



Journal



EARS Volunteers Give 84 Starving Horses the Will to Live

Dramatic changes in PMU drug industry • An inside look at a HEAR visit

LifeLine saves lives • Resolve to help animals in 2010 • Strengthening animal cruelty laws

Greetings!

There are some days when I feel on the brink of giving up on humanity. For example, the first days of an Emergency Animal Rescue Service (EARS) deployment, when we learn the details of cruelty toward dogs in a puppy mill or horses so starved they could barely stand on their feet. Or the day we found out that a six-year-old boy was responsible for killing cats at a sanctuary.

But then I read our blog or an e-mail from a volunteer or a member like you — people just like the staff here at UAN, people who want to help, who want to be part of giving animals a chance to learn for the first time what love is, who want to care for those who cannot protect themselves — and the hope returns.

Just before writing this I attended a Humane Education Ambassador Reader (HEAR) visit, and remembered hope also returns when I see a child's eyes light up over a story of an animal, and hear their words, like music, "I want animals to know I'm kind." There is a French proverb that reads, "Hope is the dream of a soul awake." I believe people are mostly good, but often asleep at the wheel. It is our job to wake them up.

Warmly,

Nicole

Nicole Forsyth
President and CEO

Nicole conducted a series of five HEAR visits in January.



Journal

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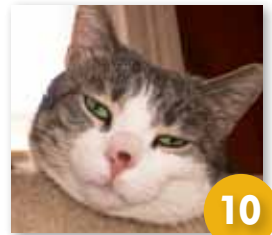
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UAN's mission is to bring animals out of crisis and strengthen the bond between people and animals through emergency sheltering, disaster relief services, financial assistance and education. UAN accomplishes its mission by engaging volunteers and supporters, collaborating with others and maximizing the use of online technology.



Members Matter

In late August of this year, I found a puppy (now named Hope) in the road. Both of her back legs were broken and she needed critical surgery to have a chance at walking again. My wife contacted your organization and spoke with Esperanza, who pledged financial assistance through a Lifeline Grant toward the vet bills. I also set up a blog (brokenpuppy.tumblr.com) and a PayPal account to collect donations.

The blog was an amazing success, and we raised all of the funds necessary to cover the cost of surgery without the grant. Your immediate response, however, gave us the courage to commit our time and finances to this special pup, who is now a fully mobile member of our family.

I recently made a donation to your organization and trust that the funds will help more animals like Hope. Thank you for all you do.

– Scott in Greensboro, North Carolina

I just saw the puppy mill rescue in Texas... I am still shaking and crying. I still can't believe people can do this to a living creature, let alone 600 innocent little dogs. Thank you so much for what you do — I wish we could help more! You are angels!

– Bailey and Amy in Boulder, Colorado

Thank you for sending your Fall 2009 *Journal*. I am an animal lover, and the picture on the cover was fantastic. How can anyone mistreat an animal? I am 80 years and my wife 82. We have six cats and one dog — a bossy family. They are well cared for. I am sending you a donation, and I will leave your *Journal* at my doctor's office.

– Frank in Livermore, California

Our church had its first "Blessing of the Animals"... we had a wonderful turnout of approximately 35 people with a variety of offspring ranging from stuffed animals, one-eyed hamsters, bearded dragons, and an assortment of dogs and cats. We had a donation basket to support UAN and your services for disasters and emergencies. We know that peril can happen to any of us at any time. We hope to make this an annual event and continue to support your vital work. Thank you for all you do for animals and their companions.

– Elin in Gilbertsville, Pennsylvania



At press time, UAN joined the Animal Relief Coalition for Haiti to aid animals affected by the devastating January 12 earthquake. You can read more in the next issue of the *Journal* or at www.uan.org/Haiti.

