



4242 South 300 West • Murray, UT 84107
(801) 261-2919 • www.utahhumane.org



Summer 2011

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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and more!



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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 (801)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 1960

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Lives that Matter

Special People Helping Animals and Each Other

The building of the original portion of the Humane Society of Utah's present facility, which opened in 1992, was made possible by a large monetary gift from Janice R. Johnson, and it is in her honor that the entire HSU compound is today known as the Janice R. Johnson Center for Animals.

In the nearly two decades since that momentous occasion, we have continually grown and expanded our programs and services, and the current additions to the physical structure of the Humane Society are also in large part being made possible by the generous gifts of people who cared about life — life in *all* its forms. Below are brief synopses of the extraordinary individuals whose kindness is responsible for the ongoing development of Utah's premier animal welfare agency. They are all remarkable examples of what it means to be *humane* beings.



Drs. George D. and Esther S. Gross

Dr. George D. Gross was an internist and member of the Family Practice faculty at the University of Utah, and, in addition, established a Presidential Endowed Chair in Infectious Disease at Primary Children's Medical Center. His wife, Dr. Esther S. Gross, was an esteemed pediatrician who was the first female member of the medical staff at Primary Children's, and she also served as President of the Intermountain Pediatric Society from 1953 to 1954. A portion of the doctors' gift was used to erect our attractive, attention-getting electronic billboards in 2002.

Ronald N. and Darlene M. Boyce

Utah's legal system — among other institutions — was well served by the many contributions of Judge Ronald N. Boyce during his lifetime. In 1957 he graduated with honors from the University of Utah's School of Law, where he also held the post of Note Editor of the prestigious *Utah Law Review*. He served as Assistant Attorney General for the State of Utah from 1960 to 1966, was a professor at the U of U law school from 1966 to 2002, and in the mid-sixties and beyond held the titles of United States Magistrate Judge of the U.S. District Court of Utah and Chief Magistrate Judge. He retired from the United States Air Force Reserve as a colonel in 1981, and through his long career sat at various times on the Boards of Directors of many, many worthwhile organizations — including the Humane Society of Utah. Following his death, his support of the causes he championed was diligently carried on by his beloved wife Darlene, who had always actively shared in his interests and commitments.

...and HSU Supporters Like You

In short, it would appear that many of the most productive and beneficial members of society are those who embody the values of compassion, respect and reverence for all inhabitants of the planet, and who strive to do as much good as possible for all their fellow earthly travelers during the time which is allotted to them in this world. And they don't have to be bankers, politicians, or any other persons of wealth and power; they just have to be people who care. Everything the Humane Society of Utah is and does today exists because of very special "humane beings" — people like Janice Johnson, the Grosses, the Boyces, and *all of you*. ♦

Here We Grow Again!



The architects' rendering of the HSU facility after construction is completed shows the greatly expanded clinic and adoptions areas. The vitally important Foster Department will at last have an office and temporary animal housing facilities of its very own, located at the western end of the building.

As I see things

An Expanding Humane Society — Doing Even More for Utah's Animals!

— by Gene Baierschmidt
HSU Executive Director

In order to better serve the community and the animals that we have for adoption here, the Humane Society of Utah has embarked on an ambitious project to expand and improve our facility. Each of these additions will help increase animal adoptions, make our programs more efficient and accessible to a steadily growing clientele, and give us more opportunities to help more animals than ever. Here's the agenda:

- ❖ We will create a brand-new area dedicated exclusively to feline adoptions. Cats will be housed in homelike “apartments,” a setting which studies across the country have shown makes cats more relaxed and friendly, and therefore more adoptable. Prospective adopters also prefer this environment to become acquainted with individual cats and make better decisions about adopting the right animal for them.
- ❖ We are expanding our current lobby to eliminate the present crowding and confusion that result when many new adopters visit the shelter at one time, which is happening more and more often now.
- ❖ We are enlarging our clinic. Because we sterilize and vaccinate so many animals — not only shelter animals, but pets belonging to members of the general public — and because we have added a third veterinarian to our staff, we need much more room and specialty equipment to carry out these programs.

- ❖ We are creating a separate area devoted to the Foster Care program. These dedicated employees, who work with over 300 volunteer foster families and thousands of “special-needs” animals, are responsible for saving many lives each year, and need more space to accommodate their operations. They will at last have their own separate office space and areas exclusively designed for the temporary housing of animals being moved through the foster program.

