

24 CATS FOUND
THEIR FOREVER
HOMES IN 2015!

VOICE FOR ANIMALS



Compassion in Action

Voice for Animals (VFA) is grass roots, non-profit and no kill organization established in 1987 and originally headquartered in York, Maine.

A Monthly Newsletter

Monthly Reflection

Take a look at what we have been working on this past month

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Vegan Recipes

Two- three vegan recipes every newsletter, whether its time to picnic outdoors or bundle up indoors!

Page 3

Volunteer, Donate, Fundraise

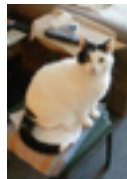
Voice for Animals Inc. is always in need of volunteers and supplies.

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News

Read current articles featured from animal rescue leagues big and small; near and far.

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TRIBUTE

To those who we will remember forever

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FINDING THE CONNECTION

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FARM LIFE & LETTER TO THE EDITOR

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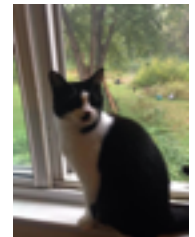
NEVER TURN YOUR BACK ON AN ANIMAL

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SUCCESS STORIES

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Presidents Message

Dear Friends,

As Voice for Animals completes its 28th year of advocacy we continue to work towards meeting our goals of reaching and helping as many animals as we possibly can-both companion, farm animal/horses, and wildlife. Much of what we do is hands-on but a lot more is done through education-both in the written word and in the way we live our lives.

During the past year we have been lucky in acquiring Olivia Chasse. She presented us with the idea of having a monthly on-

line newsletter and had the skills to make it happen. As a result, for the last ten months VFA has been posting monthly issues. Thank you, Olivia!

We believe if you are informed you will be able to be a more effective advocate for animals. Therefore, as always, you will see articles here on laws and bills in Maine and New Hampshire, farm animal/horse rescues, cat/dog rescues, and examples of what people have done to advocate for animals about whose plight they are painfully aware.

As we begin 2016 we are still in need of foster homes, helpers for TNR, fundraising, writing, public relations, setting out and picking up donation boxes, and a host of other items to help meet our needs. Do you have a gift that can make a difference in the lives of

animals? It's likely that you do. Know that the unique abilities which only you can offer to VFA can make a difference in the lives of many, many animals. Won't you join us in changing their lives for the better? Please email VFA, at voiceforanimals.1987@gmail.com, just as Olivia did. The animals will thank you.

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.

*For the Animals,
Caryl McIntire Edwards
President/Founder*



Monthly Reflection

"Christmas is truly enhanced by the presence of a furry friend" -Anonymous

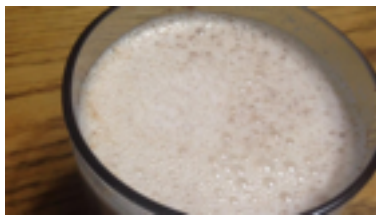
"Dogs truly are able to see into our souls and remind us of the true meaning of Christmas." -Anonymous

We have had a wonderful November and looked forward to presenting our supporters with our December newsletter. We are still preparing our newsletters in PDF format AND as a mailer but would appreciate being notified from those who would prefer an e-format instead of snail mail. We are excited to share the news that we have adopted out 24 cats in 2015. We are grateful for our supporters and appreciate all you do to help whether it be sharing a story,

sharing a post, fostering, or donating. It takes a lot of work to get the results that we do and we only hope to get bigger and stronger and rescue more animals in need.

Our PetFinder page is always up to date and we hope our adoptable cats will find their forever home this Holiday season! - Olivia Chasse





Vegan Eggnog

Original recipe makes 1 serving

Ingredients

- 1 1/2 fluid ounces light coconut milk
- 1 1/2 fluid ounces rice milk
- 1 tablespoon maple syrup
- 1/2 teaspoon rum-flavored extract
- 1 pinch ground cinnamon, or more to taste
- 1 pinch freshly grated nutmeg, or more to taste

Directions

Mix coconut milk, rice milk, maple syrup, rum extract, cinnamon, and nutmeg together in a bowl.-Allrecipes.com

Vegan Hot Chocolate

Original recipe makes 2 servings

- 2 1/2 cups soy milk
- 3 tablespoons white sugar
- 3 tablespoons cocoa powder



- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 pinch ground cinnamon
- 1 pinch cayenne pepper

Directions

Bring the soy milk, sugar, cocoa powder, salt, vanilla extract, cinnamon, and cayenne pepper to a simmer in a saucepan over medium-high heat. Remove from the heat and whisk until frothy. Serve immediately.