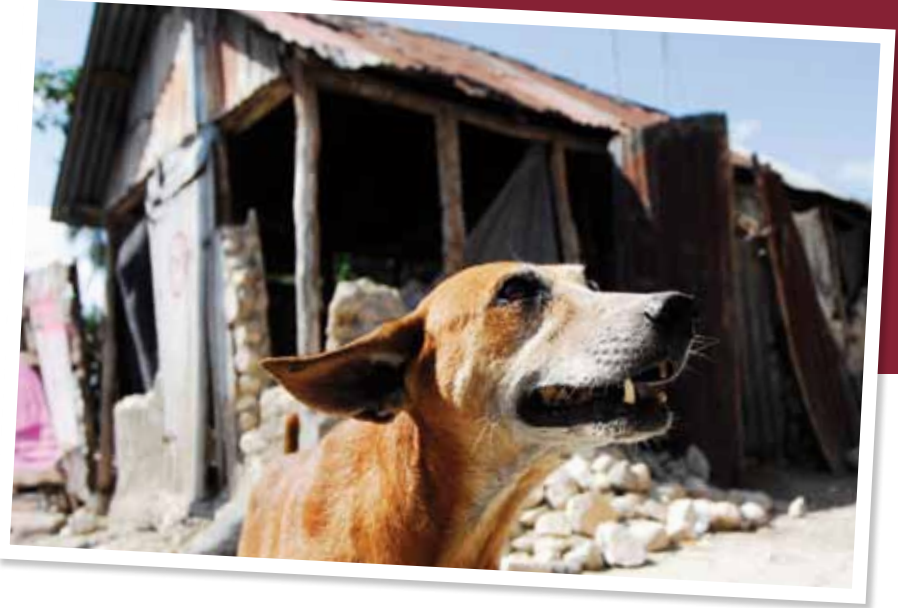


Photo courtesy WSPA / IFAW

Ballot for Election of UAN Board Director

Nominee: Lyman Yip, Senior Manager of Finance for Genesys Telecommunications in San Francisco, California. Lyman has volunteered with the Peninsula Humane Society and served on the board of Kerny Street Workshop, a non-profit arts organization. He is a trained UAN HEAR volunteer and believes that "educating children is the best way to change the world. With the right information, they will make the right choices for a more compassionate world."

Please mark your vote on the enclosed envelope and return it to UAN no later than March 15, 2010. For a director to be elected by written ballot, the nominee must receive a majority of affirmative votes, with at least 6% of members voting. Votes withheld shall not be counted for or against a nominee. The Board of Directors will fill this vacant position if members do not return a quorum of ballots. There are presently six Directors on the Board of UAN. If this nominee receives the required votes, there will be seven Directors.

PMURescue.org goes offline after connecting 3,000 horses with homes

Dramatic changes in PMU industry mean fewer horses are at risk

In September 2003, a cryptic e-mail arrived at UAN: "We are contacting you about our PMU mares. We are leaving the business and do not want to see our horses go to auction. We would really like to find them good homes...could you help?"

The industry that uses pregnant mares' urine (PMU) to produce drugs for relief of women's menopausal symptoms was crumbling. The Women's Health Initiative had suddenly stopped a study of PMU drugs after it found an increased risk of breast cancer, stroke and heart attack with their use. Prescriptions plummeted, and Wyeth, the company that manufactured the popular PMU-based drug Premarin, terminated contracts with dozens of horse ranches. Around the same time, Wyeth won a lawsuit against Natural Biologics, a company that was poised to bring a generic version of Premarin to the market.

From crisis to care

Though these factors would eventually mean a significant reduction in the

number of pregnant mares strapped to urine collection devices, in the short term, more than 20,000 mares, many pregnant, were suddenly "out of work" and faced an uncertain future. With horse meat fetching top dollar as a delicacy overseas, some ranchers sold unwanted mares by the hundreds to slaughter.

UAN acted quickly to help horses affected by the crisis. Within weeks of receiving the e-mail from the desperate rancher, UAN created PMURescue.org and aggressively marketed his 120 pregnant mares, placing them all in good homes.

Soon, PMURescue.org became the one place where adopters could browse hundreds of adoptable PMU mares and foals available from different rescue groups. More than 80 adoption and placement groups would eventually use PMURescue.org to advertise nearly

ranches, down from 70,000 at the industry's peak. Relatively few need rescue. With the current economic downturn causing many horses to need rehoming, adopters are justifiably rescuing horses in their own communities rather than paying thousands of dollars to transport a PMU horse. Other animal adoption Web sites have improved and expanded horse listings, making PMURescue.org redundant.

Because of this profound change in urgency and need, PMURescue.org closed in January 2010, allowing UAN staff to use time and funds more efficiently. UAN's donors can be proud of PMURescue.org's six-year run, which raised public awareness about PMU horses and the organizations that place them, and helped facilitate more than 3,000 adoptions. UAN will continue operating the Premarin Awareness Campaign to educate women about PMU drugs and promote humane alternatives to drugs made from horse urine.

UAN will also continue bringing horses out of crisis and into care through the LifeLine Grant program, which provides financial assistance for emergency veterinary care, and the Emergency Animal Rescue Service (EARS), which provides volunteer-based temporary sheltering services. 🐾

“Six years after the initial crisis, the PMU landscape has changed for the better. Only 5,600 mares remain on PMU ranches, down from 70,000 at the industry's peak.”

5,000 horses. To sweeten the deal, UAN contributed cash rebates totaling nearly \$40,000 to help adopters with the cost of transporting 531 of the neediest horses.

A changing landscape

Six years after the initial crisis, the PMU landscape has changed for the better. Only 5,600 mares remain on PMU



EARS volunteers care for rescued animals from north to south

Last fall, volunteers with UAN's Emergency Animal Rescue Service (EARS) provided temporary sheltering for more than 200 dogs rescued from neglectful situations in Arkansas and Quebec.

Second trip south

In October, 14 EARS volunteers traveled to Lamar, Arkansas to shelter 100 dogs, 5 cats and 2 guinea pigs rescued from horrific conditions at a puppy mill. It was the second time in 2009 that UAN responded to a puppy mill seizure in Arkansas.

As I was carrying him to his cage, he took in a deep breath, as if he were breathing a sigh of relief. I was suddenly hit with the reality that this dog was finally in the arms of someone who cared.

