



**HUMANE
SOCIETY
OF UTAH**

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www.utahhumane.org

Summer 2009

Speaking of **Animals**

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

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- ❖ Adoption of animals to qualified homes
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- ❖ 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

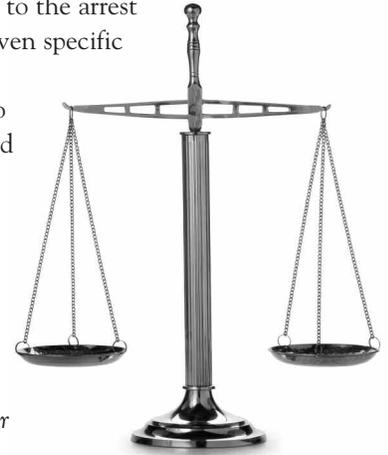
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UPDATE: Arrests made in Three Different Animal Cruelty Cases

In the Autumn 2008 issue of *Speaking of Animals* the Humane Society of Utah discussed a number of high-profile cases of extreme animal abuse, offering substantial rewards for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the perpetrators. At that time seven specific instances were cited, and since then several more episodes have occurred. Right now, we're pleased to be able to report that officials have made arrests and filed charges in three of the most recent incidents. "It's highly gratifying to see the law at long last treating these actions as the serious crimes against all of society that they are," says HSU Executive Director Gene Baierschmidt. "We hope that the realization that the deliberate torture of animals can result in severe consequences will, more and more, help deter those individuals who are inclined toward this type of behavior from recklessly acting out on their sick impulses."



Here are the facts involving three of the most egregious cases of senseless animal cruelty which have taken place over the last few months, and the legal steps that have been taken in each:

1. All HSU members are familiar with the **beating of Ranger the dog**, which drew widespread financial and emotional support from the community when the story hit the headlines. Two teenagers were arrested in that incident, which took place while they were burglarizing Ranger's home. They were the first people in the state's history to be charged with having committed a third-degree felony offense under the new animal-protection law that HSU and other groups had fought so hard to get passed. As of May 1st, one of the boys was sentenced to serve time in a secure facility and a juvenile work camp, but the sentence was suspended as long as the adolescent adheres to the terms of his probation, does not commit any further infractions of the law, and undergoes individual and family therapy. He also must not leave Utah without informing probation authorities, and must be given alcohol and drug assessments. A review hearing is scheduled for June 16th.

2. Last March 21-year-old Anthony Spidle was charged with third-degree felonies after he brutally **beat his girlfriend's 6-month old puppy** with a skateboard and a tennis racket, then flung the animal violently against the wall at least five times, stomped on her head, and finally threatened to cut her head off and send it to the girlfriend. While all this was taking place, Spidle recorded the dog's screams and cries on the girlfriend's telephone answering machine. Gabriella, the dog, was taken to a veterinary clinic in critical condition, suffering from brain swelling, eye damage, and what the *Deseret Morning News* described as "a host of external and internal injuries." It turns out that Spidle had also beaten up the girlfriend herself on at least one previous occasion. (Does anybody see a pattern emerging here?) As of May 1st, Spidle was expected to plead guilty to one third-degree felony count regarding the dog and one Class A misdemeanor count of attempted aggravated assault in the attack on his girlfriend.

3. On Halloween night, **two pet pygmy goats** — each only 12 inches tall — were stolen from their locked paddock in a Tooele family's yard and taken to the grounds of a nearby elementary school, where their throats were cut. A man whose home borders the school property was awakened by what he thought was the sound of children sobbing and drove to the schoolyard, where he saw three young men attacking the crying goats. He called the police, but by the time officers were able to respond the boys had fled and all that remained were the bloody, decapitated bodies of the animals. Authorities were able to contact the goats' owners by identification

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Humane Society Resolves a Foreclosure Tragedy

One of the most heartbreaking side effects of the sagging economy that has plagued America for the past nine years is the negative impact that the loss of income, stability, and home has had on the beloved companion animals of many of the people afflicted by these disasters. If there is any bright spot to be found somewhere in this bleak scenario, it's the fact that the Humane Society of Utah has always been here to take in those displaced creatures and re-locate them to new, safe homes. Over and over through this last decade, shelter workers have had to endure the wrenching ordeal of accepting well-loved cats, dogs, and other animals from weeping families who could no longer afford to provide for their pets, and then offer them a second chance to live in a secure, loving environment. The story of "Cody," a little purebred black Pomeranian, is just one of these points of light in the darkness.

