



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



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Spring 2013

# Speaking of Animals

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

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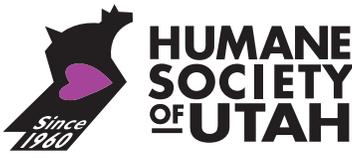
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For further information on services provided by HSU, call (801)261-2919 during business hours.

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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*As I see things*

# Looking Back — and Looking Forward

— by Gene Baierschmidt  
HSU Executive Director

The last session of the 2013 Utah State Legislature is reviewed in detail on page 3, but I just wanted to add a few comments of my own to keep everyone completely up to date. We fought hard for the three bills we were supporting, and we still believe that they're important enough to fight for again, especially the one that will make cockfighting a felony in this state. As you know, this bill successfully passed in the Senate and was narrowly defeated in the House. For the first time, we partnered with other groups to learn how to more effectively work with lawmakers, and we plan to draw on their expertise again. I do want to personally thank all of you who responded to our requests to e-mail your legislators in support of the bills we were backing; your input was tremendous, and we greatly appreciate all that you did to make your voices heard for the animals.

## Wonderful New Worlds for our Cats and Dogs

I'm also very pleased to report that Kitty City has been a marvelous success so far — feline adoptions are actually up by 30% over what they were a year ago, before the elegant new facility opened! Thanks so much to everyone who has visited the Villas, Condos, and Townhomes of Kitty City, and especially to the many people who have taken some of the Citizens home to become members of their own loving families.

And at the end of April we'll begin construction of the new Hound Heaven, to be officially known as "The Wait is Over Rover Dog Adoption Center." Plans for this area have been drawn up with the help of many practical suggestions from the staff, so it should be an ideal environment for our dogs to enjoy while they wait for their "forever" people to pick them out — and the public will find it equally delightful, too. Even though this will be our fifth straight year of not having had to euthanize a single adoptable dog, we expect to find good homes for even more dogs once the new center opens.

## We'd Love You to "Like" Us!

Finally, I want to urge everyone to follow us regularly on Facebook — every day we feature interesting stories about our adoptable animals and lots of other fun things. In fact, the Facebook site alone has been responsible for a noticeable increase in the number of successful adoptions we've been able to process. Please go to The Humane Society of Utah to check out our Facebook page — we promise that you'll really "like" what you see.

The past few months have been a very busy and positive time for HSU. Thanks so much to all of you who have been such an important factor in making all this progress possible. We're looking forward to even bigger and better triumphs in the months to come! ❖

## *Notice of Annual Membership Meeting*

All members of the Humane Society of Utah are invited and encouraged to attend the Annual Meeting of the Society

**Monday, May 13, 2013 ❖ 6:00 P.M. ❖ 4242 South 300 West in Murray**

Included in this year's Meeting agenda will be presentation of candidates for the Board of Directors; 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. ❖

# This Year's Legislative Efforts

## What Happened on The Hill

As we discussed in the last issue of *Speaking of Animals*, the Humane Society of Utah drafted three separate animal-friendly pieces of legislation for the 2013 session, all of which were sponsored by Sen. Gene Davis (D-Salt Lake City). We weren't too confident about the success of the bills regarding the tethering of dogs and the selling/giving away of animals in public places, but we did have tremendously high hopes for SB 52, which would have finally made cockfighting a felony offense in the state of Utah. Here are some of the reasons why we thought this one would surely meet no great opposition from local lawmakers:

- ✓ At a well-attended press conference, we exhibited actual gaffes (the razor-sharp steel slashing devices that are strapped to the legs of fighting cocks) and photographs of barrels filled with the shredded remains of dead and dying roosters — the casualties of a recent “contest.”
- ✓ We displayed an enlarged map of the United States that showed the few remaining states where cockfighting is still classified as only a misdemeanor. Utah is one of only three states west of the Mississippi River to hold this dubious distinction; elsewhere, we're in the august company of seven states in the Appalachian belt of the country that consistently finish last in national polls that rank qualities like literacy, median income, and overall standard of living.
- ✓ The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, an important influence in the lives of many Utahns, publicly endorsed SB 52 because cockfighting basically exists so that the backers of different fighting birds can wager bets against each other, and, as the *Salt Lake Tribune* pointed out, “Utah is one of only two states in the nation that does not allow gambling in any form, and yet the [current] lax law against cockfighting is the same as tolerating gambling.”

### Educated Opinions

Both of Utah's major newspapers came out with strong editorials supporting the Humane Society's proposals, which the *Tribune* called “good for people as well as animals.” Without pulling any punches, the paper in its January 18th edition said, “Cockfighting is like legally defined obscenity: It has no redeeming social value. [Utah's] legislative laxity invites cockfighters from other states to indulge in this activity — it cannot be called a sport. Training roosters to fight, often to the death, is barbaric, and the people who watch and cheer [at these events] are not much better than animals themselves.”