-Allrecipes.com

Vegan Tofu Turkey

Original recipe makes 4 servings

- 1 pound firm tofu
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon dried marjoram
- 1/4 teaspoon dried savory
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 1 (12 ounce) package dry bread stuffing mix
- 2/3 cup water



- 1/4 cup soy margarine
- 1 slice bread, cubed
- 1/2 teaspoon sage
- 2 tablespoons water
- 5 tablespoons vegetable oil, divided
- 1 teaspoon barbeque sauce
- 1/2 teaspoon prepared mustard
- 1 tablespoon orange jam
- 1 teaspoon orange juice
- 1 tablespoon sesame seeds

Directions

Drain and rinse tofu; in a food processor or blender, process tofu until smooth. Stir in salt, marjoram, savory and pepper. Line a sieve with 2 sheets of paper towel and place over an empty bowl. Place tofu in lined sieve and press against sides to form a deep well in the middle. Place 2 more sheets of paper towel over tofu and refrigerate for 2 hours.

Meanwhile, in a medium saucepan over medium-high heat combine stuffing mix, 2/3 cup water and margarine. Bring to a boil; reduce heat to low, cover and simmer for 5 minutes. Remove from heat; let stand 5 minutes and fluff with a fork. To the stuffing add bread cubes, sage and 2 tablespoons water.

After tofu has chilled for 2 hours, preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). With 2 tablespoons of the vegetable oil, grease a baking sheet. Remove the top layer of paper towels from the tofu. If necessary, again press tofu against the sides of the sieve to form a well. Spoon the stuffing mixture into the well and smooth the surface with a spoon. Invert the tofu mold onto prepared baking sheet. Remove the remaining paper towel layer and shape the tofu with your hands if it has cracked or lost its shape.

Bake in preheated oven for 30 minutes. Meanwhile, prepare the glaze by combining barbecue sauce, mustard, orange jam, orange juice, sesame seeds and remaining 3 tablespoons oil. After tofu has baked for 30 minutes, brush or spoon the glaze over it. Return to the oven and bake for 20 minutes more.

Broil for 3 to 5 minutes, or until tofu is browned and crispy.-Allrecipes.com



Volunteer

- Transport
- Photography
- Newsletter Articles
- Foster
- Feral Feeding Station
- Fundraise
- Event Staffing
- Network/Marketing

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

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 changes, please let us know, otherwise we will not be able to continue to provide you with our newsletter and important updates.

Winter Weather Advisory!!! With cold temps arriving, we are preparing to receive more phone calls about feral/lost cats in need. VFA feeds and traps (when possible) feral and lost cats during winter weather months to keep them warm and safe.

We come across too many underweight and/or pregnant feral cats during 0 degree temps and it is a difficult sight to see. We do everything that we can to provide food and shelter to them. We could use the following items for the upcoming months:

- Towels
- Blankets
- Boxes
- Traps
- Food
- Bowls



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 at:

voiceforanimals.1987@gmail.com

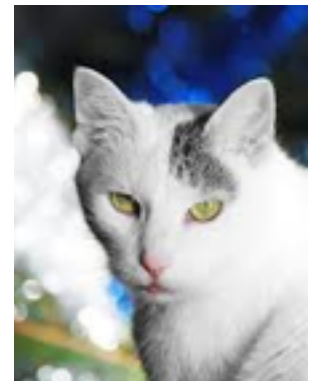
and offer your particular expertise. We really need you, but more importantly, the animals do.

Check out our online fundraisers at:

www.crowdrise.com/voiceforanimalsinc

<http://www.gofundme.com/voiceforanimalsvfa>

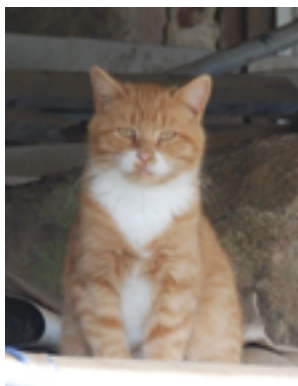
CafePress Store:
www.cafepress.com/



ADOPT



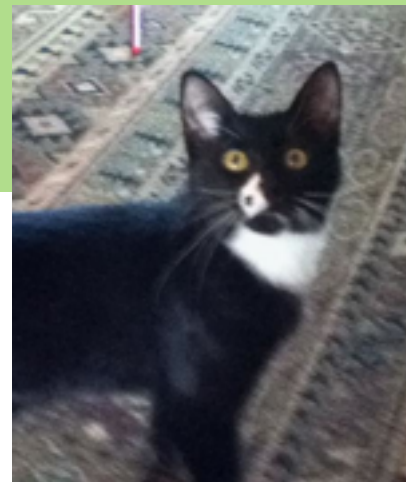
Bowtie (picture 1) BC(2) and Marco (3) were all left to fend for themselves when their caretakers moved to Wyoming. They have a very special bond as they were out on their own for 6 weeks until someone contacted Voice for Animals to help them. Bowtie and Marco watched over BC (Baby Calico) and she did not let them out of her sight. Bowtie and Marco are very well adjusted, friendly cats that should be good with other cats, dogs and children. Baby Calico is a little more timid and looks to her older brothers for security. She would need a patient and quiet home to help her become all she can be. Marco and Bowtie are about 9 months old, neutered and up to



date on vaccinations. BC is about 4 months old. Please contact Voice for Animals for more information on these sweet cats. Email: in2catz@gmail.com or call: 207-715-0635. These pictures were taken before they were rescued. They have all adjusted to the safety of an indoor only home.