No Other Choice

Cody's original mom was just like many other hard-working, middle-class people who suddenly found the rug pulled out from under her when her employer was forced to make drastic cuts in staff. As she searched for another job, she soon realized that not only were companies everywhere letting long-term members go at a frightening rate, they were also definitely not hiring anyone new. She tried to "make do" as long as she possibly could, but when the mortgage on her home was foreclosed and she literally had no place to live except in her car, she knew that the time had come when she could no longer keep her beloved companion — the one thing that mattered most — with her under such circumstances. That was the day she brought one-year-old Cody, along with his blanket and his favorite toys, to the Humane Society of Utah and asked us to take him and find him a good new home. Both she and the shelter technicians who processed the transaction dissolved in tears as the last good-byes were said.

A New Hope

But there would always be a brighter tomorrow with HSU's help. Like all our other new residents, Cody was at once given a complete nose-to-tail physical exam and placed in

quarantine for a three-day evaluation period. During that time shelter staff who worked with him were enchanted by his charming personality, obvious intelligence, and eagerness to please people. So when he was pronounced ready to be placed in a new home, there was no question that he would capture someone's heart within only minutes of his first appearance in the adoption lobby.

The task of our adoption counselors then became to very closely screen all potential adopters to make sure that Cody's next home would be with someone who loved him as much as

his first companion had and offer him comfort, security, care and affection for the rest of his life.

New Member of an Ideal Family

After conducting many interviews and observing different qualified candidates' interaction with him, our staff came to the realization that Cody himself seemed to have already made his own choice: Again and again he returned to a middle-aged businessman, his stay-at-home wife, their college-student son, and their two daughters, both in their early teens. The entire family had come to the shelter to find a new friend who would suit them all, and the moment they saw Cody they all gathered

around him like iron filings to a magnet. He, in turn, leaped into all five laps one after another, licked their faces and hands, and even after being called and coaxed by others consistently came back to this particular group. Finally he sat down right between the son's feet with an expression of utter contentment on his face and seemed to be very clearly saying, "This is the family for me."

After his adoption was officially completed, we watched him being carried out of the shelter in the arms of one of the girls while the others stroked his ears and patted his back. The very last thing we saw as they lifted Cody into their car was his fluffy black tail joyously wagging back and forth. Cody was headed for home. ❖



This adorable little charmer was one of the many innocent casualties of the economic recession who was given a second chance at a good life, thanks to HSU. When Cody's loving mom lost her home to foreclosure and was forced to live in her car, she tearfully brought her little Pomeranian to our shelter and asked us to find him a new home. Cody is now living in the safe, permanent, caring custody of the family who met him at the Society, fell in love with him, and adopted him.

Doctors in the House

A tribute to HSU's *Superb* veterinarians

February 15th, 2009, marked a very special milestone for not only the Humane Society of Utah, but also for the entire community and for companion animals all along the Wasatch Front. It was the tenth anniversary of the day that Dr. Paul Chapin and his wife, Dr. Shama Chapin, joined our staff as the official veterinarians of our in-house spay/neuter and vaccinations clinic.

In their ten years of outstanding service, Drs. Chapin have performed 86,000 sterilization surgeries and administered 255,000 preventive vaccinations, in addition to running heartworm tests and implanting identification microchips; they also make regular visits to and examinations of every animal in the shelter and, when necessary, administer to sick and injured animals there prior to their being placed for adoption.

So Much Suffering Prevented

Their successful spay/neuter record alone is astonishing. Every animal in the shelter is sterilized before he or she leaves our facility, guaranteeing that no HSU adoptee will ever add to the tragedy of pet overpopulation. Considering that in his or her own lifetime one single unsterilized cat or dog and his or her offspring can be responsible for the birth of thousands of other animals — most of whom will be unwanted and homeless — the fact that this has been prevented from happening 86,000 times by *two* veterinarians working in *one* facility over the past decade is nothing short of miraculous. (Just do the arithmetic to get some idea of what this accomplishment represents.)

The doctors have also helped keep beloved companion animals healthy with regular injections and medications, and have facilitated the reunion of lost animals with their families via ID chip implants. The prodigious amount of high-quality work done by these two people alone has meant health, happiness, and the prevention of much needless suffering and waste of life for literally countless numbers of animals in many ways.



For the past ten years, Dr. Shama and Dr. Paul have devoted their talents exclusively to working in HSU's low-cost spay/neuter and vaccination clinic. In just one decade here, they have sterilized 86,000 animals and provided 255,000 injections of preventive medication.