And, as the Humane Society of the United States, which has been studying and researching cockfighting for decades, observes,

“Participants often carry illegal drugs and firearms. Spectators may even bring young children, exposing them at an impressionable age to an environment of violence and callousness toward animals.” Another frequently-overlooked objection is the fact that cockfighting arenas “create an ideal atmosphere for diseases such as avian influenza [bird flu].”

### The Legacy of this Legislature

The 2013 session of the Utah State Legislature may well be remembered by those who care deeply about animals for the failure of our lawmakers to take progressive steps to protect



We held our first-ever Humane Lobby Day on February 13th at the Utah State Capitol Building. With the help of seasoned representatives from the Humane Society of the United States, the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and the Best Friends Animal Society, we discussed ways of establishing effective communication between citizens and lawmakers. Thanks so very much to everyone who turned out for this important event, and also to everyone who contacted their legislators in support of the three bills endorsed by HSU.

those who cannot protect themselves. The first two of our proposals, targeting the extended tethering of dogs and the so-called “parking lot” sale of animals in public places, were both tabled and failed even to pass out of Committee hearings. But the third — the cockfighting bill — seemed at first to show signs that it might actually make it.

SB 52 was passed in the Senate by a vote of 19-9 but, when it went to the floor of the House of Representatives, 28 members voted for it, 39 opposed it, and 8 either abstained or failed to vote at all.

How could anybody be against making a felony of the “brainless violence and blood” — again, the *Tribune's* words — as well as the gambling, firearms, alcohol abuse, and drug trafficking that so often characterize cockfighting? Well, this is the way some of these people, who make the rules about how we as a society are to function, reasoned:

- Utah already has too many felony laws on the books.
- Utah's prisons are overcrowded as it is.
- Anyone convicted of a felony under this law would no longer have the right to own a gun.
- As long as abortion is legal in Utah, cockfighting should be, too. (*Hello? Anybody home here?*)

As another legislative session came to its conclusion, the state of Utah remained mired close to the bottom of the list of all fifty states with regard to animal-protection laws — we're #46, with even Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands all ranking higher. We had a chance to change that disgraceful situation this year, but, unfortunately, our lawmakers took no action in that direction.

Maybe next year. We're not going away on these issues, you know. ❖

# Animal Abuse in Utah

## What's to be done?

— By John Paul Fox, HSU Chief Investigator

*Editor's note: As discussed on page 3, all three of the pro-animal bills introduced by HSU in this year's session of the state legislature ultimately failed, in spite of your much-appreciated calls to your lawmakers urging their support. Since then, we've been flooded with calls from disappointed citizens wanting to know if there's any hope for getting worthwhile legal protection for animals in this state. In response to these many requests, our Chief Cruelty Investigator of 40 years, John Paul Fox, has compiled a list of some of the most frequently asked questions about animal abuse in Utah, and he also talks about the ways we can — and must — keep trying to improve the situation in the face of what sometimes seems to be hopeless opposition. Please read on for a detailed overview of what has been done, what's being done now, and what we will continue to do — with your help.*

### Q. What is the Humane Society of Utah doing to stop animal abuse?

- A. We have always investigated reported incidents of abuse. We also propose legislation that will strengthen Utah's cruelty statutes, as well as work with individual cities and counties to propose stronger animal control and protection ordinances. In 2013 we had three bills in the Utah Legislature with the following aims:
- Increase the punishment for cockfighting from misdemeanor status to that of a felony (it passed the Senate but was killed in the House of Representatives)
  - Make it illegal to sell dogs and cats in public areas like streets, parking lots, etc. (killed in the legislature)
  - Make it a violation, except in certain rural areas of the state, to tether a dog or cat for more than ten hours in any 24-hour period (killed in the legislature)

### Q. How does the Humane Society of Utah spread the word about animal abuse?

- A. We use the media (TV, radio, Internet, interviews, press releases, newspapers, our in-house-generated quarterly newsletter, our website [www.utahhumane.org](http://www.utahhumane.org), Twitter, etc.) to educate the public and our members concerning animal and legislative issues. Other animal-related organizations, such as breed-rescue groups, dog and cat breed clubs, and veterinarians, also have their own programs to educate the public about the needs of animals.