Marylin is a beautiful, curious older kitten waiting for her forever home. She was born outside during the cold winter months and survived because of her very caring mother. Voice for Animals was finally made aware of her situation and she and her mother and litter mates were taken to a foster home. Marylin has come a long way in getting use to people and will flourish in a patient, quiet home. She is 6 months old and would do well with other cats. She is playful and loving...she just needs someone to give her the chance to prove herself. Please email: Voice for Animals: in2catz@gmail.com





Black Bear Management Planning Underway

Black bears are beautiful yet misunderstood creatures who are facing more and more cruelty in their natural environment. As housing and business expansions increase, we are falling more and more into these mammals territories.

Unfortunately, too many are taking advantage of this and black bears are being killed via trapping, baiting and hounding. However: “The Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife has started work on a new [15-year management plan for black bears](#). This will provide an opportunity for Mainer to weigh in on the continued use of the cruel and unsporting practices of bear trapping, baiting and hounding, so be sure to keep an eye out for additional information about how you

can participate by submitting a public comment and attending hearings.

HSUS Maine will keep you posted about the process and how you can help!
-Source: [Maine HSUS](#)



Maine

Update

Reward Offered in Heinous Animal Cruelty Case

The HSUS Maine has offered a [reward](#) of up to \$5,000 for the identification, arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for this horrific case of animal cruelty, in which a “6-month old puppy was abandoned with injuries consistent with having his mouth taped shut. Blue was badly wounded and had surgery

to remove significant amounts of dead tissue and suture one side of his mouth. This sweet pup is pictured here before and after his life-saving surgery and he has since been adopted into a loving home! A big thank you to [Bethel Animal Hospital](#) for taking such great care of Blue and ACO, Sue Milligan, for her continuing hard work on this case.” There are no words for the cruelty that has occurred here but we are happy that animal lovers and organizations are doing their best to get justice and care for this poor little puppy.

Source: *Maine HSUS*



Two pet Holsteins shot and killed in Richmond

Source: Betty Adams & Central Maine

A family in Maine have recently gone through a terrible ordeal. Their two beautiful pet Holsteins, Theodore and Isadora, were found shot and killed.

“Richmond police and the Maine Warden Service are investigating the shooting and checking in with contractors Goggins had working on the road to get it ready for plowing to see if they saw anyone. Goggins, who is offering a \$2,500 reward for information leading to the arrest of the shooter, is convinced the killing of her animals is personal.”

The owners had obtained the Holsteins after saving them from slaughter over ten years ago.

According to a news release sent Saturday from the Richmond Police Department, “Each cow sustained one fatal wound each. It has been determined that this is not a hunting accident and that someone intentionally went to the residence with the intent to inflict harm to the cows.”

Police are seeking help from the public to find the person or persons responsible. The department asks anyone with information to call 737-8518. *Betty Adams — 621-5631*

-Shared from Central Maine

Animal Cruelty Facts and Statistics by HSUS

Statistics on the victims and current legislative trends

The shocking number of cruelty cases reported daily on television, on the Internet and in newspapers is only the tip of the iceberg. Most cases are never reported, and most animal suffering goes unrecognized and unabated. Unlike violent crimes against people, information on reported cases of animal abuse have not been compiled by state and federal agencies, making it difficult to calculate the prevalence or trends in these crimes.

Changes in federal tracking of cruelty cases

In 2014, the FBI announced that it will [add cruelty to animals as a category in the agency's Uniform Crime Report](#), a nationwide crime-reporting system. While only about a third of U.S. communities currently participate in the system, the data generated will help create a clearer picture of animal abuse and guide strategies for intervention and enforcement. Data collection will begin in January 2016 and will cover four categories: simple/gross neglect, intentional abuse and torture, organized abuse (such as dogfighting and cockfighting) and animal sexual abuse.

Who abuses animals

Cruelty and neglect cross socio-economic boundaries, and media reports suggest that animal abuse is common in both rural and urban areas.

Intentional cruelty to animals is strongly [correlated with other crimes](#), including violence against people.

Serious animal neglect (such as seen in cases of [animal hoarding](#)) is often an indicator of people in need of social or mental health services (Lockwood, 2002). Surveys suggest that those who intentionally abuse animals are predominantly male and under 30, while those involved in animal hoarding are more likely to be female and over 60 (Lockwood, 2008).