The dogs, mainly small breeds like Shih Tzus and Chihuahuas, were housed in cramped, filthy cages in trailers throughout the rural property. Many were emaciated and suffered from skin and eye infections, dehydration, excessive hair loss, dermatitis, flea infestation, severely overgrown nails, ear mites, dental disease and extremely matted fur.

The animals were seized by the Johnson County Sheriff's Office and The Humane Society of the United States. UAN was called in to provide temporary sheltering volunteers and expertise.

First-time EARS volunteer Donna Phillippe of Waco, Texas said the experience was both heartbreaking and rewarding — especially meeting an older,

blind Pekingese who seemed to have numerous health issues.

"As I was carrying him to his cage, he took in a deep breath, as if he were breathing a sigh of relief," Donna said. "I was suddenly hit with the reality that this dog was finally in the arms of someone who cared."

The dogs were transferred to the Washington Animal Rescue League in Washington, D.C. for further rehabilitation, socialization and eventual adoption. The two women who operated the puppy mill were charged with eight counts of felony animal cruelty.

North of the border

In November, 12 EARS volunteers deployed to Val-Morin, Quebec to shelter 100 sled dogs whose owner was unable to properly care for them. The dogs were chained outside amid feces, urine and trash and without regular access to adequate food, clean water or shelter.



Tucson was rescued from neglect in Canada and adopted into a loving home.



D. Michael Phillips and 13 other EARS volunteers cared for more than 100 animals, mostly small-breed dogs, rescued from a puppy mill in Arkansas.

About 30 were pregnant.

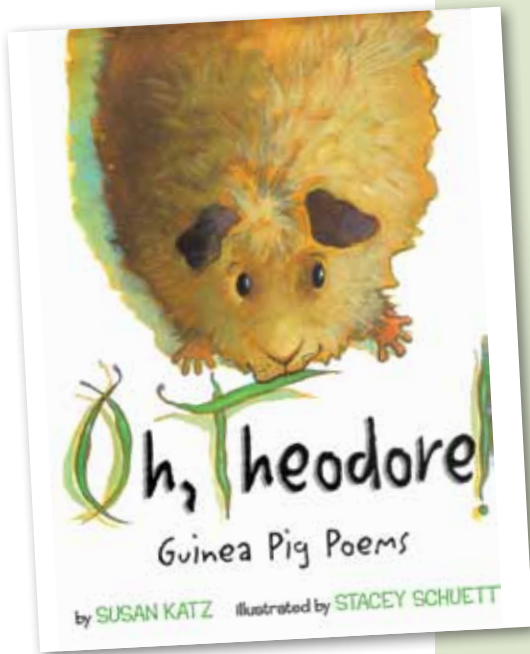
UAN worked with Humane Society International and the SPCA Laurentides-Labelle (LL), which partnered to rescue the dogs after the owner released them to the care of the SPCA LL.

UAN Emergency Services Manager Janell Matthies was among those who liberated the dogs from their chains. "The dogs were very vocal when the group showed up to take them out of the woods," she said. "I think they could tell we were there to save them from a life of loneliness and starvation."

The dogs were transferred to rescue groups in Canada and the United States, sterilized and adopted into loving homes. One was Tucson, a ten-year-old, blind Siberian husky who often bent up the bars at the bottom of his kennel at the temporary shelter just so he could stick his feet out. Tucson's adopters reported that Tucson "has brought nothing but pure love and joy" to their family and "looks so healthy now that he has the youth of a six-year-old puppy." 🐕

An Inside Look at a HEAR Visit

Humane Education Ambassador Reader volunteers use stories and discussion to help children build character and develop academic skills



“This book is called *Oh, Theodore*. What do you think this book will be about?” Humane Education Ambassador Reader (HEAR) volunteer Ena Fisher asks children at Sacramento Food Bank and Family Services in Sacramento, California.

“I think he is a guinea pig,” answers Sally.

“What else do you think this book is going to be about?” asks Ena.

“He may want to eat all the food,” guesses Bianca.

“Maybe he is going to be a troublemaker and he’s going to be behind bars?” Jonathon predicts.

While reading Ena stops periodically to ask questions like, “How does Theodore look on this page?”

“Maybe nervous,” suggests Beatriz.

“Lonely,” adds Angelo.

“Scared,” says Sally.

“Maybe he is nervous and scared because he’s new and misses his old place,” suggests Jonathon.

“He is frightened because people are looking at him,” Bryan says.

“Have you ever been new someplace? How did you feel?” continues Ena.

“Nervous,” Sally says.

Near the end of *Oh, Theodore: Guinea Pig Poems*, Ena points to the page and asks, “How do the boy and Theodore look here?”

“They’re happy because the guinea pig came back,” answers Beatriz.

“They look very, very, very happy ... I think because they are friends forever!” Jonathon adds.



Beatriz Barrera-Cisneros, a third-grader in the Sacramento Food Bank and Family Services after-school program, drew Fluffy during a follow-up activity designed to reinforce concepts that are discussed during each HEAR visit. Drawing, writing, role playing and science exploration are other follow-up activities used during HEAR visits.

