



Velcro (first photo) and nearly 700 other cats were rescued from a Florida hoarding situation last June.



Velcro (middle two photos) and the other kitties relaxed at a temporary shelter—and later strutted their stuff at a three-day adoption event.



Velcro (now Romeo) chills at the home of adopter Darlene Pifalo.



## A Feline Superstar's Journey Home

**Every time the door would swing open,** Velcro would come running.

Removed from an unforgettable hoarding situation in Florida last June, the cat with the huge heart and lasting embrace transitioned naturally into his next chapter: unofficial host of the All Cats HealthCare Clinic in Gainesville. “He would run to the front door to greet people and then follow them to where they would sit down and immediately hop up in their lap,” veterinarian Patti Gordon says. “So he was a fan favorite.”

All told, The HSUS helped rescue 697 cats from the sanctuary-gone-horribly-wrong. More than 250 of them found fresh starts over a three-day adoption event in August, and by late October,

every treatable, adoptable cat had either found a new home or been placed with a sanctuary, shelter, or rescue group—thanks in part to The HSUS’s network of Emergency Placement Partners, plus funding for smaller groups to promote adoption events.

Just before the holidays, Velcro found a new home as well, with Gainesville realtor Darlene Pifalo, who has since renamed her charming companion. Romeo now wakes her up in the morning with a kiss on the cheek, and every time Pifalo comes home, he is—of course—the first cat to greet her.

“He just enjoys life,” she says. “He’s got such a great personality, compared to what he probably went through. It’s amazing. ... He’s been a blessing.”

— *Michael Sharp*

👉 WATCH A VIDEO of the rescue and more photos of Romeo in his new home at [humanesociety.org/allanimals](http://humanesociety.org/allanimals).

## Hen Bill Hatches on the Hill

**U.S. Rep. Kurt Schrader** is lead sponsor of the Egg Products Inspection Act Amendments, which would phase out barren battery cages for egg-laying hens. The Oregon Democrat—Congress's only veterinarian—recently reflected on his support for the bill, introduced after negotiations between The HSUS and the United Egg Producers trade group.



### Why is H.R. 3798 important?

Hopefully, it is the beginning of an era of cooperation instead of confrontation between animal rights organizations and production agriculture. I appreciate The HSUS's thoughtful approach to recognizing the economic challenges faced by industry in making the change, and the consequent phase-in and reasonable new standards.

### What about this issue resonated with you?

Generally, in the legislative world we prefer solutions worked out by the interests concerned. I was impressed that all three large Oregon egg producers were behind the national standard so they could stay in business and continue to be job creators. And I liked the idea of getting out ahead of the increasingly discriminating American consumer and positioning American agriculture as part of the solution and not the problem.

### What are the next steps?

My focus is to educate members of Congress and their staffs on why this legislation is important and generate as many endorsements as possible. We've received some key endorsements from important constituencies like the American Veterinary Medical Association and the Consumer Federation of America. Not to mention we are getting new endorsements every week from newspaper editorial boards across the country.



## Quoted

You cannot argue away the point that hogs are living beings, and people have a strong association with animals.

The issue with gestation-sow stalls is space. . . .

It's too small a space for too long a time, and it propagates a stall-to-stall-to-stall cycle that is hard to swallow.

— MARLYS MILLER, PORK MAGAZINE EDITOR, IN AN ONLINE EDITORIAL

The writing is on the wall when it comes to extreme confinement in the pork industry. Following discussions with The HSUS, McDonald's and Wendy's are requiring pork suppliers to detail plans to phase out gestation crates for breeding sows. Similarly, Compass Group, the world's largest food service company, and subsidiary Bon Appétit have also worked with The HSUS to adopt plans to go crate-free, building on already admirable animal welfare policies.

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A dog waits by a demolished house in northern Japan following the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami. HSI is helping local groups build their disaster response capacity.

## Out of the Ruins | HSI helps Japan map road to recovery

“**The rescue effort was beyond challenging,**” says veteran field responder Kelly Coladarci, recalling Humane Society International’s efforts to save pets in Japanese towns devastated by last year’s earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear crisis. “We hit walls every step of the way.”

The seasoned disaster response team faced many obstacles in their attempts to help local animal welfare groups and government agencies, including the massive physical destruction and, in some areas, high radiation levels. “There was little ability for us to do direct rescue on the ground,” says Coladarci, an HSI program manager.

But all was not lost: The team helped establish emergency shelters and decontamination protocols, trained local volunteers in animal handling and catching, and developed detailed rescue and sheltering strategies with members of the Japanese Coalition for Animal Welfare and other rescue groups.

A year later, while animal rescue remains hampered by restricted access to radiation zones, more than 1,000 cats and dogs have been brought to safety, according to official reports, with approximately 450 returned to their owners or adopted into new homes. And the strategies created by Coladarci and her team have formed the basis for an ongoing HSI presence in the Japanese animal welfare movement. Says Kelly O’Meara, HSI’s director of companion animals and engagement: “Our objective is not just one time to go in, but to further relationships and use them as an opportunity to advance animal welfare in Japan.”

HSI expertise and a \$200,000 grant were instrumental in the construction of a second permanent animal shelter in Fukushima, and a \$100,000 grant is providing free veterinary care to pets of those living in temporary housing in Iwate Prefecture. HSI is also partnering with Kitasato University to study radiation’s impact on animals, with a conference planned for next year.

— Arna Cohen



Kelly Coladarci

## SIGNS OF THE TIMES

by ARNA COHEN



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks commissioner Ron Moody spoke out in January

against a proposal to extend the wolf hunting season in the Bitterroot Valley. **“Fair chase hunting is not infinitely elastic,”** said Moody, according to the *Independent Record* newspaper. **“It has limits and I think ... we have gone past them.”** Ultimately, the commission voted 5-0 not to extend the season.



Renowned chef Wolfgang Puck exchanged his knife for a pen, writing

**California chefs in February to urge them to support an upcoming state ban on the production and sale of foie gras.** A 2004 bill outlawed the force-feeding of birds to produce the unnaturally large livers marketed as a delicacy, but it delayed the ban until July 1 of this year. **Puck stopped serving foie gras in his restaurants in 2007, as have nearly 100 other California restaurants.**



Starting in October, National Institutes of Health **grantees may no longer use agency**

**funds to purchase cats from Class B dealers,** notorious for their shady acquisition methods and substandard treatment of animals. The new policy acts on a 2009 National Academy of Sciences report concluding that such suppliers are unnecessary. A similar policy for dogs, announced in March 2011, will be implemented by 2015. **Thanks to widespread campaigns against Class B dealers, only seven remain active in the U.S.,** down from more than 100 in the 1990s.