Most common victims

The animals whose abuse is most often reported are dogs, cats, [horses](#) and [livestock](#). Based on numbers from pet-abuse.com, of 1,880 cruelty cases reported in the media in 2007:

64.5 percent (1,212) involved dogs (25 percent of these were identified as pit-bull-type breeds) 18 percent (337) involved cats 25 percent (470) involved other animals

Undercover investigations have revealed that animal abuse abounds in the [factory farm industry](#). But because of the weak protections afforded to livestock under state cruelty laws, only the most shocking cases are reported, and few are ever prosecuted.

Organized cruelty

[Dogfighting](#), [cockfighting](#) and other forms of organized animal cruelty go hand in hand with other crimes. The U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency has prosecuted multiple cases where drug cartels were running narcotics through cockfighting and dogfighting operations. In 2014, federal agents found that international drug dealers had congregated at a Kentucky cockfighting pit and even sent a hit man to target a local cockfighter

continued on pg 8.

Cruelty continued from page 7...

Dozens of homicides have occurred at cockfights and dogfights. In one instance, a man in California was killed at a cockfight over a disagreement about a \$10 bet.

Public corruption allows cockfighting to continue in certain counties. The HSUS has worked with the FBI on public corruption cases in Tennessee and Virginia. In both instances, law enforcement officers were indicted and convicted. HSUS investigators even documented uniformed police officers at a cockfighting pit in Kentucky.

Domestic violence, child abuse and animal cruelty

Data on domestic violence and child abuse cases reveal that a staggering number of animals are victimized by abusive parents or partners each year.

About 10.2 million women and men are physically assaulted by an intimate partner in the U.S. every year (U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2011), and 62 percent of U.S. households have at least one pet. In one survey, 71 percent of domestic violence victims reported that their abuser also targeted their animal (Ascione, 1997). In one study of families under investigation for suspected child abuse, researchers found that pet abuse had occurred in 88 percent of the families under supervision for physical abuse of their children (DeViney, 1983).

Legislative trends

The HSUS has long led the push for stronger animal cruelty laws and provides [training for law officials](#) to detect and prosecute

these crimes. 50 states currently include felony provisions in their animal cruelty laws.

Before 1986, only four states had felony animal cruelty laws: Massachusetts (1804), Oklahoma (1887), Rhode Island (1896) and Michigan (1931).

Three states enacted felony laws in the 1980s, 19 in the 1990s and 25 more since 2000 (including the District of Columbia).

First vs. second offense

Some state laws only allow felony charges if the perpetrator has a previous animal cruelty conviction. Given that only a fraction of animal cruelty acts are ever reported or successfully prosecuted, The HSUS believes all states should allow felony charges for egregious cruelty regardless of whether the perpetrator has a prior conviction. 43 of the 50 state felony provisions are first-offense provisions.

Six have second-offense felonies (Iowa, Mississippi, Ohio and Pennsylvania have felony laws that apply only on the second offense; Texas and Virginia have second-offense felonies, depending on the situation). Idaho has a third-offense felony animal cruelty law.

Among the 43 states that have first-offense felony cruelty laws, a majority are limited to cases involving aggravated cruelty, torture, or cruelty to companion animals.

States that have strengthened their felony cruelty laws

Since 2002, at least six states have enacted second- or third-offense felony animal cruelty laws, only to readdress and upgrade them to first-offense laws within a few years:

Alaska (third in 2008, first in 2010)

Indiana (second in 1998, first in 2002)

Kentucky (second in 2003, first in 2007)

Nebraska (second 2002, first in 2003)

Tennessee (second in 2001 and 2002, first in 2004)

Virginia (second in 1999, in 2002)

Sources

- Ascione, F. et al. 1997. "The Abuse of Animals and Domestic Violence: A National Survey of Shelters for Women Who Are Battered." *Society and Animals* 5.
- DeViney, E. et al. 1983. "The Care of Pets Within Child Abusing Families." *International Journal for the Study of Animal Problems* 4(4).
- Lockwood, R. 2008. "Counting Cruelty: Challenges and Opportunities in Assessing Animal Abuse and Neglect in America." In *International Handbook of Theory and Research on Animal Abuse and Cruelty*, edited by Frank R. Ascione.
- Lockwood, R. 2002. "Making the Connection Between Animal Cruelty and Abuse and Neglect of Vulnerable Adults." *The Latham Letter* 23(1).
- U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 2011. "[National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey.](#)"



New Hampshire

Update

The 2016 legislative session is gearing up to be a major year for animals in both positive and negative ways. We are supporting three priority bills. The first would strengthen our state's animal fighting laws to ban the possession of equipment such as fighting pits, slashers and gaffs used in animal fighting which would allow law enforcement to charge someone with animal fighting even if the animals were not present; a common occurrence with this underground crime. The second would ban bestiality or sexual activity between people and animals. New Hampshire is one of 11 states where bestiality is still legal and sadly this is a very prevalent problem. Our current animal cruelty laws do not sufficiently cover this problem and research has shown that those who engage in this cruel behavior are also likely to have other sexual assault problems with children and adults. The third bill would ban the sale or possession of shark fins in the Granite State. The practice of shark finning involves cutting of a shark's fin and throwing the body back into the ocean where the shark ultimately dies of drowning, shock or blood loss. This practice is illegal in NH and around the country, however, it is very difficult to track the origin of shark fins and fins brought to NH from international waters where animals were cruelly killed cannot be distinguished from legal fishing in NH. This bill would ensure that NH is part of a global movement to conserve sharks and to close down our markets from countries where this practice is still viewed as acceptable.

