LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Kudos to the Cover Cat
I loved the cover with that magnificent tiger on it. I love all animals; let’s do all that we can so that future generations will be able to actually see these animals alive and prospering!!!

— MARY BUGARIN, VIA FACEBOOK

Absolutely love the cover from the latest issue. What a beautiful face.

— ANNE HOOPER, VIA FACEBOOK

Mirror Image
I was thrilled to see your article on Little Roy (“Where Are They Now?” July/August 2014). He looks exactly like my cat Oliver, who appeared on my doorstep one very cold day this past February. He was limping badly and my vet discovered he had a severely infected abscess, a broken front leg, and numerous bite and puncture wounds. Several surgeries later and he’s become our loveable house cat who can’t resist the temptation to curl up in your lap as soon as you sit down.

— ELLEN KOLLMAR, ATTICA, NEW YORK

No Deserting Tortoises
I’m excited about this (“To the Rescue,” July/August 2014) because I was so worried for them when I heard the center was closing down.

— JACQUI REES, VIA FACEBOOK

I used to leave for college an hour early to stop and move the turtles across the country road at certain intervals!

— SHARON SMITH DIONNE, VIA FACEBOOK

I love it! Every life is sacred!

— TALIA MYRES, VIA FACEBOOK

Eye Opener
I picked up your magazine while sitting in a salon chair waiting to get my hair done. I am not an animal activist, but my heart was touched by what I read because I love animals. I know there are many people in this world who are unaware of animal testing and how these animals live in cages. Thank you for writing about the reality of what people do to these animals and for your amazing magazine.

— JESSIE HAMILTON-HUDSON, HAMMOND, LOUISIANA

GOLDEN DAYS

MUFFY AND HER 4-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER, DIANE, share a moment in the July sun at Chimp Haven Sanctuary in Louisiana. The pair was part of a historic wave of 110 government-owned chimpanzees retired from New Iberia Research Center (“Haven Can’t Wait,” May/June 2013). The last of those chimps arrived in late June. “It’s a huge moment for the campaign,” says Jennifer Ball, HSUS project manager. “And we are looking forward to many more.” (To read more stories of chimpanzees and support their retirement, visit humansociety.org/chimp401k.)

THIS ISSUE’S MUSE

JANETTE REEVER always wanted to adopt a potbellied pig. But the timing was never right. She’d researched care requirements and even bought a home with ample property. Then came Arnold, a little oinker at PIGS Animal Sanctuary in Shepherdstown, West Virginia, who’d had five homes by the time he was just 4 months old. At first, her five dogs were leery. “Then one by one,” Reever remembers, “I saw them accept him and lay next to him on a dog bed.” Now 9 months old, Arnold Peabody loves harnessing up for walks to a nearby spring, blowing bubbles in his wading pool, snuggling in his special blue blanket and patrolling the backyard with James Pickles, a rescued pit bull. As HSUS deputy manager of animal fighting response, Reever helps gather intelligence for dogfighting investigations. It’s a tough job. When Arnold senses she’s upset about a case, he nuzzles and lies down beside her. “I cannot imagine not having him.” (To read about fellow porcine ambassador Esther the Wonder Pig, turn to p. 32.)
Our Facebook fans are a creative bunch: They told us about some of the budget-conscious DIY items they’ve made—and fun things they’ve done—for backyard wildlife.

JOHN MORTISON  Wildlife needs fresh water. An easy way to provide this in the summer is to route your A/C condensate drain water into a shallow pan. The more or less constant inflow of water automatically keeps the pan full and fresh. Set the pan slightly off level so that the excess water flows over the low side, washing any mosquito larvae over with it so you don’t breed them.

PENNY GEISS  I never discard pumpkins and gourds to the curb. Instead they are distributed to the back of my property for the animals to enjoy. This also protects small animals from going into the road. Sometimes I am even rewarded the next summer with vines and flowers.

MEGAN PARKS  I take my fallen pinecones and spread peanut butter on them and then roll them in birdseed. All you need is twine and you can hang them anywhere!

LISA EITELJORG FOSS  Our weed killer is vinegar, Epsom salt and Dawn detergent, which doesn’t harm pets or other wildlife.

KEITH BURNS II  We researched and planted perennials that butterflies and hummingbirds love. We also plant some annuals that birds and butterflies like. We have several bird baths, feeders and birdhouses. And, most importantly we keep all of our cats INSIDE!

SARA SNYDER  We have all native plants and we are building bat boxes for mosquito control. We live in a wooded area so keeping everything as natural as possible is best.

NONIE POPE  I have butterfly-friendly plants, bird feeders made out of pinecones coated in natural honey and peanut butter, clovers for bunnies, sassafras seeds for my best buddies—my yearly family of redbirds.

DONNA MCCARTNEY  We made birdhouses and feeders out of old cigar boxes and put them in the trees around the birdbath. Also planted berry bushes and butterfly plants. Squirrels also love corn on the cob that is too dried out for humans. I have a clover area for rabbits that stop by and a canal for turtles and frogs. Small payment for their visits.

MARIE HAUGHEY  My parents leave a portion of their five acres untended. There’s a patch of milkweed for the butterflies, especially the monarchs, and low trees and shrubs near the forest that the foxes seem to enjoy. It’s a real treat when I go horseback riding and get to watch the baby foxes play!

MAGNOLIA MARTINEZ-PENA  When trees are trimmed, the cut branches become new perches distributed along the yard. We arrange the small sticks in piles that lizards and insects can use.

KATIE FINNELL  Use old pie tins as bird baths. You can either hang them or set them out on posts.

VIKKI BLAINE  Grow lots of sunflowers and dry them out and feed the squirrels and birds in the wintertime.

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