Roots

Dr. Paul was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and during the first part of his childhood he was closely involved with the animals kept by his father on a nearby farm. It was then and there that he first decided to become a veterinarian. *"It was just something I always wanted to do,"* he explains, crediting his later choice of career to the hands-on experience he received at an early age in nurturing and caring for these creatures.

Later, his father became a graphic arts designer and his work required that the entire family travel frequently to a variety of exotic locales. Young Paul spent much of his adolescence in Saudi Arabia,

completed the pre-vet curriculum at the University of Texas, and then followed his father to India. It was there that he enrolled in the Bangalore-Mysore College of Veterinary Medicine, and it was also there that he met the shy,



This is the stately tower of the Bangalore-Mysore College of Veterinary Medicine, located in southern India, where both Dr. Shama and Dr. Paul Chapin earned their DVM degrees.

soft-voiced, dark-eyed veterinary student who would later become his wife. “Shama and I married right out of vet school,” says Dr. Paul, and the Chapins then embarked together on their shared lifelong vocation — working side by side in sterile masks, gowns, and latex gloves to help make the world a better place for animals. Their first job after graduating was a seven-year stint in a Saudi Arabian mixed-animal practice — “and by that, we really mean ‘mixed,’” says Dr. Paul. “During that period our patients ranged from cats and dogs to lions, tiger cubs, snakes, and, of course, camels.”

The Chapins then returned to the United States to do an internship at Oklahoma State Veterinary College, then successively took up practices in Colorado, Arizona, and Las Vegas. And somewhere in the midst of all that other activity, they also became the parents of a wonderful boy-girl set of twins.

Coming to Utah

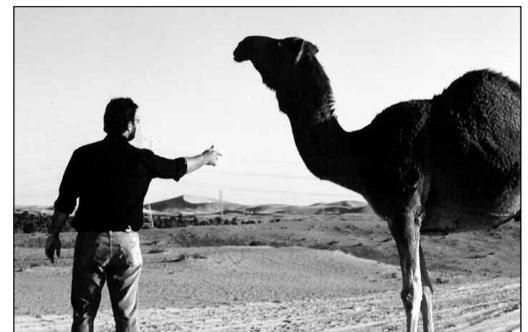
The doctors joined the HSU staff after having established a brilliant reputation at the Las Vegas branch of Animal Foundation International. Their work there was so outstanding that they were featured in a front-page story in *USA Today* in August 1998, and in November of the same year they were the subjects of a lengthy and laudatory article in *Dog Fancy* magazine. When we needed to replace our own veterinary staff, we ran advertisements in all the major veterinary medical journals nationwide and received a flood of responses from highly qualified candidates from Maine to California — including one from Dr. Paul and Dr. Shama. HSU Executive Director Gene Baierschmidt decided to visit them in person, and after seeing them perform was so impressed with their efficiency and professionalism that he decided on the spot that they were the right ones for the job.



The Chapins' first assignment as professional veterinarians involved a wide variety of animal patients in Saudi Arabia. Above, from left to right, Dr. Shama bottle-feeds a baby Thomson's gazelle, cuddles an ocelot, and greets a young lion.



Dr. Paul's clientele in Saudi Arabia included — among many other creatures — a hungry tiger cub, a Dubb lizard, and a dromedary camel.



His instincts, and the doctors' credentials, proved to be right on the mark. In 1998 our clinic sterilized around 4,000 animals; in 2008, that figure was 11,092 — an increase of 177%.

When Dr. Paul and Dr. Shama first came to the HSU clinic in 1999, we predicted that their arrival heralded the beginning of a new era for the Humane Society and Utah's animals. Ten years of spectacular results have vindicated that forecast. Thanks, Drs. Chapin — from many thousands of human and animal hearts. ❖



Donate your **Old Vehicle** to HSU, **Help the Animals!**

as a charitable contribution on your income tax form, and half of whatever price the vehicle brings at re-sale will be donated to us to help our animals. Everybody wins!

You can only exercise this option by going to our website, www.utahhumane.org, and opening the “**Donate Your Vehicle**” link. Fill out the information requested there, and you will soon be contacted by a representative of the company that handles vehicles contributed to non-profit charities. They will arrange a time and place that’s convenient for you, come and remove the vehicle themselves, make whatever repairs are necessary, and sell it. And fifty per cent of whatever price they get will come directly to HSU to help us purchase medical supplies, kenneling, food, bedding, and all the other materials that we need constantly to keep our animals happy and healthy.

Please donate that unwanted vehicle to HSU today and help keep our programs running at top performance levels. ❖

For a long time we weren’t equipped to accept used vehicles as a tax write-off, but for the past year this has been an option that we’d like to make all members of the public aware of. At last, you can do yourselves and our animals a huge favor.