But we won't just be pushing for new laws; we'll be fighting against laws that could harm animals including bills to expand bear baiting (the unsportsmanlike practice of dumping millions of pounds of junk food into our woods to lure bears for a kill), a bill to legalize canned hunting in NH and a proposed trapping, hounding and baiting season on our state's bobcats for the first time in 25 years. We will need everyone's help to advocate for animals in our state legislature this year. If you wish to stay informed and act when the time comes, sign up for The Humane Society of the United States' NH newsletter by going to <http://volunteers.humanesociety.org/index.php?action=allyLink&fwID=71>. Thanks for your advocacy!

Lindsay Hamrick

New Hampshire State Director - State Affairs

lhamrick@humanesociety.org

The Humane Society of the United States

Keene, NH

humanesociety.org

Source: NH HSUS



Resources for Farm Animals and Horses



Maine

<http://maineequinewelfarealliance.com/>
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)

(Operates a hay bank)

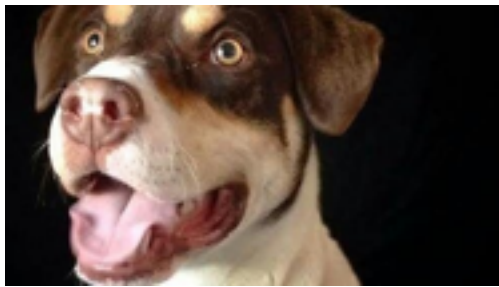
Save Your Ass Donkey and Mule Rescue [http://](http://www.saveyourassrescue.org/)

www.saveyourassrescue.org/ (603) 835-2971

<http://www.humanesociety.org/about/departments/humane-society-academy/webinar-series.ht>

Becky's Gift - <http://beckysgift.org/> - operates hay/grain bank, veterinary assistance and farrier resources





Pass Bruno's Law To Amend Current Animal Cruelty Laws to Make Shooting a Domestic Animal to Euthanize it a Felony in NH

Source: *Katie Treamer*
www.change.org

I feel that 2015 has been a good year for animals. With more and more animal rescue organizations and non-profits growing to aid more animals in need, we are getting more help from the legal system to support animals affected by animal cruelty. A story

I recently heard about is supporting these very thoughts. A dog in Berlin, NH was recently shot multiple times and left in the woods by his own owner. WMUR News and Berlin PD were involved with the story and we have learned that "His owner had several other options available to him that he chose to ignore. New Hampshire must make wording of animal cruelty law clear, it must be enforced and it must outline what sort of punishment any law breaker can expect to receive. We believe that cruelty to animals must be made a felony so that

never again will a person get away with murdering a defenseless animal." Although this is such a senseless act and animal cruelty at the very least, I am glad to see more and more people rally to help prevent this from happening to any more animals in the future.

To go further, a petition has been created on www.change.org and a letter to the Governor has been shared:

"Dear Governor Hassen,

As you may, or may not be aware, recently in the City of Berlin a terrible act of animal cruelty was committed. A dog by the name of Bruno, was adopted in March by a local man.

Two weeks ago, the owner posted a message via Facebook, trying to re-home Bruno. In his post he stated that Bruno was a good dog, who got along well with children and other animals. However, a few days ago the owner did the unthinkable. He brought Bruno up to a clearing just off of Success Rd and then proceeded to shoot Bruno multiple times in the body and back. Then, he left Bruno to die, alone. Bruno's body was later found by another local man, who called the Berlin Police Department. Since this matter has come to light, Bruno's owner has admitted what he did to the police, saying he did it because Bruno bit his children several times.