A large portion of the funding for this project came from a generous bequest left to the Humane Society by Ronald and Darlene Boyce, who, besides being highly influential and respected members of the community, were also devoted animal advocates. Other monies were provided from the estate of Drs. George and Esther Gross, after whom the new clinic area will be named.

Each of these additions will help increase animal adoptions, make our programs more efficient and accessible to a steadily growing clientele...

— Gene Baierschmidt
HSU Executive Director

Please keep track of our progress in the coming months! ❖

Gala Groundbreaking Ceremonies Held for New HSU Building Additions

On a bright, chilly Sunday afternoon at the beginning of May, the Humane Society of Utah's broad east lawn was packed with a crowd of interested citizens, media reporters, and quite a lot of excited dogs in all colors, shapes and sizes — all of whom had gathered to be present for the ceremonial groundbreaking of the new additions to the HSU facility. After more than a year of research, planning and design, we were at last able to set in motion the actual processes of the first big change to the building since it was constructed in 1992.



(left) Groundbreaking ceremonies for the new building additions were held on May 1st, and the entire procedure was begun by Diamond, one of the HSU foster dogs, who was given the honor of turning over the first pawful of earth. He performed his duties with exceptional vigor and professionalism, and was rewarded with a round of applause and a rawhide bone.

(below) After Diamond's initial efforts were completed, the remainder of the ceremonial digging was undertaken by HSU Board members and other dignitaries. The new HSU was on its way!



A Crack Team

The planning and design were largely the work of architect Brett Bullock, who spent months studying the layout of the present facility and then determining how best to create the most efficient, productive, and pleasant atmosphere possible for the new, expanded areas. Among many other innovations, client access to the adoptable cats and dogs will be much more open and relaxed. The animals themselves will be housed in more comfortable, home-like environments to reduce stress and make interaction with potential adopters a more positive experience. Clinic examination rooms will be more spacious, as will the separate cat and dog waiting lobbies and the surgical suites.

After going over the bids of various contractors with intense research, comparison, and discussion — many times

When the first snows of the winter season begin falling, they should be alighting on the broad, beautiful, red-rock-faced facility that will be the new headquarters of what has always been the premier facility for animal care in the state — the Humane Society of Utah. ❖



Tattoo Studio Gets Under Your Skin for a Good "Paws"

In early May, "Art on You," a popular emporium for those who like to make personal statements through the application of "tats" to the canvases of their bodies, presented its second annual "Ink-a-Thon," an event in which a portion of the proceeds gained from its artistic endeavors is donated to charity. This year the selected beneficiary was the Humane Society of Utah, and for a \$20 donation a client could receive a permanent two-inch paw print anywhere on the location of his or her choice. Because of that special activity, there are now 187 people walking around town sporting a testament to their devotion to animals, and HSU has received a generous gift to help maintain our own animal programs!

We deeply appreciate the support provided by Art on You, and also thank the brave souls who were willing to go under the needle for a worthy "paws." ❖

Aaron and Renee, left and center, of the "Art on You" tattoo parlor in Magna present a check for almost \$4,000 to HSU Executive Director Gene Baierschmidt. The money was raised through their second annual "Ink-a-Thon," an event in which the studio donates a portion of its profits to a worthwhile charity.

“Flying Fidos” Transfer from Texas — Destination HSU!

The Autumn 2010 issue of *Speaking of Animals* featured an article on the incredible life-saving efforts of HSU’s innovative Animal Transfer Program, through which animals in other states who are almost sure to be euthanized (because of the careless overproduction of certain breeds in some areas, for example) are brought to our shelter for adoption, and dogs from our own facility who generally have a very low adoption rate here are taken to other places where they’re in higher demand. Within just a few years of the program’s inception, these transfer dogs accounted for nearly 20% of the Society’s successful adoptions.

Since then, word of our triumphs has spread, and so has the scope of our operations. One of the most spectacular — and delightful — transfers took place last May, when six adoptable dogs from the Dallas Animal Services shelter were flown from the Lone Star state to begin wonderful new lives in the Beehive state.



Prior to their departure for the airport, the Dallas Society for Companion Animals whimsically dressed some of the dogs destined for transfer to Utah in appropriate flight gear. Grover, left, was fitted with not only a cap and goggles, but also even with wings and a propeller. Buzz, with headphones in place, proudly sat next to the pilot in the cockpit. (Actually, after the publicity photo call was over, both dogs were divested of their costumes and put into proper, comfortable, individual carriers for the flight.)

