respect for animals. Both authors have determined that a portion of the proceeds from these book sales will go to VFA. Books may be purchased directly from us [voiceforanimals.1987@gmail.com](mailto:voiceforanimals.1987@gmail.com) or Voice for Animals PO Box 34 Harrison, Maine 04040) or on-line at Amazon.com and other outlets. Get into the Holiday spirit! Help the animals, help the children in your life, and help VFA all with two purchases! How could you go wrong?!



Kitty is left alone as a young kitten. She finds herself in a series of mishaps and adventures on her search for a home, while learning about humans, lost family and the dangers of life. A heart-warming story that cat lovers will enjoy.

\$10.00



The harrowing, story of how an unloved, unwanted dog goes from nearly being a coyote meal to living in a home where she is adored.

The last page of this book titled *A Message from Princess Rosebud* has a number of items appropriate for discussions with children including: *When an animal is abandoned in a deserted area that animal is being put right into the food chain. Never advertise an animal as being "Free to a Good Home."* How do you know what a "good home" is? Shelters and rescue groups have applications you must fill out if you want to adopt. They ask you and people who know you how you would treat animals in your care, and then a decision is made.

\$20.00 (Tax Included)



## Educating Adults

-A young adult, a proud vegan, who got many of her friends to stop eating meat, sees nothing wrong with buying a puppy mill dog or choosing a kitten from a neighborhood cat's litter without concern that the mother cat will not likely be spayed.

-A bright, knowledgeable, involved woman who considers herself humane feels that having her cat spayed would be putting her through "too much."

We hear it all the time. The adults who should know and don't; the ones who have grasped some of the issues but not all of them and don't seem to care to learn. How do we reach them?

Below is a thought from Katie Lisnik. Please send yours to us at [voiceforanimals.1987@gmail.com](mailto:voiceforanimals.1987@gmail.com) and we will post your thoughts on our Facebook page.

*For adult education, there is no one way to go about it. Some folks respond well to a story, to illustrate the issue, while others respond more to facts and figures. To others, cost may be a deciding factor, or how easy or difficult the better choice is to do/access. We, as advocates, need to be able to provide information in a variety of ways, to help move society as a whole in a more humane direction.*

## Humane Tips

.If you have bonfire material piled up, check it all before you start a fire! Small animals may have made a winter den there. (Source: Care 2 Causes)

.Wildlife cams across this country and elsewhere have shown innumerable dog and cat collars in the nests of birds of prey. Another reason WHY cats should be kept inside and dogs should be let out in a penned area to do "their business" or for walks on a leash with family members. (Source: Maine Lost Cat Recovery FB page)

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## Never Turn Your Back on an Animal in Need

***"You can never do a kindness too soon, for you never know how soon it will be too late.  
-Ralph Waldo Emerson***

Emma Czomobaj faces a life sentence because she stopped to help ducklings cross a busy highway. She was found guilty on two counts of criminal negligence causing death and two counts of dangerous driving causing death.

Her lawyer wondered how she could be found guilty of criminal negligence in the absence of other contributing factors (e.g drunk driving, speeding, making a risky maneuver.)

The wife and mother of the two victims wants the maximum sentence to be enforced. Yet, her husband, Andre Roy, riding with their daughter Jessie, was speeding and other vehicles, driving the speed limit, saw what Emma was doing and were able to proceed with caution. He was going too fast to stop.

What should one do to help animals in a situation of this sort?

Many years ago a dog lay in the middle of 202 in Lebanon, Maine. Numerous people passed him by without doing anything. One compassionate person finally stopped, intending to check his tags and move him to the side of the road until his family could get him for burial. To her shock, this "dead" dog, lying motionless in the road for many hours, looked up at her.

Subsequently, the dog was transported to a local vet's office and THEN he went home to live out the rest of his life with his family. If this kind person had not stopped there would have been no second chapter in this dog's life.

Please email your thoughts to [voiceforanimals.1987@gmail.com](mailto:voiceforanimals.1987@gmail.com) about the safest way to rescue animals in the road and about what you feel should happen to Emma Czomobaj. We will post them on our Facebook page.

