

# Foreword

WHEN OUR ANIMAL WELFARE PARTNERS at The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) told us about plans to write and distribute its *Complete Guide to Horse Care*, I was delighted. Much-needed attention is being paid to the plight of America's horses, and I know how many people have stepped in to help, with everything from donations to legislation to adoption and fostering.

This project brought back a lot of memories from decades ago of our work to help people care for their dogs and cats. For twenty-five-plus years much of our mission has been to provide information about pet overpopulation and the numbers of companion animals being sacrificed because of a lack of good homes. Happily, animal welfare advocates spurred people to adopt dogs and cats for the first time or to add to the numbers of pets who were already family members. That meant we had many people who either had little or no experience caring for companion animals or were faced with new challenges as more animals were added to the family. We mobilized as information providers, with vehicles such as call-in help lines and newspaper columns. The HSUS's earlier guides for cat and dog guardians were extremely helpful and are great templates for the necessary information this book provides about caring for horses.

Now, even with some seven million horses in the United States, there is a general lack of knowledge about how to help and care for these special animals. People are concerned, but they do not know what to do. Fortunately, The HSUS is stepping in to provide another worthy public service, this time for our horses.

The Doris Day Animal Foundation was invited to help fund *The Humane Society of the United States Complete Guide to Horse Care*, and it was a privilege to say yes. This is a wonderful educational project. We know that, with the right information, people will be better equipped to care for their horses. Our message—that caring for horses, like caring for dogs and cats, is a lifetime commitment—will reach those interested in caring for horses.

Both novice and experienced horse caretakers will benefit from *The Humane Society of the United States Complete Guide to Horse Care*. It's a beautiful book with vital information, and it will be a great source of information for years to come. We're proud to be involved.

Doris Day