### Q. Do you think there is a major animal cruelty problem in Utah?

- A. Yes. It varies greatly from simple neglect to beatings, shootings, starvation, and, in extreme cases, death. Because HSU is one of the few state-wide humane organizations in the country, there is no central statistical clearing house where state-to-state figures can be compared. The actual number of cases in Utah appears to remain quite similar from year to year, although large-scale incidents may cause statistical "bumps" in any particular year.

### Q. If so, what do you think a good solution would be to animal abuse?

- A. Strong laws will certainly help in the long run. Unfortunately, though, enforcement only helps *after* an animal or animals have already suffered. *Education* — changing the way our society regards animal cruelty — is the only true preventative.

### Q. How do you think that animal abuse can best be prevented?

- A. People need to become educated; they need to learn to respect other people, as well as other life forms. These principles should be taught by parents, relatives, educators, and other

social groups. Children should be taught their society's values and ideals with a clear understanding of what is expected and accepted within their culture, as well as what is "taboo" or unacceptable in their community. Acts that are in concert with such ideals and values should be rewarded. There should always be a real and immediate consequence for failing to live up to those ideals and values.

### Q. Have you seen many cases of animal abuse during your time working in your job?

- A. Yes. As an example, between 2003 and 2012 alone I investigated a total of 2,805 cases.

### Q. Are existing Utah laws strong enough to prevent the torture and abuse of animals?

- A. Strong laws alone don't prevent torture and abuse, any more than laws against murder can prevent people from killing one another. Strong laws are important as a deterrent or punishment; however, education is a much more powerful tool in trying to make people empathize with other individuals and life forms and thereby prevent cruelty from occurring in the first place.

### Q. What is the worst case of animal abuse you have seen?

- A. That one is always hard to answer, as severe cases range from shootings, injuries from fireworks, burning, being buried alive, starvation, mutilations, etc., all of which, and more, I've seen. In my opinion, all incidents of animal abuse are my "worst" cases.

### Q. Is there enough funding for anti-abuse from the government?

- A. The Humane Society of Utah is a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization and doesn't receive any funding from the government or tax revenues, and relies on donations, grants, bequests, and service fees (adoptions, sterilizations, vaccinations, etc.) for our operational costs. Government funding via taxpayer revenue goes to local city and county animal control programs, which, in some instances, also perform cruelty investigations and prosecutions.

### Q. Why do you think pet abuse occurs?

- A. There are a variety of reasons: lack of sympathy for other life forms, greed, revenge, frustration, peer pressure, even sadistic pleasure in witnessing the suffering of other beings who are not competent to defend themselves against the aggressor. All of these reasons, I believe, are manifestations of a problem in the abuser's personal/mental/emotional makeup.

### Q. What is the most commonly abused animal in Utah?

- A. From a purely numerical point of view, that would have to be animals raised and confined in "factory-type" farming, and those that are used in invasive/painful experimentation or product testing. With respect to family pets, it would be a pretty close tie between dogs and cats.

### Q. What would be a short outline of a long-term plan that eventually ends animal abuse in Utah?

- A. Realistically, I don't believe that there can ever be any real "end" to animal abuse anywhere as long as people and animals must co-exist in the same environment. There will always be a segment of the population that will fail to respect their own or others' animals, resulting in animal neglect and abuse. All we can do is continue to try and improve what we and other animal welfare organizations have been doing ever since one of the very first of such groups — the Liverpool Society for Preventing Wanton Cruelty to Brute Animals — was founded in England in 1809. But we can take heart in the progress that humankind in general has made in those two centuries: For example, many brutal "spectator sports" like bear-baiting are no longer tolerated in civilized countries (although cockfighting and dogfighting

continue to flourish in undercover groups, and cockfighting is still only considered a slap-on-the-wrist misdemeanor in Utah and in the backwoods of Appalachia).

**Q. Do you think that the problem of animal cruelty will ever be fixed?**

A. No. As long as there are people and animals, there will always be some problems or conflicts.

**Q. Is the punishment for animal abuse not severe enough, or too severe?**

A. That, again, varies with each individual case. In some cases we feel that the judicial system doesn't take all the steps necessary to insure that the abused animal(s) in a convicted defendant's custody are given all the protection available to the court, while in other instances a person may be sentenced to jail or even prison. Whether or not this is a sufficiently "severe" punishment is often considered to be a debatable issue.

**Q. In what area of the city have you had the most calls about animal abuse?**

A. The Humane Society of Utah handles complaints throughout the entire state of Utah, not just Salt Lake City. The majority of our cases, however, are located within the Wasatch Front, as this is where the largest portion of the state's population resides. Complaints received by our office are generally located in lower- to middle-class neighborhoods, although they may also include individuals and their animals in high-income areas, or might involve homeless and destitute persons on occasion.