There are those, including myself, who question how Bruno could go from a dog who was "great with kids" to a dangerous biter. It is our feeling that IF Bruno did bite, it was probably done out of fear, stress, or a general lack of knowledge concerning proper dog to human etiquette. Dogs seldom bite for no

reason. Also, the police have yet to take action against Bruno's owner, which has caused a public outcry to see him brought to some sort of justice. Thus the Justice for Bruno movement was born. I am writing to you in hopes that you will support our petition, which has been named Bruno's Law. The goal of Bruno's Law is ask you and the NH legislature to clarify, and amend the State of NH's current animal cruelty laws as they do not specify committing such a heinous act as a crime. Domestic animals are considered property in NH, and although there is legislation that outlines certain types of animal abuse, as well as the penalties for committing those abuses, there is nothing specific that would stop a person from shooting one's own pet. We find it unconscionable that a person may be charged with a crime if they beat their animal, but if the same person murders that animal, there is no punishment. I would also like to mention that Bruno's owner had several other options when deciding his fate. He got Bruno from the Conway Animal Shelter and when they heard about what happened they said that the owner had signed a contract with them, as all of their adopters do. The contract states that if for any reason the adopter can not keep the animal, they can bring the animal back, no questions asked. He could have also contacted his local vet for advice, or perhaps even enrolled Bruno in obedience classes. But he chose to ignore his contract with the animal shelter, and explored non of the humane options available to him. Instead, he took him out and shot him. Please, help us make sure no other pet has to suffer Bruno's fate. Support Bruno's Law, and help us stop these senseless acts from ever happening again. Thank you for your time and consideration."

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.*

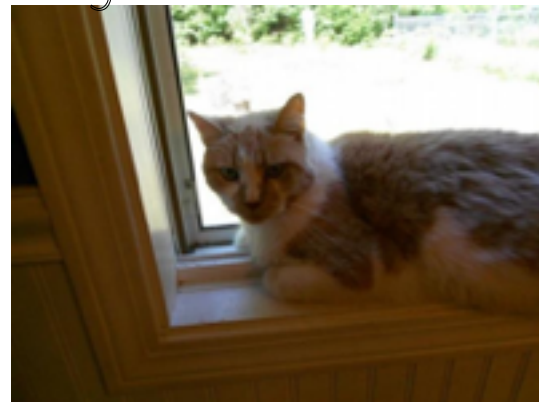
Remember not my fight for breath, remember not the strife.

Please do not dwell upon my death, but celebrate my life

*In loving memory of Troubles Edwards whom I always called
TW (Troubles Waddlesworth). He
was already in this home when I moved into it with all of my
cats and dogs. He welcomed all of
us. He never had a mean bone in his body. He answered equally
to Troubles and TW. We miss*

him so much. Rest in Peace, dear friend, until we meet again...

Caryl McIntire Edwards



Finding the connection – speaking their language

I remember so clearly the first time I heard a horse communicate with me. It was as if a person was talking in my ear except that the only beings present at the time were horses!! I was working in a barn in 1996 and had finished feeding the horses prior to their turnout – “I’m ready” – I heard loud and clear, when I walked over to the stall where I felt I heard this communication from, sure enough, the horse had finished breakfast and was ready to be turned out for the day!

Years later, Echoe (my equine companion of new dentist. It has always been important to their intentions. Whether they acknowledge done! He seemed to soften around this new an immediate connection. She finished house to get her money. I came out to find said, “I work with horses all the time and that is not a horse! He knew exactly what I needed and connected straight to my heart”. Echoe had done a healing – something he continues to do when he meets people, or remotely – I often get messages from people that Echoe had shown up in their vision or their heart to support them that day.

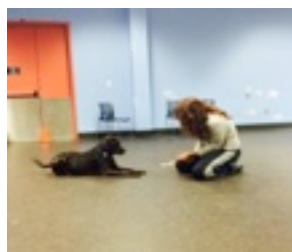


now 17 years) had been introduced to his him who comes in to his energy space and him first or simply barge in to get the job person, he was gentle with her and they had working on his teeth and I went in to the her in tears.....”That is not a horse!” she

The connection can be felt, heard, experienced, seen and more. It is whatever it is supposed to be between you and the animal you are with. They share their unconditional love and honesty. Their teachings can be life changing, bringing awareness to the true you, showing you where there is opportunity to heal, clear, and step in to your powerful self. Power can be misunderstood. This is not the power that overwhelms or controls someone or something. This is the power within your soul that you feel when you are in a moment of sheer joy, happiness and bliss. When a time in your life feels so incredible that you shine brightly, and so easily, for all to see and share.

Every animal remains in its truth, it does not try to change or adapt to fit in to someone else’s expectation. A cat is a cat, choosing to live in your home, be fed by you, bring you love through touch, funny antics and is not affected by judgment or perception. A dog is a dog, loyal, unconditional love, aims to please, and acts within the characteristics of the breed most of the time.

Animals can be affected by environment, living withdraw into themselves for safety, or lash situation. The animals I encounter at the stressed and have had all choice taken away continue to work with these animals alongside continue to experience the most amazing how they are feeling and what they may need the shelter. To top it all, the practitioners who volunteer their time to be with these dogs also receive healings and learn more about themselves as they learn about the dogs. The synergy continues to be a beautiful blend of bringing together species to co-exist.



conditions, being mistreated and will either out to protect, within the confines of their shelters are such animals – often confused, and the people they loved are gone. As I a group of amazing Reiki practitioners, we healings and as we talk with them, get to know to further support them during their time at

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continued from page 12...

