



**HUMANE
SOCIETY
OF UTAH**

4242 South 300 West
Murray, UT 84107

Phone: (801) 261-2919
www.utahhumane.org

Spring 2008

Speaking of **Animals**

The Humane Society of Utah is dedicated to the elimination of fear, pain, and suffering in all animals.

Inside:

Legislative UPDATE

Page 3



Representative
Greg J. Curtis



Senator
Michael G. Waddoups

A Special Thanks

Page 2

HSU Hosts Lobbying Seminar

Page 4

The Amazing Cat Rescue

Page 6

Plus:
Sheba the Dog
and more!





BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Craig S. Cook, *President*

Dr. Eric Belnap, *Vice President*

Dr. JoAnn B. Seghini, *Secretary*

Randy John, *Treasurer*

Directors:

Michelle Christensen, Janet E. Haskell,
Steve Starley, Tim J. Williams

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Gene Baierschmidt, *Executive Director*

Paul Chapin, DVM, *Veterinarian*

Shama Chapin, DVM, *Veterinarian*

John Paul Fox, *Chief Investigator*

Pauline Edwards, *Director of Clinic*

Carlene Wall, *Director of
Operations and Education*

Katharine Brant, *Director of
Publications and Membership*

Oliver Schmidt, *Director of Electronic Media*

Loraine Delgadillo, *Business Manager
Human Resources*

Carrie Glavin, *Volunteer Coordinator*

Kris Smith, *Community Outreach Director*

Jessica Almeida, *Rescue Coordinator*

Barbara Conrad, *Foster Animal Coordinator*

SERVICES PROVIDED

- ❖ Adoption of animals to qualified homes
- ❖ Low-cost sterilization surgeries
- ❖ Receiving of unwanted animals
- ❖ Preventive immunizations
- ❖ Investigation of animal abuse and neglect
- ❖ Animal rescues
- ❖ Humane education and pet-facilitated therapy
- ❖ For further information on services provided by HSU, call 261-2919 during business hours.

Remember, HSU is your shelter.

We are here to help the animals of Utah.

Please help maintain and support our programs with your contributions.

The Humane Society of Utah is an independent 501(C)(3) nonprofit organization that is not affiliated with any other group, nationally or locally. We receive no funding from taxes or any source other than your contributions.

Incorporated 1961

4242 South 300 West
Salt Lake City, UT 84107-1415
Telephone: (801) 261-2919
Fax: (801) 261-9577

www.utahhumane.org

© 2008 Humane Society of Utah. All rights reserved.

A Special Thanks to the Legislators Who Really Stood Up for the Animals

Representative Sheryl Allen
Speaker of the House Greg Curtis
Senator Gene Davis
Senator Michael Waddoups

Now that Utah has two incredibly important animal-protection laws in place, the Humane Society of Utah would like to express its deepest thanks to four of the legislators who were willing to go the extra mile to see that these laws got passed, and who ultimately made the miracles happen.

First on the list is Senator Michael G. Waddoups (R-Salt Lake), who drafted, sponsored, and promoted the bill that bans Internet hunting in Utah. Although that practice, which was condemned as cowardly and unsportsmanlike even by national pro-hunting groups, did not exist in this state prior to Sen. Waddoups's proposal, the idea was to make it impossible for it to ever happen here. As HSU Executive Director Gene Baierschmidt said, "Laws are a lot like medicine. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." Thanks to Sen. Waddoups, Utah became the 35th state in America to enact a specific ban on Internet hunting.

Sen. Waddoups was also in favor, and instrumental in the eventual passage, of the felony-level animal torture laws that were presented.

Next, Utah Speaker of the House Greg J. Curtis was a powerful and



Utah Speaker of the House Greg J. Curtis (right) was awarded a plaque by the Executive Director of the Humane Society of Utah, Gene Baierschmidt, for his "outstanding compassion" and honored him for his awareness of the place companion animals hold in the majority of people's hearts and families.

influential supporter of both the torture and Internet hunting bills from the very beginning. Early in the session, he was awarded a plaque by the Humane Society for his "outstanding compassion" and honored for his awareness of the place companion animals hold in the majority of people's hearts and families. We deeply appreciate his support of issues that matter to nearly three-quarters of the state's citizens.