This dialogue between Ena and the children exemplifies the goal of the HEAR program — using stories to engage children in critical thinking, lively discussion and reflection activities, leading them to develop empathy and compassion toward animals while building critical thinking and listening skills.

Ideally, a HEAR volunteer will visit the same classroom five consecutive times. During the readings and discussions, students are invited to take the perspective of the characters — both human and animal — in the story. Most HEAR visits take place in third and fourth grade elementary school classrooms, but a HEAR visit can happen anywhere a group of children has the forum to engage in discussions about the bond between people and animals, such as an after-school program or animal shelter.

HEAR volunteer Jenn Doll of Sacramento recently finished her series of five visits to a fourth grade class at Arbuckle Elementary School in Arbuckle, California and said, “The kids were very excited to share what they had discovered



HEAR volunteer Jenn Doll conducts a HEAR visit at Arbuckle Elementary school in Arbuckle, California with Heidi Hefner-Tripp's fourth grade class.

— things like, ‘Dogs don’t like rocks thrown at them,’ ‘We should help lost animals,’ and ‘It is important to give a dog fresh water.’”

Teachers who have invited HEAR volunteers into their classrooms give positive feedback about each visit. Fourth grade teacher Heidi Hefner-Tripp said as a result of the HEAR visits, she knows more about her students because they begin to open up about their experiences with animals during the discussions.

“Thank you for teaching my students how to care for and communicate with animals,” Heidi said. “I think this program is amazing and I would definitely have it again or recommend it to others.”

HEAR volunteer Whitney Best recently visited Enricho

Chiodo’s fourth grade class at Sierra Oaks Elementary School in Sacramento, California and was asked to return once a week for the rest of the year. “Mr. Chiodo is a big animal advocate, and a reading advocate as well, so he loves the program and would like to expose the students to it as much as possible,” Whitney said.

Although the HEAR program is designed for third and fourth grade students, HEAR volunteers are able to tailor their visits to engage kindergarten through sixth grade students. Natalie Nelson, a kindergarten teacher at Arcola Elementary School in Silver Springs, Maryland said, “My students were totally engaged during the HEAR program. They were excited for each of the lessons and enjoyed the stories.” 🐾

For more information about the HEAR program, please visit www.uan.org/hear or send an e-mail to info@uan.org.



Artwork by Beatriz Barrera-Cisneros (left) and Nakedra McKinney, a third-grader at Bowling Green Charter Elementary School in Sacramento, California

STILL STANDING

EARS volunteers give horses on the brink of death the will to live

THE HORSES, ALL 84 OF THEM, WERE STARVED TO THE POINT OF HURTING. MANY WOULD LIE DOWN AND NOT HAVE THE STRENGTH TO STAND UP. MARES WERE TOO MALNOURISHED TO PRODUCE MILK FOR THEIR NEWBORN FOALS. THEY WERE NOT HORSES SO MUCH AS WALKING SKELETONS. THEIR PITIFUL CONDITION HORRIFIED EVEN THE MOST SEASONED ANIMAL RESCUERS WHO ENCOUNTERED THEM.

For almost four weeks, 54 of UAN's Emergency Animal Rescue Service (EARS) volunteers labored — often around the clock and to the point of physical and emotional exhaustion — to bring these horses back from the brink of death.

UAN was asked to provide temporary sheltering assistance for the horses after The Humane Society of the United States and the Cannon County Sheriff's Department removed them from a rural property in Bradyville, Tennessee. The owners of the horses were arrested and charged with animal cruelty and voluntarily surrendered the animals to authorities.

Rescuers feared the horses were so weak that some wouldn't even survive being loaded onto trailers and transported 60 miles to a temporary shelter set up for them at the Tennessee State Fairgrounds in Nashville.

All of the horses survived the trip, but their hardest journey was yet to come.

Round-the-clock care

The EARS volunteers didn't sleep much the first week of the deployment. The horses required round-the-clock care just to stay alive. The most critical case was a two-day-old colt who had never eaten. His mother was so malnourished, she couldn't produce milk.

"If he had been out there another day, he wouldn't have made it," said UAN Emergency Services Manager Janell Matthies.

The first day, Janell and a volunteer stayed up all night trying to coax the foal to drink formula from a bowl. Finally, at four o'clock in the morning, he did. For the next five days, Janell and the other volunteers fed the foal every two hours so he could survive. Their efforts paid off.

"The foal who was so limp and lifeless that he had to be carried into the temporary shelter was frolicking and playing days later," Janell said. They named him Forrest, after the movie character Forrest Gump, because he loved to run.

The horses ate non-stop because they were so starved; each one consumed between one and three bales of hay each day. EARS volunteers were constantly moving hay and filling water buckets to keep pace with their persistent appetites.

Melissa Richards, an EARS volunteer from Nashville who deployed over Thanksgiving weekend, said she could

EARS volunteers spent four weeks caring for 84 horses rescued from near starvation in Tennessee just before Thanksgiving, helping them gain enough strength to be adopted into loving forever homes.





This two-day-old colt arrived at the temporary shelter limp and lifeless; after several days of round-the-clock feeding and care, he began frolicking and playing. He and his mother have since been adopted into a loving home. Photo courtesy The HSUS.

