

## A Word From Us

Welcome shelters, rescues, humane societies, animal care and control agencies, and everyone who wants to help homeless pets!

We have some great new content for you in *Animal Sheltering* magazine. Our Scoop section now includes The Build-Out (reports on the latest shelter design projects), and Better Know an ACO (where we'll talk to a field officer about the challenges and joys of animal care and control work). Also look for Squeaks, Squawks, and Slithers, where we'll be highlighting smart tips for enrichment and adoption of nontraditional animals (read: anyone who's not a cat or a dog!). In each issue, we'll also be bringing you Kits & Pits, great approaches to the care and promotion of two groups of animals many groups are still struggling to help: cats and pit bull-type dogs.

Scoop isn't the only section that's got new stuff. Check out Beyond the Shelter, a department where we'll highlight news and information for rescues, foster caregivers, TNR folks, and the general pet lover. This issue's Beyond the Shelter on p. 55 will help anyone who wants to make sure that new cats get along with old ones—for adopters, fosterers, or to keep the peace in your own kitty-crazed home!

We'll also be featuring agencies and organizations that are making gains in their communities' lifesaving capacities by preventing surrenders, increasing adoptions and spay/neuters, and other great strategies. Check out Life Preservers, p. 33.

Finally, we've got a page for you book-and-movie lovers: Culture Corner, p. 39, will highlight good reads and good flicks for the animal-friendly set. And our last page will feature ... the animals you help. We're looking for great photos and stories of the pets you've rescued; we think you'll go crazy over our first Unforgettable animal, a pit bull named Pablo who has the goofiest grin ever (p. 60).

We're here for you, so don't be a stranger! If you have ideas other groups can learn from, tell us about them—and we'll try to spread them around. Get in touch at [asm@humanesociety.org](mailto:asm@humanesociety.org) or check in at [facebook.com/animalshelteringmagazine](https://www.facebook.com/animalshelteringmagazine).

*Letters, notes, and Facebook posts may be edited for length and clarity.*

Our series on the Association of Shelter Veterinarians' Guidelines will return in a future issue.



Several Facebook fans responded to our post about the recent tragedy involving the exotic animals who were released from an Ohio facility and later killed by authorities. **Michelle G.** offered the most positive smart advice for anyone who's ever wanted to own a big cat: *Adopt a cat whose personality is a big as a tiger's! I did.*

We also heard from those who saw our offer of free back issues of *Animal Sheltering*, including a note that made our day from **Ferrell S.** of the Colony Cats Adoption Center in Columbus, Ohio: *Our cat adoption center would really appreciate any issues you have on dealing with cats in the shelter environment. Especially if they relate to group housing/cage-free cat adoption centers/shelters. We love to have your magazine available for our volunteers to read at the shelter; it opens the doors for great discussions and problem solving.* (Thanks, Ferrell! Other readers who want back issues can drop us a line at [asm@humanesociety.org](mailto:asm@humanesociety.org).)



I was delighted to see James Hettinger's article about Pets for Life NYC in the September-October 2011 issue of *Animal Sheltering*. The surrender-prevention aspect of reducing shelter overpopulation has always been a priority matter, in my view. In my book *The Pet Surplus: What Every Dog and Cat Owner Can Do to Help Reduce It*, the last section on "Commitment" fills 44 percent of the 250-page manuscript. Acquisition choices and sterilization are of course given their due, but the importance of keeping pets is discussed at more length and in more detail than much of the humane literature usually devotes to it.

The situation has, of course, improved in the 10 years since *The Pet Surplus* was published, and many of its statistics and other details are now a bit out of date. (For example, the headline used to promote the book, "How We Can Save Five Million Lives a Year," should properly now be corrected to "Four Million.") But though facts and figures change over time, issues rarely do. And your Pets for Life programs are rightly stressing what may be the overriding need today for improving the shelter situation. Congratulations on your invaluable work!

— **Susan M. Seidman**  
East Hampton, N.Y.