"Having the backing of someone in Greg Curtis's position of leadership made a monumental difference in whether or not the torture bill got passed," says Gene Baierschmidt.

Senate Minority Whip Gene Davis (D-Salt Lake) for the second year in a row sponsored the felony torture law that HSU and most other animal advocates statewide considered ideal. His bill was derailed at the very last minute last year, and this year it was not even given a hearing. Nevertheless,

continued on page 8 (Thanks)

You Did It!



Felony-level Animal Torture Bill PASSES in 2008 Legislature!

History was made this year in the Utah State Legislature when SB 297, the compromise bill that makes the deliberate torture of a cat or dog a third-degree felony on the first offense, passed in the House of Representatives by a vote of 62–6, with seven members absent, after having gone through the Senate with 21 supporting votes and only 6 opposed. “This is a landmark piece of legislation,” said Gene Baierschmidt, Executive Director of the Humane Society of Utah, whose efforts to get such a law have been ongoing for years. A statewide independent poll showed that 74% of the population wanted an animal-protection law with some teeth in it. “This bill sends the message that anyone who commits acts of torture on a dog or cat will pay a significant price,” Mr. Baierschmidt said. “It reflects the respect and affection that our culture feels for companion animals — we no longer perceive them as ‘things,’ but as living beings with feelings and individual characteristics. Sixty-one per cent of all Americans keep a companion cat or dog or both, and protecting these animals from torture matters to a lot of people. This legislation helps our society in general to take one more important step away from tolerating violence.”

Utah Becomes 44th State

Utah has now officially become the 44th state in America to have such a law on its books. Says Mr. Baierschmidt, “The passage of this very intelligent, forward-looking law brings us further into the mainstream of the rest of the country’s attitudes.” Intensive research over the past thirty years has established a strong link between animal torture and criminal violence against other human beings. Animals are frequently involved in domestic-abuse situations, and the overwhelming majority of those animals are cats and dogs — the ones specifically targeted by SB 297.

A Complicated Process

The Humane Society expressed its deep thanks to the community for its support of this issue, as well as to the legislators who passed it into law. It was a long, hard, nail-biting struggle, but the end result is what counts.

We started by having three different bills in the legislature: SB 102, which the Humane Society favored, would have

made the torture of any animal a third-degree felony on the first offense, and it was killed by members of the Farm Bureau without even being heard. SB 117 was introduced at the same time, and animal advocates throughout the state called the bill “disastrous,” since it only made animal torture a felony on a second offense committed within five years, exempted many animals from protection of any kind, and drastically weakened the existing animal-cruelty code. This bill passed in the Senate by one vote and then went to the House of Representatives. HSU immediately issued press releases, e-mails, and website updates urging members of the community to ask their legislators not to allow SB 117 to go any further.

Later, HB 470 was introduced in the House as a compromise bill that the Society endorsed. Then finally — as a direct result of the enormous amount of protest against SB 117 generated by people like all of you — the original sponsor of the animal-adverse SB 117 introduced a completely different bill, SB 297, which was in essence the same thing as HB 470 — it made deliberate torture of a dog or cat a felony on the first offense, and retained the existing animal codes intact. Further pursuit of SB 117 and HB 470 in either house was dropped.

Down to the Wire

The 2008 Legislative session was scheduled to end on March 5th. As the days hurried by with no action taken on SB 297, Gene Baierschmidt and other animal advocates haunted the Capitol building, praying with bated breath that no last-minute sabotage actions would be taken against the bill, as happened last year with similar legislation. Back at the Humane Society, staffers waited with equal anxiety for news. Nerves were strained to the breaking point throughout the building.

Finally, on March 4th — just one day before we might have seen the result of years of hard work slip through our hands again — SB 297 was finally heard in the House, and it **PASSED** by a wide margin of 56 votes!