Janell said. “A few days later, they were hanging their heads over the edge of the stalls, looking at the volunteers, wondering where their hay was.”

Down but never out

Every day for the first two weeks of the deployment, as many as ten horses would lie down and be unable to get back up on their own. EARS volunteers and those from other organizations would physically hoist the horses up, because lying down for too long could cause organ damage or even death.

“Even though they were malnourished and four hundred pounds underweight, they still weighed a lot and it took six to eight of us to pick them back up,” said EARS volunteer Nicole Tipton of Sandy

Springs, Georgia. “It was physical, laborious work, but rewarding to know that I was able to help and the animals didn’t have to suffer anymore.”

One of the frequently “downed” horses was Longshot, a mare who had lost the will to live and needed to be

picked up several times a day, every day. “She was young and healthy, and nobody was going to let her stay down,” Janell said. “We didn’t

care if she had given up, because we didn’t give up on her.”

Then one day, almost three weeks later, after being lifted numerous times, Longshot stood up on her own.

continued on page 13

“literally see them fatten up. Their ribs were showing less by the time I left.”

As the horses learned about food, they also learned about love. Once frightened and nervous, they began responding to the volunteers, approaching them instead of shying away.

“They were terrified my first day, but by my last day I was getting kisses and hugs from them,” Melissa said.

“They all came into the emergency shelter scared and listless — they would stay at the back of their stalls,”

AS THE HORSES LEARNED ABOUT FOOD, THEY ALSO LEARNED ABOUT LOVE. ONCE FRIGHTENED AND NERVOUS, THEY BEGAN RESPONDING TO THE VOLUNTEERS, APPROACHING THEM INSTEAD OF SHYING AWAY.



EARS volunteers give heart and soul to

Over four weeks in November and December 2009, 54 EARS volunteers traveled from 17 states to care for 84 neglected horses rescued from a Cannon County, Tennessee property. Meet just a few of them:

Every day is a “dog day” for Julie Castaneda

“All animals, all the time” is a lifestyle that suits Julie Castaneda just fine. A Topeka, Kansas resident, Julie owns Dog Day Afternoon day care and kennel with her husband Phil (also an EARS volunteer) and when she is not working, she is usually volunteering on behalf of animals.

Julie and Phil founded the Capital Area Animal Response Team (CAART) to facilitate emergency animal sheltering and response during natural or man-made disasters around Topeka. But as the economy faltered, CAART filled another gap: providing free pet food and short-term animal sheltering for families struggling with job loss, foreclosure and other crises.

Last year, CAART gave more than 50,000 pounds of donated pet food to families in need and provided free sheltering for nearly 100 animals at the Castanedas’ day care facility and local veterinary offices.

Julie also worked with her county emergency manager to create a response plan that includes animals and secured a federal grant to buy two disaster trailers that can provide emergency sheltering for up to 150 pets.

Julie trained as an EARS volunteer in 2005 and has responded to flooding in Kansas in 2007, Hurricane Ike in 2008 and the federal dogfighting bust in Missouri in July 2009. Last fall she spent ten days as “barn manager” at the emergency horse shelter in Nashville.

“I love to deploy. I always have a bag packed and uniforms ready to go,” Julie said. “I have a great husband who stays home so I can do what needs to be done. It helps to know that he is here running the show.”

An experienced horse handler, Julie

was shocked by the poor condition of the horses in Nashville, but glad she helped them grow stronger and healthier. In fact, one of her favorites, Scarlett, now has a forever home with the Castanedas.

“I had serious concerns about her making the long trek to Kansas, but like a trooper, Scarlett made it easy,” Julie said. “She loaded and unloaded at truck stops and rest areas in four different states and never once got rattled by anything.”

Five-time volunteer Carl Gerlach is on a roll

Carl Gerlach of Waukesha, Wisconsin began his animal rescue work in 2005, volunteering at a local Siberian husky rescue group with his daughter. Later that year, some fellow volunteers organized a trip to New Orleans to help animal survivors of Hurricane Katrina. Carl was compelled to go, and his experience there led him to take an EARS training workshop in 2006.

Carl has been on five deployments, four in 2009 alone! In 2009, he contributed 107 hours over 13 days to the animals, despite working full time in the global technology department at Manpower Staffing Services. “I have a very understanding boss,” he said.

When asked what the hardest part of volunteering is, Carl answered, “Not coming home with somebody!” The emotional aspect is also hard, he said, adding that his most difficult deployment has been the federal dogfighting response in Missouri last July. “All the dogs wanted to do was lick your face



Julie Castaneda founded a non-profit in her hometown that provides free pet food and temporary animal sheltering to families struggling with job loss, foreclosure and other crises.

the animals



Carl Gerlach deployed with EARS four times in 2009, devoting 107 hours over 13 days to care for animals rescued from cruelty and neglect situations and evacuated from flooding in North Dakota.

and love you," he said. "It is so sad to see animals treated like that."