## Helpful Links for Farm Animals and Horses

### Maine:

<http://maineequinewelfarealliance.com/>  
[http://www.maineanimalcoalition.org/assets/files/2014\\_MAC\\_AnimalResourceGuide\\_lores\\_JAN24.pdf](http://www.maineanimalcoalition.org/assets/files/2014_MAC_AnimalResourceGuide_lores_JAN24.pdf)

### New Hampshire:

<http://www.liveandletlivefarm.org/> (operates a hay bank)  
NHSPCA in Stratham ([nhspca.org](http://nhspca.org)) (Operates a hay bank)  
Save Your Ass Donkey and Mule Rescue  
<http://www.saveyourassrescue.org/> (603) 835-2971  
<http://www.humanesociety.org/about/departments/humane-society-academy/webinar-series.html>:

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### Hay Banks and Cooperative Buying Programs: Keeping Horses Fed in Challenging Times

Recorded webinar now available.

Presenter: Jill Fritz, Michigan Senior State Director, The HSUS; Juliana Lehman, Director, Colorado Horsecare Foodbank; and Jodi Messenich, Founder/Executive Director of Zuma's Rescue Ranch  
Description: Sometimes, bad things happen to good horse owners. A community hay bank program can keep at-risk horses out of crowded rescues as well as out of auction stalls. Whether a stand-alone entity or part of a larger safety net program, a hay bank program saves lives and keeps good horse/human relationships intact. Learn how to set up, promote, screen applicants and help recipients create a sustainable plan for the future from experts at the Colorado Horse Care Food Bank and the Michigan Horse Welfare Coalition.

### Further Fun Horse Information

**Glossary of Longear Terms:** Interesting Equine Information (From Save Your Ass Long Ear Rescue)

**Equus asinus** – the Latin name for donkey

**Burro** – the Spanish word for donkey

**Jack** – a male donkey

**Jennet or Jenny** – a female donkey

**Mules** -- the offspring of a female horse and male donkey

**Molly mule** – a female mule

**John mule** – a male mule

**Hinny** – the offspring of a female donkey and a male horse

**Zedonks** - the offspring of a donkey and a zebra.

**Mules, Hinnys, and Zedonks** are hybrids and are almost always sterile, which means they cannot reproduce.

### Additional Information

A hinny is restricted to being about the size of the largest breed of donkey. Mules, however, have a female horse as a parent, so they can be as large as the size of the largest breed of horse, such as those foaled from work horse mares such as the Belgian. Since 1527 there have been more than sixty documented cases of foals born to female mules around the world. In contrast, according to the American Donkey and Mule Society (ADMS), there is only one known case of a female hinny doing so. First Known Use of hinnies: 1688

Father	Mother	Offspring
Donkey (jack)	Horse (mare)	Mule (male), John (male), Molly (female)
Horse	Donkey (jenny/jennet)	Hinny
Zebra	Donkey (jenny/jennet)	Zebrass, Zedonk, Zebronkey, Zebadonk, Zonkey, Zebryde, Zenkey (Japan), Hamzab (Israel)
Zebra	Horse	Zorse, Golden zebra, Zebra mule, Zebrule
Zebra	Pony	Zony
Zebra	Shetland Pony	Zetland
Donkey (jack)	Zebra	Zebret, Donkra
Horse	Zebra	Hebra

## **Thank You**

Ann-imals of York, Maine for donation of cat food

Sue Ellen Jewell for making us catnip toys out of catnip she grows

Elizabeth Hunt-Nickerson for writing grant proposals

Monique Chasse for her time as treasurer

When Maeve Long of South Berwick turned 6, as part of her birthday party she chose donations to VFA in lieu of gifts.

Audrey Langley and the students of Lake Region Vocational High School for laying out and printing this newsletter and e-newsletter.

## **Congratulations to River Valley Animal Advocates!**

When VFA decided to focus on the Seacoast area where we began this group became its own organization: RVAA. In the five years of their existence they have spayed and neutered over 700 cats in the Rumford, Maine area.

Voice for Animals  
PO Box 34  
Harrison, ME 04040