You made it happen. One and one-half million Utahns can’t be wrong. Persistence pays. Believe in miracles. However it came about, Utah now has a law on the books

Lobbying 101

On the evening of November 1, nearly one hundred concerned citizens gathered in the auditorium of the Humane Society of Utah to attend a free seminar in “Lobbying 101” which was organized and structured by the Humane Society of the United States, which is headquartered in Washington, DC. Although the Humane Society of Utah is a completely independent agency and is not in any way affiliated with the national group or any other association, for the past five years animal welfare advocates all over the country have been closely following HSU’s efforts to make Utah the 44th state in the nation to have a felony-level animal cruelty law on the books. The Humane Society of the United States is the largest and most powerful animal-legislation group in America, having recently absorbed the Fund for Animals and the Doris Day Animal League to form its own branch devoted exclusively to help pass animal protection laws at both the state and federal levels, and they generously offered to send two of their most experienced lobbyists, Jake Oster and Dale Bartlett, to give local activists some expert advice on how to deal effectively with politicians.

State Senator Gene Davis, who in the last meeting of the legislature sponsored the bill that would have made animal torture a third-degree felony, and State Representative Jennifer Seelig were also present at the seminar to discuss some of the bills and issues being considered this year, and gave freely of their time and knowledge to answer questions on all aspects of the legislative process from the crowd. Summing up her personal reasons for supporting Henry’s Law and coming to the seminar, Rep. Seelig said, “*If society addresses the needs of the most vulnerable, we elevate ourselves as a species*” — which pretty well expressed the attitude of everyone in the room.

members of the community how they can personally help get Henry’s Law, the bill that would make deliberate torture of an animal a third-degree felony, passed in the 2008 session of the Utah State legislature. Mr. Oster introduced the issue by saying, “*The humane treatment of animals is a mainstream American value, embraced by voters of all political stripes. But without organized political activism, our laws have long failed to measure up to our ideals.*”

Ordinary citizens can’t expect to make any difference by petitioning or boycotting about cruelty, he said — what they need to do is change the laws, legitimize animal cruelty issues. And the primary consideration of all legislators is how any issue impacts their individual districts because those votes are the ones that decide whether

“...We need the help of everyone who cares to make sure that things like what happened to Henry are taken very, very seriously by our legislators.”

or not they stay in office. The bulk of legislators’ decisions are based on staff advice: the content of your calls, letters, and e-mails is received, digested, and reported to the lawmaker by his or her staff. It’s important to work with these people. The telephone is actually one of your most influential tools, along with person-to-person contact; every federal legislative staff now has an animal-protection person, and that is the individual with whom you should ask to speak on national animal issues. The Humane Society of the United States maintains a legislative scorecard, which you can access at votesmart.org. Lawmakers care about their scorecard rankings. If even a rural legislator’s staff receives and relays to the appropriate congressperson enough pro-animal calls, minds can be changed.

Some of the experts’ pointers included the following: Do your homework and be prepared to express your views rationally.

Humane Society Hosts Lobbying Seminar

Crowd Learns About Effective Legislative Methods



Senator Davis (right) was extremely generous with his time and familiarity with legal issues in answering questions from the audience about local animal legislation.

Presenting the Humane Viewpoint

The purpose of the session, according to HSU Executive Director Gene Baierschmidt, was to teach ordinary

Be aware of the legislator's previous actions in related matters. Refer to the bills you're promoting by number and name. Have a clear, concise objective in mind (in other words, get directly to the point) and explain why the issue is important to you personally. For example, you might describe an incident of having witnessed a neighbor beating his dog with a stick hard enough to cause the animal to limp, or seeing an abused animal in a newscast who resembles a companion animal of your own.

Also, develop a relationship with the local media. Write letters to the editors of newspapers. Call television and radio stations and politely express your reaction when animal-related issues have been aired.

Humane Movement Gaining Momentum

In spite of what seems to be a long string of disappointing opposition, said Mr. Bartlett, animal advocates should take encouragement from the many successes that have been achieved, most of them very recently, because of the voices and actions of people who care. For example, until 1985 — for 209 years of our country's history! — only four states had felony animal cruelty bills. Then from 1986 to 1996 12 more joined, and by 2007 43 of the 50 states, plus the District of Columbia, had adopted such a standard. "As a nation, we're increasingly less tolerant of brutal mistreatment of animals," according to the HSUS speakers, "and animal-protection laws are also being driven by research begun in the 1970s that establishes a clear link between animal abuse and violent crime." The Chicago Police Department, in fact, has established a specific Animal Crimes Unit on the grounds that the types of people

who hurt animals constitute the worst element of our society, and "their aggressive behavior toward animals is typically not corrected by a misdemeanor punishment; they go on to commit violence against other people." It makes sense, they say, to stop the problem at its roots.