Jessica met the first arrival of flying furry friends at 1:45 PM on Thursday, May 26th, at the Salt Lake International Airport’s Million Air terminal. She had already worked with her counterparts in Texas to ensure that the chosen dogs were healthy and well-behaved. *“We hope the public will respond by opening their hearts and their homes to these animals,” she said, “and that this will be just the beginning of a marvelous new phase of our plans to save even more animals’ lives and extend the reach of our ability to help.”*

All six of the Texas travelers, whose arrival at the airport was greeted by representatives from every local major media outlet, were taken to loving new homes within days. In

a follow-up interview, one of the adopters said, as he hugged the happy new member of the family, *“We couldn’t have asked for a better best friend than Grover. He fit in perfectly from the start. The only way anyone could tell that he wasn’t born right here is the fact that he kind of drawls when he barks.”*

So — thanks, y’all, to everyone involved in this great new project. ❖

Who Says Dogs Can’t Fly?

Dallas’s Society for Companion Animals partnered with Frontier and Southwest Airlines to make the entire project fly. Explains Jessica Almeida, HSU’s director of the transfer program, *“We’re starting to work on a trial basis with the SCA in Dallas. They raise funds for the animals’ air fare, then select dogs from their shelter and get them onto the flight to Salt Lake City, where HSU assumes responsibility for their care and getting them adopted.”*

Bunnies abound at HSU

When people come to the Humane Society of Utah’s shelter, the great majority of them expect to find only cats and dogs available for adoption. Not so! We always have a large resident population of Guinea pigs, rats, gerbils, hamsters, and other small furry folk who need homes of their own — and one of our most charming “other” attractions is the Rabbits’ Roost, where beautiful bunnies of all sizes, shapes, colors and breeds are waiting to become your new best friend.

We’ve had everything from tiny Dwarf bunnies to enormous Belgians, snowy white to pure black, sleekly smooth-coated to fabulously fluffy. And what much of the public doesn’t realize is that rabbits make terrific companions! Properly cared for, they’re friendly, affectionate, and sociable.

They develop their own personalities and individual characteristics. They like to play with people and be cuddled.



This is “Kicks,” one of our distinguished little gentleman bunnies who agreed to pose as a model for our story on HSU’s great rabbit community. His fine moustache is one thing that makes Kicks a unique specimen, but all of his friends have special charms of their own, too.

Rabbits can even be trained to use litter boxes, just like cats. And, like all the canines and felines in the shelter, each rabbit is spayed or neutered before being placed for adoption, so there’s no need to worry about their infamous reputation for prolific multiplication.

So next time you come to visit us, please take a moment to hop on over and visit our long-eared community. You’ll love what you see. ❖

A Very Special Somebody

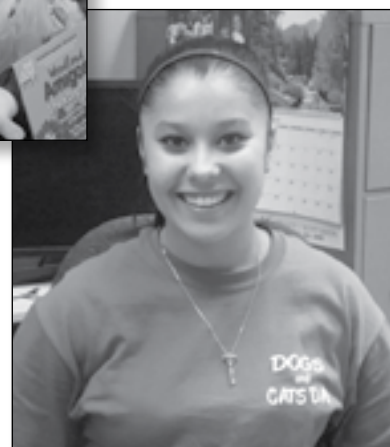
Award-Winning Girl Scout, Future Nurse Jordan Lucero Sponsors “Dogs and Cats Day” for HSU’s Animals

She’s bright, she’s beautiful, she’s got a heart as big as the great outdoors, and she’s only 17 years old. Her name is Jordan Lucero, a senior at Taylorsville High who’s enrolled in both the Certified Nurses’ Assistant program at her school and the Girl Scouts of America. She’s been part of the GSA since she was a child, and this year she decided to try to earn that organization’s highest and most prestigious honor, the Gold Award — a distinction achieved by just 6% of all Girl Scouts nationwide. As her project, Jordan chose to set aside a single day to help the animals of the Humane Society of Utah by collecting much-needed supplies for the shelter; accordingly, she designated March 12 as “Dogs and Cats Day,” which stood for Day of Giving Supplies and Caring About Their Survival.

she was stunned by the community’s generous response. Throughout the day a steady stream of visitors brought blankets, food, cat litter, toys, puppy and kitten formula, cleaning and disinfecting supplies, and scores of other items that are in constant demand to keep the animals healthy, happy, and comfortable. And this amazing young woman even managed to raise over \$1,000 in monetary donations to the shelter.