So why hang on to that rusted-out pickup truck or embarrassingly out-of-date Studebaker any longer? Why, for that matter, keep a car that’s perfectly okay but simply isn’t what you want anymore? Now you can have the Humane Society of Utah take the whole thing off your hands with a click of your mouse. It won’t cost you a cent, we’ll do all the work, you can declare it

Snowbird Ski Patrol – **Great friends to more than just skiers!**

Every native of this state, and thousands more from all over the nation and other countries, know about and appreciate the magnificent skiing opportunities offered by our beautiful mountain ranges. After all, wasn’t “*the Greatest Snow on Earth*” responsible for bringing the 2002 Winter Olympics to Salt Lake City?

One of the most popular ski resorts of all is the famous Snowbird, and one of the most important components of Snowbird is its crack team of trainers, instructors, and search-and-rescue experts — the Ski Patrol. For decades these dedicated pros (some of whom have four feet, tails, and warm, self-grown coats) have been an invaluable resource under a wide variety of circumstances. And they do good things for more than just the skiers who come to Snowbird: They also help worthy causes

throughout the community and elsewhere on an annual basis, including the Humane Society of Utah.

Dogs (and People) Helping Dogs (and Other Animals)

Toward the end of January we received a check for \$200 from the Snowbird Ski Patrol, accompanied by this gracious note from its director, Dean Cardinale: “*We are honored to make this contribution to the Humane Society of Utah. Through sales of Snowbird Ski Patrol T-shirts and hats we were able to support many local and international charities like yours. Thank you for the work that you do.*”

We in turn thank the Ski Patrol for its good work, both on and off the slopes, and express our deep appreciation to all of its members for many jobs well done. ❖



The Snowbird Ski Patrol, which is responsible for ensuring the safety of thousands of visitors to the world-famous mountain resort each year, is also noted for its generous support of charitable organizations throughout the community. Last winter they presented the Humane Society of Utah with a check for \$200. (Please notice three canine members of the Patrol sitting proudly in the front row of this photo!)

KIDNAPPED!

— Chihuahua's Ordeal and Happy Ending

One of the primary means by which the Humane Society of Utah maintains its many programs is through the fees charged for adopting its animals — which, considering all that the fee covers (in addition to the guaranteed priceless love that each animal comes with), is a steal at any amount. For example, all of our adoptable animals have already been spayed or neutered, have been de-wormed, have received their first preventive immunization shots, and each dog receives a free leash and each cat goes home in a free cardboard carrier. Even our “VIP” animals — the papered thoroughbreds, the rare and exotic breeds, for whom we ask a higher price than the others — come at a fraction of the cost they would fetch from a professional breeder or pet store.

Each potential adopter is required to fill out a form and spend some time with an animal who is being considered for adoption; this is to ensure that our residents go to caring, responsible homes where they will be compatible with the rest of the family and receive the love and attention that they deserve for the rest of their lives.

Caught on Camera

So in early February when a young man strolled out of the facility with a tiny 7-month-old Chihuahua named Teddy under his arm, stepped into his SUV, and drove away — without having filled out the required forms or paid the adoption fee — HSU staff immediately called the Murray City Police and handed over to investigators the disc made by our surveillance cameras, which clearly showed the entire episode.

“Our main concern is that the animal is all right and will be safely returned to the shelter to be properly adopted to responsible people,” HSU Executive Director Gene Baierschmidt told detectives assigned to the case. *“We don’t want Teddy coming to harm at the hands of someone who cares so little about the dog’s welfare that he would just walk away with him. Obviously this is someone who doesn’t place a very high premium on seeing that the animal is assured of proper shelter, nutrition, emotional closeness, and medical care.”*

No Surprise Here

As it turned out, that assessment was absolutely correct. Almost exactly one week later, a pickup truck was involved in a crash on State Street, and officers responding to the scene found in the truck’s cab, in addition to the drunk driver, a small, terrified dog who was identified by the microchip already implanted under his skin by HSU as none other than Teddy.

Pending determination of whether or not the driver of the truck was the same person who had actually swiped Teddy from the shelter, the man was charged with (in addition to driving under the influence of an intoxicating substance) possession of stolen property. Teddy, safely back in his kennel, was examined by our vets and found to be suffering no serious physical ill effects from his abduction. Best of all, within a few days a very nice couple visited the shelter, fell in love with the little dog, and officially adopted him. Teddy is now a well-loved member of a family who cares about him as a living, feeling individual and is dedicated to ensuring that he enjoys a long, healthy, happy life with them.