Another encouraging sign as far as getting animal-friendly laws passed is the fact that there are now more lobbyists for animals in Congress than can be claimed by opposing factors.

Making a Difference Here

"We want the people who have supported a felony-level animal torture bill in the past — and that's almost three-quarters of the entire state's population, according to an independent poll — to learn the most worthwhile ways to get involved and to learn the basic lobbying techniques that can make a difference," says Gene Baierschmidt.

The Humane Society will continue to work for strong animal-protection laws on all levels now and in the future, and you can help. "We're hoping to equip ordinary members of the community with the skills necessary to campaign for anti-cruelty laws at the local level," said Mr. Baierschmidt.



The crowd listens attentively to Jake Oster's tips on making animal issues important to the entire community.



Dale Bartlett and Jake Oster from the Humane Society of the United States were joined by Utah State Representative Jennifer Seelig and Senator Gene Davis for the Lobbying 101 seminar which helped make members of the general public more aware of how to work more effectively to get animal-friendly legislation passed locally.

"Topics we've learned about include creating effective materials for local decision-makers and the media, organization, and strategic planning. We need the help of everyone who cares to make sure that things like what happened to Henry are taken very, very seriously by our legislators." ♦

Trailer Overflowing with Abandoned Cats

HSU to the Rescue!

Early last January, HSU Chief Investigator John Fox received a call from the Bureau of Land Management, who had received a call about a mustang who was being neglected in the Sanpete County area of Indianola. The BLM had removed the mustang from the premises, but they thought that the Humane Society of Utah should know that there had also been dogs and goats on the property, which neighbors had adopted, as well as a trailer that still contained a large number of cats.

When HSU Operations Manager Carlene Wall and Outreach Adoptions Coordinator Kris Smith drove to the site in one of the Society's vans, amply stocked with food, medical supplies, carriers, and other necessary equipment, they found that conditions inside the small trailer had become so foul that no one in the neighborhood would go in to tend to the cats.

This is the scene that greeted Humane Society rescuers Carlene Wall and Kris Smith when they entered an abandoned trailer where 26 cats had been surviving on their own for over a month.



How did things get so bad?

As it turned out, what had happened was as much the result of plain bad luck and tangled red tape as anything else. The original inhabitants of the trailer were a diabetic man and his wife. When the man had to be taken to the hospital

to have his foot amputated, his wife went with him; however, when they tried to go home, officials said the trailer was unfit for human habitation and sent the husband to an assisted-living center, while the wife went to live with the couple's daughter in



A Siamese cat sits warily in a box on top of a coffee table, while a tabby underneath the table prepares to disappear into a hiding spot. One of the many HSU carriers used to rescue these two and their companions stands ready in the background.

another town. Initially, members of the local church had been putting food inside the door for the cats, but no litter boxes had been provided, the animals had no way of getting out of the trailer, and within a very short time the tiny enclosure had become an impossible mess — far too unhealthy and unpleasant for even the most good-hearted neighbors to deal with.

The people who actually owned the trailer and the property on which it stood had no legal right to enter the premises while the tenants were still paying rent on it — which they had continued to do for about a month after they had vacated the site — and so they had to wait until the renters had signed a release before they could go in or allow animal-assistance groups inside.

Angels in Sweatshirts

When the Humane Society was finally able to take action, the cats had been surviving without food or water and living in their own filth for weeks. Carlene and Kris parked the HSU van outside the trailer, looked hard at each other, and took a deep breath. Then they pulled on smocks, latex gloves, surgical masks, and rubber boots, and tentatively stepped into the dark stench.

