



RUTH STEINBERGER

People often ask where we get our story ideas. Some of them come from brainstorming with Companion Animals staff here at The Humane Society of the United States about what calls they're getting from shelters and rescue groups; others come from checking around with shelter leaders to see what they're doing. But many of them—at least four stories in this issue, for example—came directly from readers who called or e-mailed to pitch a story or to let us know that they were working on something interesting.

We encourage you to do the same: If your organization has an approach that's improved life for homeless animals in your community, tell us about it! Those are the stories we want to share.

## A Fan of Cat-Tagging

I enjoyed reading the article in *Animal Sheltering* called "Collars and Sense" (July-August 2010, p. 24). It especially moved me because in my community, we have had a "leash law" on the books for cats since the late 1990s, as well as a mandatory license and ID for felines. Our confinement requirements for cats are the same [as those] for dogs, although we don't recommend placing a cat

In this issue, we feature an in-depth look at one major hoarding case in Mississippi, along with practical tips for agencies trying to cope with this complex and challenging issue. We also take a look at how one Oklahoma community has increased the availability of spay/neuter in its area; how shelters can help prepare dogs seized from puppy mills for new homes; the importance of establishing ownership upon surrender; and a unique approach to helping feral and fearful cats become friendlier. We hope you'll find them useful—and that you'll be inspired to share your own ideas with the *Animal Sheltering* community.

—Carrie, James, Jim, and Shevaun  
*Animal Sheltering* magazine staff

on a leash or on a tie-out, even temporarily. But we do recommend keeping your cat safely confined to the interior of your home, or erecting an escape-proof enclosure for your cat if they are to go outside. We also require that all cats wear their city license tag (which is smaller than the average rabies tag), as well as endorse microchipping for all pets.

The intake rates for cats in our city are about the same as they are for dogs, because

of our active enforcement of the confinement laws. However, only a small number of our cats find their way back home. Luckily, our adoption rate for cats and kittens is higher than average, about 80 percent, thanks to a transfer program that has been in place for years with neighboring shelters.

It is so disheartening when I hear all the excuses for why a cat can't wear a collar. My personal pet cat has worn collars and tags for nearly 10 years without incident, and Jezebel, the cat who lives at our shelter, has worn a collar since 2004 with a rabies tag, city license, and an ID tag (she arrived at the shelter *sans* collar or any ID), so I can't understand why anyone would think it was dangerous to put a collar on a cat.

To have to euthanize even one cat because it wasn't wearing ID is one too many for my standards; I pray for the day when society will agree with me. Thanks for the article.

Tricia Power, Director  
Bryant Animal Control & Adoption Center  
Bryant, Ark.

## Coffee Break Winner Treats Others

Thank you for the nod in *Animal Sheltering* (Coffee Break, July-August 2010, p. 23). I just wanted to let you know that I used the Starbucks card to make \$10 gift certificates that were used for a fundraising event for Mixed Breeds in Need. We held a fun run for people, dog agility trials, and had booths set up from local rescue groups. It was a great event. The \$10 certificates were used as prizes. Again, thank you so much!

Andrea MacDonald  
Mixed Breeds in Need  
Huntington, N.Y.

**Editor's note:** These letters were great reminders (we get them regularly) of how awesome our readers are! Keep them coming: Write to us at [asm@humanesociety.org](mailto:asm@humanesociety.org).