Carl's most recent deployment was the Tennessee horse rescue, where he realized that anything he did for the horses, no matter how small, changed their lives for the better. He described one instance when he was grooming a mare and her foal. He groomed the mare first so the scared foal would feel safe, then scratched and brushed the foal's belly. Suddenly Carl felt a gentle blowing in his ear — the foal learning that being groomed is not so bad, and maybe even enjoyable.

For Carl, being an EARS volunteer means being among people who are all "there for the right reasons." "Everyone is respectful and willing to work together to make a great team," Carl said.



Carl is ready to deploy in 2010 if he's needed. In the meantime he remains active with his local rescue and takes care of his own animal family: five huskies, two bunnies and one horse.

Karen Little specializes in "organized chaos"

Karen Little of Louisville, Kentucky couldn't have enjoyed a Thanksgiving meal knowing that 84 starving horses needed help. So she packed her bags and drove to Nashville, where she devoted 54 hours over six days to help the horses who were rescued from near death on November 24.

Karen, a music librarian at the University of Louisville, used her organizational skills to help veterinarians document the horses' condition and maintain their health records. "It is critical that those records be kept well," Little said. "Most volunteers like to work hands-on with the animals, so I was happy to contribute in this way."

Karen has a lot of experience working with veterinarians: Ten years ago she and her husband founded Alley Cat Advocates, an all-volunteer organization that works to spay and neuter unowned cats throughout the Louisville area. Since 1999, Alley Cat Advocates has helped 16,000 free-roaming cats.

Karen became an EARS volunteer in the 1990s and deployed to UAN's Hurricane Katrina response in Monroe, Louisiana in 2005 — an experience she describes as much more chaotic than

the Nashville response. Karen said the condition of the Nashville horses was "horrible, but it seemed easier to get one's head around" than Katrina.

According to Little, helping the horses in Nashville was a "life-changing" experience. "The attitude of the horses changed just in the time I was at the shelter," Little said. "A calm came across them, and they became outgoing, demanding even. They were surprisingly resilient."

"It is interesting to be among people who are going to do whatever they need to do to help an animal, even if they don't know that animal," she said. "Only a small percentage of people are like that, so to find myself in the company of so many of them is always a delight." 🐾



Karen Little brought her organizational skills to the recent horse rescue response, helping veterinarians document the animals' physical condition for evidence in the cruelty case against their owners.

LifeLine Saves Lives



Through LifeLine, United Animal Nations (UAN) provides lifesaving emergency veterinary care grants to animal caregivers. Many of the animals in need are victims of abuse or neglect who are rescued by Good Samaritans or grassroots rescue groups. UAN also awards grants to low- or no-income families and seniors.

Meet a few of the hundreds of animals we helped through LifeLine in 2009.

Prudence



A LifeLine Grant helped Prudence overcome multiple health problems that resulted from years of overbreeding in a puppy mill.

Prudence is a survivor of the puppy mill industry: She was bred over and over to produce countless puppies. After years of excessive breeding she was abandoned and later rescued by Jane Heatherington of Pennsylvania, a kind animal lover who was searching for a special-needs dog. No stranger to rescuing, Jane has been rehabilitating, fostering and transporting animals for more than 30 years.

Jane was informed by her veterinarian that Prudence had tumors on her mammary glands from excessive nursing, and a fallen bladder from giving birth to numerous puppies.

She also had recurring urinary tract infections, causing her pain and bleeding. Jane's vet removed the tumors but was

unable to treat the fallen bladder and referred Prudence to a specialist for further evaluation. There, Jane learned corrective surgery could cost as much as \$2,300. She was uncertain how she would afford such costly surgery and began soliciting donations. She set up a funding page and submitted a LifeLine Rescue Grant application to UAN.

"On becoming aware of this dog ravaged by puppy mill greed and neglect, I felt compelled to accept her into my home and help her," Jane wrote after receiving a \$200 grant from UAN. "Thanks to YOU, Prudence has received the special care she needs and deserves. I will always remember you for this kindness."

LifeLine Also Helped...



Noah... a beloved companion receive treatment for a broken leg.

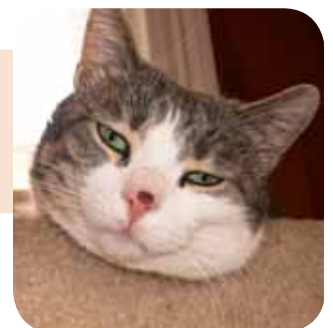


Lola... receive urgent treatment for an infection that threatened her life.

Charlie... get his bones fused back together after sustaining injuries from a 20-foot fall.



Timur... a rescued cat receive treatment for a severe kidney infection.





Learn More on the Web

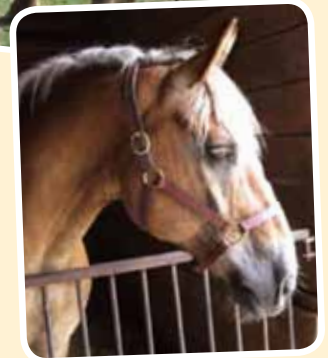
Learn more about the LifeLine program and read more success stories at www.uan.org/lifeline.