After so long a time without any human contact, and reduced to relying on their most basic instincts just to stay alive, the cats had reverted to an almost completely feral state, and as soon as the trailer door opened, they simply vanished from sight. They hid inside and under and on top of the furniture; they crawled behind curtains and into piles of clothing. They wedged themselves under cupboards, behind doors, and into dresser drawers. Capturing the cats became a coordinated effort — Kris would lift up a sofa, several cats

would dash out, and Carlene would toss a net over them, one by one, and transfer them to carriers. Or Carlene would hold an open carrier next to the angle of a half-closed door and the wall, Kris would pull the door open, and the cat would bolt into the carrier. It took all of the first day to get 16 cats and transport them to the Humane Society; the next day they returned and, using similar tactics, retrieved the remaining ten animals.

Once they were all in our clinic, cleaned up, fed, and examined, it was found that several of them were only



HSU Operations Manager Carlene Wall loads a rescued cat into the van for transportation to the Humane Society clinic for a preliminary examination. All the cats were vaccinated, spayed or neutered, and put into foster care for rehab before being adopted from the shelter.

A Beautiful Story

A Wonderful HSU Adoptee and Her Wonderful Person



Sheba relaxes in the loving home she has shared with Keiko Jones for eleven years. She had behavioral problems when she was first adopted from the Humane Society, but patience, effort, and lots and lots of love worked wonders.

Shortly before Christmas, we received the following letter from a very special member who had adopted a “problem” dog from the Humane Society of Utah.

Here is Sheba’s story, as told by her loving companion, Keiko Jones:

I adopted a 10-month-old German shepherd dog in February 1997. It was Sheba. In her short life, she had already been in two different homes (three, if you include that of the breeder where she was born). The first was with a family who had to move without her, and the second was with an HSU volunteer who was trying to see if Sheba got along with her other dog. Well, she didn’t — so she was back at the shelter.

On that particular day I was accompanying a friend to the HSU shelter because she wanted to adopt a small dog for herself. Somehow my friend wound up not adopting a dog at all, and I — who hadn’t come with any intention of adopting any pet — came away with Sheba.

Doubtful Beginnings

She (not my friend, but Sheba) had a lot of behavioral problems. She constantly jumped up on people. At almost a year old, she still wasn’t house-trained. She didn’t show any interest at all in toys and didn’t respond to my overtures of friendship. She wasn’t good with other animals, and in fact one of her first acts was to bite Pebbles, the Australian shepherd who already shared my home. I wept for Pebbles, asking myself, “*Why did I bring someone into the house who would hurt sweet Pebbles?*” I suppose the first impulse of some people would be to return Sheba to the shelter; but, remembering the constant shuffling from place to place she had already undergone, I determined to teach her how to be a happy dog here.

Commitment Pays

I took her to a professional trainer, and we began a series of one-on-one lessons. Some time passed, and Sheba was a late bloomer, but when she did finally begin to realize that she was loved, accepted, and in a real home of her own for good, she positively glowed. She loved her toys and brought them to me for play sessions. She was a perfect heeler when we went for walks. She never jumped on people. She adored herding Pebbles and my neighbors’ little dog, Porter, and when all three dogs played together she was very protective of her “sister.”

Now both my dogs are over twelve years old, both well-behaved, and fast friends. Little Porter passed away some time ago, but Sheba and Pebbles have a new dog-neighbor to include in their circle of love.



Sheba, left, and her best friend Pebbles have enjoyed a lifetime of happiness and close companionship together.

Sheba and Pebbles are my constant companions. They have slowed down a little, and are sleeping comfortably at my feet as I type this. What a wonderful feeling it is to have dogs like these by your side after you’ve spent so much time and shared so much of life together — it’s like good old shoes, a favorite blanket, a cup of warm herbal tea at bedtime. Pure bliss.

I wanted to you to know how much she has added to my world: Sheba, my beloved Humane Society dog. ❖

NOTICE: Annual Membership Meeting

All Members are invited to attend!

All members of the Humane Society of Utah are invited and encouraged to attend the Annual Meeting of the Society, which is to be held **April 28, 2008**, at 6:00 P.M. in the auditorium of the Society's facility at 4242 South 300 West in Murray.