Last February, Teddy the Chihuahua was stolen in broad daylight from the HSU shelter. A week later he was returned to the Humane Society when police officers investigating an alcohol-related traffic accident found Teddy, shaken but unharmed, in the cab of one of the trucks involved in the crash.

Value for Value

“The Humane Society of Utah’s mission is to place its animals in good homes — not just to move them in and out of the shelter,” says Mr. Baierschmidt. *“Some people may complain about having to fill out a questionnaire and spend actual time with a prospective adoptee, as well as paying a fee. But that’s the whole point. If somebody really cares about the animal’s well-being, they’re willing to show that they can provide for the animal’s lifelong needs by making a real investment in the animal — an investment of time, commitment, and genuine affection. As Teddy’s experience proved, most thieves aren’t the kind of people you can depend on to give that.”*

In short, if you get something for nothing, that’s just about the value you’ll place on it: zero. ❖

tags on the collars around the animals' severed necks. The family — especially their two-year-old son, who had been the special friend of "Daisy" and "Duke" — was heartsick and devastated by the fate of the beloved pets. In a statement to the press, Gene Baierschmidt said, "The individuals who did this are ticking time bombs as far as the rest of society is concerned. For their own sakes and the sakes of other vulnerable beings, I hope they're identified and properly dealt with."

At the end of April a 20-year-old man named Orion Kent Mitchell Stoltman admitted to beheading the animals. In exchange for his guilty plea, more severe charges against him were dropped and he instead faces two charges of Class A misdemeanor and one Class B misdemeanor charge. Stoltman faces up to 2 1/2 years in jail when he is sentenced on June 9th. The other two attackers, being juveniles, have not as yet been charged. ❖

Classy New Bistro

Has Lots of Good Stuff, Lots of Heart

There's a charming new little hangout in Salt Lake City loaded with delicious old-world ambience, fine wines, good food, and great people. It's called the Meditrina, and it's located at 1394 S. West Temple. Already they're attracting a devoted clientele and, after being in operation for only a few months, the owners decided that they wanted to "give something back" to a community that has welcomed them so warmly. So on March 15th the managers, Amy and Jen, held their first special event: a "Paws for Wine" gala, whose chosen beneficiary was the Humane Society of Utah.

For an entrance fee of \$30, attendees were treated to food, drink, appetizers (their Brie cheese is especially delectable), and rich atmosphere. The staff also asked other businesses to donate items for a silent auction, with all proceeds going to HSU's animal-care programs. Some of the things available to bidders included artwork, beautiful pieces of furniture, doggie-daycare certificates, cooking classes, massages, and even tattoos.

The evening was an unqualified success in every way. A large crowd turned out to enjoy the food and festivities, compete for the auctioned items, and show their support for homeless animals. Quite a few people, in addition to paying the basic \$30 fee, also made personal monetary donations to HSU.

All of us at the Humane Society express our deep thanks to Jen and Amy for a wonderful evening, and most of all for helping us be a voice for those who can't speak for themselves. We definitely award the Meditrina two big paws up! ❖

The Meditrina, located at 1394 S. West Temple, offers a wonderful array of good things, many of which they made available to customers attending a special event in March.

The management generously donated all proceeds from that evening to the animals of the Humane Society of Utah.



Goodbye to a Special Friend

For seven years one of the Humane Society's most devoted volunteers, foster parents, and friend to all animals gave selflessly of her time, her energy, and her heart to make life better for the shelter creatures who most needed that extra dose of love while they waited for new homes of their own. On April 12 Iris Platt, only 45 years old, lost a long-standing battle with cancer and, with her passing, left an enormous void in more lives than she probably could ever have realized.



Iris Platt, shown here with her own beloved Bear, was for seven years one of the Humane Society of Utah's most tireless volunteer helpers. Her passing in April left many friends, both human and animal, bereft of one of their most cherished companions.

In her brief lifetime, Iris completed an astonishing array of accomplishments: besides graduating *cum laude* from the University of Utah with a

Bachelor's degree in Business Administration, she was active in numerous sports, including biking, hiking, swimming, and running marathon races, and also worked for several years as a certified scuba-diving instructor. But more than anything else, Iris Platt loved animals and devoted the great majority of her free time to helping out at the Humane Society of Utah. Shortly before her death, she received the HSU Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of her outstanding service.

Iris's sunny personality and willing hands were an inspiration to everyone at the Humane Society who had the pleasure of working with her. Good-bye, special angel of the animals; you are sorely missed here. ❖

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