

A New Day for Fight-Bust Dogs, p. 30

A Word From Us

Our field, in essence, is all about giving animals a second chance at a rewarding life in a loving home whenever possible. Yet for years, the notion that dogs seized from fighting operations could someday make good pets was rejected out of hand by many—including The Humane Society of the United States. But the Michael Vick case challenged everyone to view dogfighting in a new light. One of this issue's features, "A New Day for Fight-Bust Dogs," details the emerging options for these victims.

Last year, the Association of Shelter Veterinarians released its long-awaited *Guidelines for Standards of Care in Animal Shelters*, designed to "balance animal welfare science with practical and realistic recommendations for shelters." In Part Two of our series discussing how the guidelines can be implemented, veterinarian Sandra Newbury visits the Austin Humane Society, which has implemented enrichment and training practices that have resulted in much calmer, quieter dogs.

Many animal welfare organizations couldn't carry out their mission without the help of those willing to foster animals in their homes—a kindness that opens up much-needed space at shelters and gives little ones a good start in life. As this issue's Behavior Department illustrates, it's a big job turning a frisky fur ball into a fun (and well-adjusted) companion.

These are just three of the many stories from this issue showing how sheltering professionals, rescue groups, and their supporters are making life better for animals—and giving them a second chance.

Tell us your own tales. Email us at asm@humanesociety.org, and don't forget to follow us on Facebook.

—Animal Sheltering *magazine staff*



Timely Information

The article "Back to Basics: Shelter Cat Enrichment" by Debbie Swanson (March-April 2011, p. 53) is terrific.

This issue is excellent, as always, but the last issue (January-February 2011) was above and beyond! The article on Calgary's licensing efforts ("A License to Succeed," p. 26) was terrific (we're only a half a day's drive from Calgary), and Hilary Anne Hager's Volunteer Management column ("Avoiding the Bait and Switch," p. 53) was great, as always. We'll have to find a way to bribe her into coming over some time.

We are going through a volunteer program revival, and an aggressive licensing campaign, so both of these were quite timely (as well as well-written). Keep up the good work!

—Cliff Bennett, Director
Flathead County Animal Shelter
Kalispell, Mont.

Lovie: Lovin' Life

Editor's note: "Yes, We Have Some Chihuahuas" (March-April 2011, p. 22) chronicled the Sacramento SPCA's experience after taking in more than 150 animals from an overcrowded "rescue" in Southern California—including Lovie, a Chihuahua whose dental problems required surgery. Lovie's adopter, Erin Long-Scott, provided the following update on Lovie's new life.

A few things have changed since I last [spoke to] you. I have added two more little dogs to the mix. I am fostering them, and they are from a rescue group I am with. Before, [I had] Lovie and Topper (who I adopted through my rescue group).

Lovie is extremely happy now having more dogs. He plays with them and runs around with them. He is older, so he doesn't run as hard, but he now has a kick in his step. He loves the bonding. I have a few pillows throughout the house, and usually all four of them will cuddle on one pillow. He is still grumpy with some stuff. But he has bonded more with me. He lets me do a lot of things that he wouldn't when I first got him. I can hold and touch his feet. I can touch his mouth and put my hand in his mouth.

I have a huge orange tree on my property, and he loves to hang out under it and chew on the oranges. He still loves eating. I call him my vacuum. Since it is cold now, I turn on my dryer, so while he is outside he likes to sit under the vent and get warm. He absolutely loves doing that. I consider it a massage for him. I ask him if he wants to go get his massage, and he runs to the door. He smiles a lot. Granted, it's crooked, but he smiles. His mouth still hangs down from where he had a rotten tooth sticking out, and his jaw isn't perfect, so he has a bit of a droop. But he runs through the house and is always wagging his tail. He watches everything I do and is completely tuned in to me. If I sit, he sits; if I am walking around, he follows me. When he tires out he will sit and watch me. He is doing really well.

It's a running joke now that we are a famous family. I was on TV a few months ago, and now Lovie is in magazines.

—Erin Long-Scott
South Sacramento, Calif.