Included in this year's Meeting agenda will be presentation of candidates for re-election to the Board of Directors (Dr. JoAnn Seghini, Steve Starley, and Tim J. Williams); an update of the Society's progress, events, and future plans; and the transaction of any other authorized business.

We invite you to join us at our beautiful facility; we welcome your participation and would appreciate your attendance. The staff, Board, and of course the animals of the Humane Society of Utah wish to thank you for your continued support.



Thanks... continued from page 2

we are deeply grateful to Sen. Davis for his courage and commitment in standing solidly behind this issue. If he hadn't brought "Henry's Law" so forcefully before the public's attention in 2007, and insisted on re-introducing it this year, the entire drive to get felony-level legislation passed would very likely have simply died away — which is what many opponents of the law hoped would happen. But that's not the way it turned out, and Gene Davis is, ultimately, the reason why.

In the House of Representatives, which is where the final and deciding steps were taken to make Utah the 44th state with a felony animal-torture law, we all owe a deep debt of gratitude to Rep. Sheryl Allen (R-Davis) for sponsoring HB 470. This was a "compromise" bill that, while making some concessions to rural and agricultural lawmakers, still retained the existing animal-cruelty code (which would have been devastated by the bill favored by those rural legislators), and provided for a felony-level penalty for the torture of a companion animal on the first offense (again, a great improvement over the opponents' bill, which would have made such acts felonies only if committed a second time within five years of the first crime).

Rep. Allen's bill was not pursued in the House after a nearly identical Senate Bill, SB 297, was passed in the Senate by a large majority and then sent to the House. Since this bill had already been approved by one part of the Legislature and therefore had only one more hurdle to cross, most proponents urged support of SB 297 — which did indeed become law, making Utah the 44th state to have a felony-level animal torture law. The basic structure of the successful legislation lay in HB 470, and we thank Rep. Allen for drafting a proposal that could be accepted by all sides. ♦

UPDATE... continued from page 3

that makes it clear that baking live dogs in ovens, pouring scalding chemicals on kittens, and all the other horrors committed in the past that led to this moment will no longer be tolerated as simple "boys-will-be-boys," slap-on-the-wrist offenses. To every one of you who took the time to contact legislators, write to newspapers, and in any way help get this legislation pushed through, give yourself a big pat on the back — or a really good belly-rub, in tribute to the animals for whom you've made such a difference! ♦

A Workplace Giving Opportunity

In each issue of *Speaking of Animals*, you will see the logo of Community Shares Utah. This is a workplace giving federation that allows employees to donate any specified amount through payroll options to a range of non-profit agencies, including the Humane Society of Utah, that work to benefit the environment, deliver critical services, improve the community, protect human rights and promote animal welfare.



The Humane Society of Utah has been a member of Community Shares for several years. Look over the list of other member organizations at www.communitysharesutah.org to see what good company we keep. HSU would love to benefit from your workplace giving program — if you don't have the opportunity to contribute at work and would like to, please contact

Carlene Wall
Humane Society of Utah
(801) 261-2919, ext. 209

or Lynne Bradley
Community Shares
(801) 486-9224

HSU to the Rescue... continued from page 6

kittens, barely more than about nine weeks old; they may have actually been born in the trailer just before the time the cats were left to shift for themselves. In any event, they and all the other cats were placed in the homes of our superb foster parents to become socialized, strong, and healthy, and ready for adoption to good homes of their own. Within a month of being rescued from their ordeal, all of them were in fact started on the path to wonderful, brand-new lives with permanent, caring new families.

Happy Tails to All

Most of the animals at the Humane Society are brought to us by people who can't keep them any longer; a few are strays; but some of the most dramatic and rewarding cases involve the ones where we ourselves go out to animals in need and literally work miracles. Because of the hard work, persistence, and dedication of Carlene Wall and Kris Smith, the selfless devotion of the foster caregivers who rehabilitated these frightened, half-wild animals and turned them into loving pets, and the willingness of HSU to step in to help animals where the situation may seem hopeless, 26 cats have gone from dismal misery to idyllic comfort. "It's all about caring," says Foster Coordinator Barbara Conrad. "Impossible things can be accomplished with love." ♦