Romulus

Members of Freedom Hill Horse Rescue in Owings, Maryland went to a local auction hoping to help some unfortunate horses find new homes. What they found was heartbreaking: a sickly Belgian draft who was infested with parasites, suffering from a serious hoof infection, caked in manure and “smelled like death,” according to Freedom Hill board member Pamela Hill. The auctioneer started bidding at \$200 but didn’t get a taker until the bid dropped to \$35; Freedom Hill took him home for \$45.

Back at their pasture, Freedom Hill volunteers named the gentle horse Romulus and worked for days to clean him up. But despite their best efforts to

nurse Romulus back to health, they discovered he had a very serious hoof infection known as canker. The veterinarian’s words were not encouraging: the condition was “incurable,” Romulus would “never live past the winter” and they should simply “let him live as long as he could comfortably and then end his life.” But the volunteers would not give up on Romulus. They set about raising the estimated \$5,000 needed for a laser surgery that could cure him. With a \$500 LifeLine Rescue Grant from UAN they were able to secure the deposit needed to schedule surgery at a specialty clinic in Kentucky. Romulus will undergo a series of treatments and months of aftercare before being adopted by his foster family.



UAN’s LifeLine Grant kick-started a fundraising effort to treat a foot infection that would have ended Romulus’ life.

Letters of Appreciation

I wanted to send my sincerest gratitude to your organization for helping fund my cat’s surgery. Your financial blessing allowed Daphney to get the help she needed. She is doing so much better and is now more playful and loving. Your generosity changed her life and ours as well. Thank you for your help, support and care.



We appreciate you!

— Ali and Daphney

Thank you so much for the recent grant to save Zoe, our three-year-old Boxer. Thank you for existing and doing the work you do! Without your help, Zoe may not have been able to have the surgery she needed to save her life. We are so grateful for your help — it truly made the difference between a happy/sad ending. Thanks for everything!! You are awesome!

— Love, Zoe Demorest and Family

In only two weeks Kendra has learned sit, down, belly belly (belly up) and beg. That’s pretty good for a dog who wasn’t housebroken when she arrived and had apparently never been trained. Kendra was starving when I got her and has gained 10 pounds since... she’s a normal weight now. She loves her forever mommy, and mommy loves her too. This is a wonderful journey that the two of us are starting out on.

Thank you for your help and for all you do for the animals.

— Best, Shelley and Kendra



The Herd

Simple New Year's resolutions can help animals

It's never too late to make a New Year's resolution. And why not make one that can help the animals — whether your own or ones you've never met? Our Herd members got together to offer up four animal-friendly resolutions that are easy to make and keep.

Dewey: I just read about how sad animals in circuses and zoos are, and now I wanna bring 'em all home — can I, mom and dad? No? Then can we visit them at a sanctuary? 'Cuz animals, especially those who have been abused, injured or discarded, can live out their lives at sanctuaries (wildlife reserves and rehabilitation centers, too) where they won't be bred, sold or traded. You can visit many of these havens and learn about responsible behavior toward animals. Did you know many circuses don't use animals? Find them listed at www.uan.org/abc. For your animal viewing pleasure, watch movies like Disney's *Earth*, see animals in their natural habitats on the Discovery Channel, and watch animal videos at video.nationalgeographic.com instead. Can I tell everybody about these cruelty-free entertainment options, mom and dad? Yes? Yay!



Dewey

Sagira: G'day, loves! I spent the morning preening in my oh-so-clean home. My family uses such safe and animal- and environmentally-friendly cleaning products, I could lick the soy milk right off the floor! Of course, I wouldn't ... dreadfully unlady-like. Many companies today make "green" household and personal care products that aren't tested on animals.



Sagira

Merchandise from Earth Friendly Products, Seventh Generation, Avalon Natural Products and Method, to name just a few, are plentiful in stores. Visit www.leapingbunny.org to order a free pocket-sized Compassionate Shopping Guide. It lists cosmetic, personal care and household products made without animal testing during any phase of product development by the company, its laboratories or suppliers.

Paula Bunnyan: After watching my family eat forbidden chocolate goodies during the holidays, I would like to extol the many benefits of my personal diet: rabbit food. La cuisine de rabbit consists of low-cal leafy greens and vegetables that help keep your immune system healthy, fight infections, and reduce the risk of cancer, heart disease, high blood pressure, stroke



Paula Bunnyan

and cataracts. Some people use the term "rabbit food" to describe what vegetarians eat. Speaking of, how about going veggie one day a week? It's better for your health, the environment and the animals! Visit www.meatfreemondays.com for a plethora of yummy veggie dishes. You'll be so slim from your new rabbit habits, you'll be nibbling chocolate bunnies in April!

Simba: I was wondering, did the Obamas take Bo to Hawaii for the holidays? Does anybody stay at the White House when they're not home? What if there was a big storm in Washington? I'm so grateful that my mom has UAN emergency decals in our windows to notify authorities that my sisters and I live here, in case an emergency happens when she's not home. She keeps a disaster kit around in case of a calamity like an earthquake,



Simba

fire, flood or the unforeseen boo-boo. Mom also has a disaster plan that includes pet-friendly evacuation sites, and she had us all microchipped so she can find us if we get separated. I'd bet Bo is the safest dog in North America, but I personally feel better knowing my mom's got my back!

