

SOME WEEKS AGO, on an early morning walk with my dog, Lily, I came across a beautiful kitty trailing a pedestrian. It didn't take me long to realize that she was without a caretaker, but very much seeking one. With cars barreling down a busy city street right near my apartment, I knew she wasn't safe on her own. A passing jogger grabbed her and held on tight. I made a lifeline call to my wife, Lisa, who hurried down with a cat carrier. Lisa swung open the gate, and we gently placed this stray inside. Right then and there, we had sacrificed a small portion of her freedom for a far greater measure of security.

We had been found by a cat—which is the way most cats and people unite. Some months earlier, we had found Lily at a local rescue group. As long as she was prepared to live and let live, it was almost a sure thing that Lily would have a new sister. As it turned out, Lily seemed indifferent when we introduced the cat into the household, and we recorded her passive response as a “yes” vote.

We named our new family member Zoe, and she's endlessly entertaining, swatting at Lily's tail and racing around the apartment so much and so often that she pants more than any cat I've known. Her antics would be a hit on the web, even with all the competition on YouTube from Lil Bub and so many other kitties suddenly thrust into the spotlight. In this issue of *All Animals*, we cover this extraordinary Internet cat craze.

Clearly, our companions enthrall us, but there's also such serious business when it comes to pets in our society. There are too many animals without homes and too many in crisis.

At one puppy mill raid in North Carolina, my colleague Jennifer Kulina Lanese came across a miniature dachshund living in a small cage, covered in feces and paralyzed in his rear legs. She, too, scooped him up, and with that act, his life, too, would be forever changed.

As you'll read in this issue, a wonderful veterinary technician in North Carolina eventually adopted the dachshund, whom we had named Ricky Bobby. She built him a custom wheelchair of sorts—more like a cart—that allows Ricky Bobby to race around the park with his new friends.

It's so uplifting to see how just a little bit of decency and ingenuity can transform the lives of animals—whether it is a rescue operation such as the North Carolina case, disaster response in the Philippines, digging out of gopher tortoises about to be buried in a development, or relocation of prairie dogs whose colonies are slated for extermination.

But our rescuers would be the first to tell you that we don't have enough hands, or cat carriers, or wheelchairs to help all the animals in need. That's why our greatest charge must be to prevent cruelty, by changing hearts and minds and overhauling public and corporate policies. And that's why in 2013, we helped pass more than 100 state laws—for a total of 800 since 2005.

It was 1954 when four people gathered in a Denver living room to form The HSUS, an organization they hoped would one day work in “every field of humane work, everywhere.” Today, we're active every day of the year, every minute of the day, in all 50 states and now in dozens of countries around the globe, honoring that original strategic vision, though executing it on a larger stage in this global economy.

We pay attention to every vulnerable life needing help, whether a stray on the street or a sow on a giant factory farm. It's our goal to bring relief and security to them all. That's our enterprise, and without you, we couldn't be the world's most effective and strategic organization for animals.



“We pay attention to every vulnerable life needing help”: HSUS president and CEO Wayne Pacelle visits with rescued puppies who eventually found new homes.

Wayne Pacelle

Wayne Pacelle, President & CEO
The Humane Society of the United States