This is just a portion of the many much-needed supplies that Jordan collected for HSU during her Dogs and Cats Day campaign. She also raised over \$1,000 in cash for the animals.



Lovely Jordan Lucero is beautiful both inside and out. This special, caring high school senior, who has been interested in animal issues since childhood, single-handedly organized an incredibly successful drive on behalf of the Humane Society of Utah in March, and after graduation intends to go on making the world a better place by serving in the capacity of a registered nurse.

Awareness and Sensitivity

Jordan has always been aware of the plight of homeless animals and has visited numerous shelters around the country to learn more about the issue and find ways to help. Even in her very early years she recognized the unnecessary misery created by pet overpopulation and realized that only education and widespread sterilization of companion animals could reduce the number of unwanted cats and dogs being turned in to shelters. And for those animals already in shelters, she wanted to ensure the highest quality of living conditions for them as long as they were there.

She mobilized her community with the slogan “Together we can be part of the solution. With your help, we can do this.” Even though everybody couldn’t actually adopt a pet from the shelter, she pointed out, *everybody* could give something that would make a difference.

Jordan will graduate from high school with a CNA degree, after which she will pursue advanced studies to become a registered nurse. She has obviously chosen to dedicate her life to caring for others, as her early commitment to animal welfare amply demonstrates, and the Humane Society joins her many friends, family members, teachers, and fellow students in applauding a wonderful young person who will inevitably make a distinct difference for good in this world. She’s definitely one in a million. ❖

Overwhelming Success

After spending weeks campaigning, distributing informative literature, and urging family and friends to help spread the word, Jordan came to the HSU shelter on March 12 to see how things would turn out — and even

A Workplace Giving Opportunity



Speaking of Animals is proud to feature the logo of Community Shares Utah in its pages. 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 Receives Top Rating from Nation's Premier Charity Evaluator

The Humane Society of Utah is proud to have received its second consecutive four-star rating from Charity Navigator, the renowned group which evaluates charitable organizations across the country. We are one of only 19% of reviewed charities in America to be thus honored; this designation "differentiates the Humane Society of Utah from its peers and demonstrates to the public that it is worthy of their trust."

Many thanks to Charity Navigator for its recognition of the validity of our efforts, and thanks to all of you for assisting us in those efforts. As this honor illustrates, your faith in us is well justified. ♦



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May 1, 2011

Gene Baierschmidt
Humane Society of Utah
P.O. Box 573659
Murray, UT 84157

Dear Gene Baierschmidt:

On behalf of Charity Navigator, I wish to congratulate Humane Society of Utah on achieving our coveted 4-star rating for sound fiscal management.

As the nonprofit sector continues to grow at an unprecedented pace, savvy donors are demanding more accountability, transparency and quantifiable results from the charities they choose to support with their hard-earned dollars. In this competitive philanthropic marketplace, Charity Navigator, America's premier charity evaluator, highlights the fine work of efficient charities such as your own, and provides donors with essential information needed to give them greater confidence in the charitable choices they make.

Based on the most recent financial information available, we have calculated a new rating for your organization. We are proud to announce Humane Society of Utah has earned our second consecutive 4-star rating for its ability to efficiently manage and grow its finances. Only 19% of the charities we rate have received at least 2 consecutive 4-star evaluations, indicating that Humane Society of Utah consistently executes its mission in a fiscally responsible way, and outperforms most other charities in America. This "exceptional" designation from Charity Navigator differentiates Humane Society of Utah from its peers and demonstrates to the public it is worthy of their trust.

Forbes, *Business Week*, and *Kiplinger's Financial Magazine*, among others, have profiled and celebrated our unique method of applying data-driven analysis to the charitable sector. We evaluate ten times more charities than our nearest competitor and currently attract more visitors to our website than all other charity rating groups combined, thus making us the leading charity evaluator in America. Our irrefutable data shows that users of our site gave more than they planned to before viewing our findings, and in fact, it is estimated that last year Charity Navigator influenced over \$10 billion in charitable gifts.

We believe our service will enhance your organization's fundraising and public relations efforts. Our favorable review of Humane Society of Utah's fiscal health will be visible on our website as of May 1st.

We wish you the best in all of your charitable endeavors.