PS: Visit www.uan.org/disastertips for supplies and more tips.

Want more ideas for animal-friendly resolutions?
Visit UAN's A Better Choice Campaign at www.uan.org/abc

Animal cruelty seizures inspire stronger laws

While the recent seizure of 84 starving and neglected horses in Tennessee (see Page 6) improved life immediately for those horses, it could have positive repercussions for countless other animals in the state.

The two men who owned the neglected horses can only be charged with misdemeanor crimes because farm animals like horses are not included in Tennessee's felony animal cruelty law. But after visiting the emergency horse shelter and seeing firsthand the abuse perpetuated against the horses, Tennessee State Representative Janis Sontany said she would introduce a bill in the 2010 session to make abuse of any animal punishable as a felony.

"We no longer should give anyone a pass if they hold back food and water," Sontany told the *Tennessean* newspaper in December.

This isn't the first time a mass seizure of abused and neglected animals has inspired lawmakers to strengthen cruelty laws. Last February, UAN worked with The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) to shelter 300 dogs removed from a puppy mill in Wayne County, North

Carolina. The small-breed dogs were suffering from serious medical ailments and many had obviously never known life outside their filthy wire cages. In August, the North Carolina State Senate passed S.B. 460 to establish basic humane care standards and require factory-like dog producers to be licensed by the state. The bill stalled in a House committee, but its passage by the Senate indicates a growing sentiment among elected officials for laws protecting animals.

Puppy mills will face more scrutiny in Oregon and Washington, where legislatures enacted laws in 2009 to limit the number of intact dogs a breeder can maintain and establish requirements for the care of breeding dogs. The Tennessee legislature passed a law creating a licensing and regulation program for commercial breeders possessing 20 or more female dogs, and Indiana state lawmakers established new commercial dog breeder regulations.



Criminal seizures of animals, like this one removed from a North Carolina puppy mill in 2009, often inspire lawmakers to strengthen penalties for people who abuse animals.

UAN president and CEO Nicole Forsyth expects legislative victories like this to increase even more in the years to come.

"It's never easy to send our volunteers to a puppy mill seizure where they must see so many suffering and mistreated animals," she said. "But the more UAN and other organizations do to expose the prevalence of mass cruelty in puppy mills and other settings, the harder our society will push for stronger penalties for people who abuse animals." 🐾

continued from page 7

STILL STANDING

The next chapter

The EARS deployment in Tennessee lasted much longer than originally expected because the horses were too ill to be relocated to other rescue groups for adoption and foster care, as usually happens with mass criminal seizures. But by December 22, all of them were strong enough to travel, and the temporary shelter closed for good.

Some horses still have months of recuperation ahead of them, but thanks

to the tender loving care they received from EARS volunteers and others, most will recover from the abuses of their previous life.

One horse went home with a local resident and volunteer firefighter who volunteered at the temporary shelter. Now named Flame, he will have a small barn on 1.8 acres of land.

Sassy, age 15, and Sergeant, age 10, went to foster care with Volunteer Equine Advocates, a local nonprofit involved in the rescue and emergency sheltering operation.

Longshot, after standing proudly by herself for about a week, went home with one of the weakest horses, Hotshot, "to an incredibly wonderful family," Janell said.

And the mother and her colt who was hand-fed for a week have new names (Grace and Lucky) and a loving forever home. Gary and Melissa Forkum of Spring Hill, Tennessee adopted them both and promised to give them a much better life than they were rescued from.

"They'll stay here forever. They'll never have to worry about that," said Melissa. 🐾



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Bravo's second act is a sensation

Stephanie Mosby didn't have the resources to rescue another dog. Her family already had two 100-pound rescued Great Pyrenees undergoing heartworm treatment, nine other dogs, a cat, a donkey and two horses on their ranch in Canton, Texas.

But then she found a skin-and-bones Doberman who had been hit by a truck on the interstate. A trained Emergency Animal Rescue Service (EARS) volunteer, Stephanie couldn't abandon a dog in such dire straits. She took him to the nearest veterinarian and learned he had a broken leg and a disjuncted

hip. He was flea infested and his ears were eaten raw. Worst of all, he weighed 37 pounds when he should have weighed 80 or more. He was literally starving to death.

Bravo defeated odds that were stacked pretty highly against him.

The dog needed emergency orthopedic surgery costing at least \$4,000. Stephanie immediately applied for a LifeLine Rescue Grant on UAN's Web site to offset some of the cost.

**Support our LifeLine Grant program!
Donate at www.uan.org.**

Stephanie reports that the dog — now named Bravo — has surprised even the veterinarians with his rapid recovery. She is fostering him and looking for his ideal forever home.

"Bravo defeated odds that were stacked pretty highly against him," Stephanie said. "We couldn't have done it without all the wonderful donations, prayers and of course the UAN LifeLine Grant that kicked the whole thing off!"



"I will do whatever it takes to save this dog's life," she wrote.

"He will not be put down due to lack of funds."