We are blessed to learn how these animals communicate with. These conversations alone have created incredible changes that are always the animal's choice. During our PHUR workshops the practitioners come together and each one of us has an energy that the animals will gravitate to for healing. Each person begins to realize the light they shine and share and what these animals are attracted to. The communication continues to open.

Melanie is a volunteer at the NHSPCA and with the PHUR program. Melanie has continuously attracted dogs looking for a gentle heart connection and a safe place to be. Melanie's gentle touch provides support for the dog and they will often lie next to her and sleep.



Penelope and I work together each week and as a tag team have been able to bring about group healing sessions for the dogs and cats we work with. With our combined experience we observe and feel how best to help these animals.

Susan is a volunteer at the AWS and NHSPCA and has been with the PHUR program since its inception in 2010. Susan has a soft and gentle way and the dogs will gravitate to her also for a heart/emotional connection.

For each of us who have animals in our lives, it's a wonderful opportunity to slow down, to breathe, to touch and to listen, to observe each small move, expression and response to us. Remembering we know our animals the best, trust in your gut feeling, it will always steer you in the right direction. The connection is there, no right or wrong, it's all a connection.....just breathe..... remain quiet and in the present for long enough to experience the incredible gift and joy of communicating with our animal companions. And they love it!!

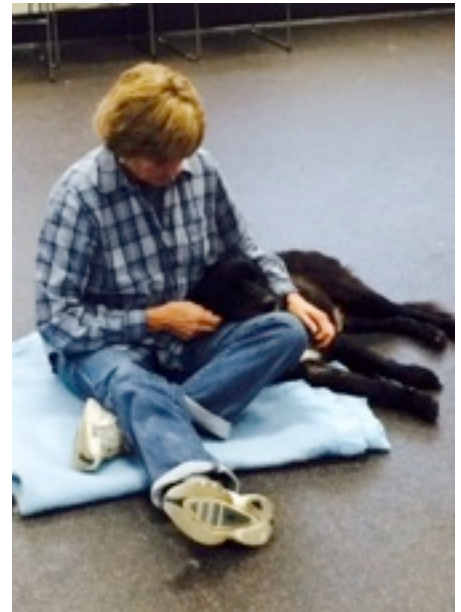
Blessings

Michele

Michele Lowry, Reiki Master, Animal Clairvoyant, Shamanic Practitioner

www.nikoenaturaltherapies.com - Your Animals Have Options

Find PHUR on Facebook – PHUR is an enrichment program for shelter animals bringing together Reiki and communication to facilitate understanding and healing. This program focuses on those animals requiring additional care to be more adoptable.





Farm Animal and Horse Rescue

In 2015, we continued our work in collaboration with Downeast Large Animal Society (Delas) in Cherryfield where many horses, donkeys, goat, sheep and birds of all feathers find rescue. We still mourn the losses of their resident steer Ben, and our family members Cookie, the cow, Brigitte, the sheep. They were among the lucky who get to live out their natural lives rather than entering the food chain for consumption at young ages.

Farm Animals Rescues and Sanctuaries are still few and far between here in Maine. Peace Ridge Sanctuary in Penobscot is growing and still taking in animals. There are several private “sanctuary farms” in Southern Maine who are considering expanding and becoming official sanctuaries. We hope they do!

For 2016 our goal is to continue to promote and advocate for a plant based life style. Here in down east Maine, there are exciting new development as new vegan groups are forming and hosting potlucks, movies, and discussions. We are hopeful that the world will continue to recognize that farm animals are just as sentient, sensitive as dogs and cats and deserve so much more legal, moral and ethical consideration than they currently receive.

In Loving Memory of Ben, Cookie and Brigitte, we hope 2016 will provide us with opportunity to educate and advocate for the mostly voiceless farm animals in Maine and worldwide.

Happy Holidays,

Christina Perkins, President

Jean McKillop, Treasurer

Follow us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Maine-Farm-Animal-Advocates/140997485945259>

Support us through Amazon Smile: <http://smile.amazon.com/>

Christina is a lawyer specializing in animal advocacy and elder law.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Voice

...It is organizations such as yours that give me the encouragement to continue my one woman quest to trap and neuter and return and re-home cats. Thank you.

Karen Gutches

Madison, Maine

VFA thinks it should be thanking her for all of her efforts on behalf of stray and feral cats in her area!



Never Turn Your Back on an Animal in Need

In the summer of 2014 the town manager of a Maine town where a VFA member lives stated that the town would no longer be caring for the stray cats within its borders. He further stated in an interview with a Maine paper that where he had grown up you “you put unwanted stray cats in a burlap bag and dropped them off the pier.”