Sincerely,

Ken Berger
President & Chief Executive Officer

www.charitynavigator.org



HSU volunteer Celeste Cecchini raised the most donations for our pack.

HSU Animals Benefit from "Strut Your Mutt"

Maybe the calendar said it was spring, but apparently nobody bothered to inform Mother Nature of the fact that winter was officially over, as April actually brought a couple of snowstorms and May dragged itself in with one wet, chilly, gray day after another. Then, more than halfway through the month, after a solid week of exception-

ally heavy rain and cool temperatures, the weather suddenly turned absolutely gorgeous for one day — just *one* day! — before returning to its usual gloomy pattern. And the timing couldn't have been better, because that single special Saturday was the day scheduled for the annual "Strut your Mutt" event, where canines and their human companions went on a one-mile walk through Veterans Memorial Park in West Jordan for the benefit of the animal charity of their choice. Hundreds of pups and people joyfully poured out into the balmy sunshine and, following the walk itself, spent hours having a fabulous time at the end-of-the-route Animal Fair, which featured such time-tested dog-pleasers as the famous Course A'Lure obstacle racetrack and the Dazzle Dogz Frisbee Toss.

The walkers were divided into "packs," each representing one of several participating rescue groups and shelters. Scores

of animal advocates raised funds for the HSU pack, whose goal was set at \$5,000, and when the activities were over nearly \$8,000 had been donated to our programs. "This year's Strut was an overwhelming success," said Kris Smith, HSU Outreach Adoptions Director, who, along with Assistant Adoptions Manager Carrie Glavin, coordinated the project from first to last. "Not only did we raise funding far in excess of our expectations, we had a very high adoption rate for the many available shelter animals that we took with us to the walk and the fair. We'd like to thank all of the wonderful people who joined the HSU Dog Pack to do so much good for all the animals at our facility, and give a special thanks to Celeste Cecchini, who raised almost \$800 for the HSU Dog Pack."

We're also grateful to the weather for giving us a whole day of blue skies and buttercups just for the dog walk, because immediately afterward we were drenched with cold rains that lasted for the next week and a half. Somebody up there must love the animals — you Mutt Strutters are obviously backing the right team. ❖



Two participants of the 2011 "Strut your Mutt" event share in the fun at Veterans Memorial Park in West Jordan.

Salt Lake County Sheriff's Officers Take a "Jail Break" to Volunteer at HSU

Visitors to the HSU shelter this spring were frequently startled to see dogs of all shapes and sizes being escorted around the grounds in the custody of uniformed police officers! However, none of these pups had been "collared" by the law for being dangerous felons; on the contrary, the helpful hounds were merely giving a leg up to members of the Salt Lake County Sheriff's Office Corrections Bureau who were engaged in their annual Volunteer Service project — and both cops and canines were obviously loving every minute of it.

Every Thursday over a period of several weeks more than 90 deputies and other staff, supervised by Lt. Matt



One of the deputies from the Salt Lake Sheriff's Office "pauses" for a moment of friendly interaction with a shelter dog who's enjoying the treat of being cared for by these big-hearted public servants. Once a week during April and May members of the Corrections Bureau fulfilled the obligations of their volunteer service project by walking dogs and helping out with other animal-related activities at HSU. Thanks so much to Lt. Matt Dumont and Sgt. Mike Saldivar for their part in organizing this event, in which everybody involved came out feeling good.

Dumont and Sgt Mike Saldivar, were involved in walking dogs, socializing with cats, grooming pets' coats, and otherwise assisting our own volunteer crew in doing all those little extras that make the residents' stay here at the shelter so much more pleasant. "My staff loves animals," said Lt. Dumont, "and having the opportunity to come out to the Humane Society and work with them does wonders for the officers' morale. Furthermore, it often happens that some folks aren't real happy to see us when we're out doing our regular job. So it's important for us to let people observe us interacting in such a positive way with the community as a whole, which is what happens when we're here giving a hand where it's both needed and appreciated."

And we at the Humane Society most certainly do appreciate the efforts of these great public servants. On six different afternoons throughout April and May, our lucky dogs and fortunate felines were given exercise, companionship, and lots of personal attention from "the County's Finest." This is the third year in a row that the Sheriff's officers have visited HSU for their service project, and we hope we'll be seeing them again for many years to come. Many thanks to Lt. Matt Dumont and his officers from everybody here at the Society — and especially from the animals. ❖