

# We're There

## Rescuing Animals

**ARMED WITH FLASHLIGHTS**, and decked out in winter attire, the HSUS Animal Rescue Team searched cold, wrecked homes in the wake of Superstorm Sandy last fall, removing trapped animals from flooded structures and rubble in parts of New York and New Jersey. The three search-and-rescue operations (middle photo) were just part of the organization's massive response, as The HSUS also ran three emergency pet shelters and distributed supplies to pet owners who stayed behind in their homes. "I'm so happy ... for what you've done," said Patrick Glenn, upon arriving at an HSUS shelter to reunite with his pets. "You went and rescued my cats, and you even saved two of my goldfish. ... I got my family back again."

Five months earlier, The HSUS had responded to an entirely different kind of situation: an overwhelmed Ohio sanctuary filled with injured, suffering parrots (top left). Accustomed to coordinating large rescues of dogs, cats, and equines, the team reached out to avian experts for equipment and advice. "Frankly, we like a challenge," says animal cruelty investigations director Adam Parascandola.

And throughout 2012, HSUS rescuers responded to a variety of other such challenges: (clockwise from top middle): In Wiggins, Miss., responders helped authorities remove 74 dogs from a puppy mill; the owner had been selling lethargic, filthy puppies at flea markets. In Tarpon Springs, Fla., a team dug 18 gopher tortoises from the path of construction, transporting them to a 35-acre release site.

Missing his upper lip and portions of his bottom one, Sam was one of 17 dogs The HSUS helped rescue from a Jacksonville, Fla., dogfighting operation. Now in foster care with Pittsburgh-based Hello Bully, an HSUS placement partner, "he is a sweet dog and just wants to curl up on your lap," says The HSUS's Chris Schindler.

In Robeson County, N.C., staff helped investigate a suspected cockfighting operation, caring for rescued birds and documenting evidence. And in New Mexico, The HSUS's Prairie Dog Coalition helped release 300+ captive Gunnison's prairie dogs to protected sites.



"It doesn't appear that [the owner has] ever taken them to the vet. If we hadn't gotten these dogs when we did, we would have ended up with a lot of dead dogs."

— Phyllis Olds, chief deputy of the Stone County Sheriff's Office, on a Mississippi puppy mill rescue



**11,087**

Number of wild and domestic animals rescued by HSUS teams from natural and human-caused disasters and conflicts in 2012