Maine’s stand on stray cats, and likely New Hampshire’s as well, is that towns may deal with them but it does not go so far as to say they must, as it does with dogs. Many people, outraged by the town manager’s comments, met to try and come up with a plan to support these animals but most were not residents of the town, so ultimately were powerless. Conversations with the town manager did not change his mind on the matter. In fact, he stated to this VFA member the details of the animals’ great expense, giving a figure which the local shelter could not corroborate, documenting a much lower amount from its own carefully kept records.

The winter of 2014-2015 was particularly severe and despite the entreaties of many caring people this man did not budge from his position. It is likely that many cats perished because of his callous attitude and the VFA member felt powerless to save them.

When spring came she had come to the decision that this sanctioned cruelty had to end and, although she knew very few concerned people in the town itself, she decided she would write the petition printed below. In doing so she found that the few people she knew- knew other people and those people knew still more people and so on. Petitions were even allowed to be placed in the offices of concerned veterinarians who practice in the area.

*“Believing that the stray cats within our borders matter; concerned that we were not consulted before a decision was made to abandon them; and knowing that to withhold care is unconscionable and archaic, we the undersigned **demand** that the town of *******immediately** resume rescuing them and transporting them to [the local shelter] so that they can have a second chance at life with a loving family.”*

As it turned out the town manager made a decision in favor of strays on his own, contracting with a another ACO and shelter which would bill him differently and the petition became unnecessary. The VFA member will, however, monitor the shelter’s intake of cats from the town to make sure that this continues to happen.

Petitions can be successful. If your town in either Maine or New Hampshire is not dealing with its cats, a petition may help. It is certainly worth a try. Feel free to use the one printed here. We owe it to these animals who desperately need us to do all that we can to protect them.

If you are successful with a petition that benefits animals in your town/area, let us know and we will share it here so that others can be motivated to make a difference, too.

Success Stories

Voice for Animals alumni "Kona" is 1 1/2 year old beautiful tortie girl. She originally started off her adopted life with a young family in Portsmouth but unfortunately their 7 year old cat was not very accepting of her. Thankfully Kona's fur Grammy fell in love with her and took her in with open arms. She now resides in an antique Victorian home in Manchester with her human mom and dad, two other cats (Lily who is a 13 year old tortie and Simba who is a 15 year old domestic) and their 8 year old Boxer Winni! Her original adoptive parents and 3 year old son get to visit her weekly which they are thrilled with! She is a love and our family is so thankful to have her.



A Rescue in Cleveland Texas

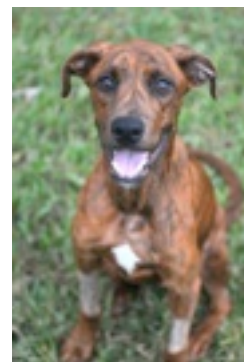
This sweet female pup was picked up near US 59 in Cleveland TX, a small town North of Houston. She was totally emaciated and the local Animal Control Officer took the initiative to contact several rescue organizations to help. She was posted in the Facebook page for the Forgotten Dogs of the 5th Ward Project and a foster stepped forward to help her. She was named Cleveland or C for short. Little did they know the severity of her medical condition. She was literally at death's door.

She was rushed to the vet the next morning and they recommended to take her directly to the Emergency Hospital. Her white blood cell count was extremely high (about 80,000) and she was very anemic and dehydrated. At the hospital, they immediately started on fluids and three different antibiotics, but the source of the infection was not yet diagnosed. She was so weak, that she could not raise her head to eat. The only good news was that once properly placed, she did try to eat.



Blood samples were sent to Auburn University and Texas A&M University to check from several tick-borne diseases but the results came back negative. After trying a different set of antibiotics, she was still not progressing and was at a low of 31 lbs. She still had no energy and had to be carried everywhere.

Then, based on the blood test results, it was evident that her body was generating and simultaneously destroying red blood cells. She was put on a regime of steroids and high calorie food every 4 hours and that made all the difference. Every day she started looking better physically and today two months after being rescued, she is happy, energetic pup weighing 50 lbs and with normal red blood cell counts. She is still on steroids but the dosage is being slowly reduced to make sure the red blood cell counts remain stable. She is also being treated for an antibiotic-resistant MRSA skin infection and making good progress. If her next blood work checkup is good, then she is likely to start the normal vaccines protocols and getting ready to hopefully find a very special forever home. - Mike Perez: Houston, TX



HOLIDAY HAZARDS

THESE ARE ALL POISONOUS OR HARMFUL TO DOGS!

Grapes, raisins, mince pies, cooked bones & fatty foods, Christmas decorations, alcohol, peanuts, macadamia nuts, christmas cake, onion & garlic, mushrooms, chocolate, sugar, peach and nectarine stones and poinsettia plants.



VOICE FOR ANIMALS

Voice for Animals
P. O. Box 34
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Town, State ZIP