**Q. What happens to animals that you rescue from abusive situations?**

A. Because all of Utah's animal welfare organizations haven't had law enforcement authority since the Utah State Legislature repealed such authority in 1998, "rescues" are typically handled through local animal control, police and sheriff agencies. Animal welfare groups and animal rescue groups may assist such agencies in handling some "seized" animals when the government agencies become overwhelmed. Most animals, if permanently removed under court order or if the animals are legally signed over by their owners/caretakers, are examined, screened for temperament, health, disposition, age, and aggression; then, if it is deemed safe to do so, the animals are either placed for sale, adoption, or public auction.

**Q. I have read that "over 100 million animals — mice, rats, dogs, cats, rabbits, monkeys, and birds, among others — are killed in U.S. laboratories for chemical, drug, food, and cosmetic testing every year." Do you think there is a solution to this situation?**

A. It is to be hoped that, as technology advances and human nature evolves, computer models and tests using tissue and cell samples will be developed that can replace current testing methods.

**Q. Do you think the new "Ag-Gag" laws (laws banning or "gagging" the public from observing and reporting animal abuses witnessed in agricultural operations) are good or bad, and why?**

A. I don't believe that any legislation is warranted which gives one type of business special protection against public airing of instances of animal abuse. Such protection is not provided to other businesses. What if it were illegal for workers or others with inside knowledge to publicize instances of harmful contamination in our drug or food industries? What if workers or scientists were afraid to make public information about produced structural steel that was prone to stress failure or collapse? All of our industries should be open to public scrutiny and review, and should not receive special protection through laws enabling them to hide inappropriate or illegal actions.

**Q. I have read that there are legislators in Utah who want to allow the killing of feral or stray animals. What is your opinion about that?**

A. Unfortunately, there will always be some people who feel that if they don't like something they should have the legal right to destroy it without regard to property rights, morals, or use of existing humane alternatives. We have animal control agencies in almost every major city and county in Utah, and they can usually deal with feral or stray animals. There are existing laws which allow residents, in specific circumstances, to injure or kill a dog while that dog is attacking, chasing or worrying certain animal species, such as livestock. Other laws may permit a person or law enforcement officers to use lethal force if they are threatened with serious bodily injury or death. Current Utah laws do not allow killing animals for mere trespass.

**Q. Dogfighting and cockfighting are still practiced today. What is your opinion on this?**

A. Any "blood sport" is illegal, brutal, and barbaric and is almost always associated with other illegal activities, such as violence, gambling, drugs, weapons violations, etc.

**Q. What is "animal hoarding"?**

A. "Hoarding" occurs when an individual keeps more animals than the number for which he/she can provide necessary care, and as a result the animals suffer from unsanitary conditions, malnutrition, and unaddressed medical issues, and may even die. These individuals may also have related psychological problems which need to be addressed. The solution isn't simply to remove the animals and file criminal charges. A host of interventions should be used involving animal control/animal welfare organizations, psychological counseling, and health departments, for example.

**Q. What is your opinion of the exotic pet trade?**

A. The illegal trafficking in, and poaching of, exotic species for sale to the public, game farms, menageries, sideshows, pet stores, etc., creates a host of problems for wildlife populations in general and for the individual animals themselves. The most common abuses are poor care and/or deaths which occur during transportation from the animals' point of origin to the "middleman" and then on to the final seller/buyer; exotic diseases; poor or inappropriate diets; and other related forms of callous disrespect for the living beings involved in this "business."

**Q. Is pet theft a problem in Utah?**

A. Pet theft is certainly a problem; however, this is not an animal cruelty issue, but rather a property crime, and is therefore dealt with under property theft ordinances and statutes by animal control, police and sheriff agencies. Certain breeds, especially purebred or small breeds, are highly sought-after in theft cases because of the large amounts of money for which they can be sold.

**Q. What are your qualifications to talk about the subject of animal abuse?**

A. I have been the Chief Investigator for the Humane Society of Utah for over forty years. In addition to the daily exposure I receive to complaints of animal cruelty and neglect, I regularly attend national and local seminars, training courses, specialized instruction classes, and conventions involving animal welfare officials from every branch of the practice. I am well-read in, and stay continually updated on, the Utah State Code's animal-related regulations. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, I strongly respect and care about not only animals, but also about seeing that humane and compassionate laws and attitudes are established in any society that calls itself civilized. ♦

# Do Right by Your Rabbit!

Every spring, the same sad story unfolds: Easter approaches, and the public is bombarded with images of cute, fluffy, adorable little bunnies — an ancient symbol of new life and renewal — and the kids start begging their parents to get one as a family pet. “Why not?” they say. “How much trouble could such soft little things possibly be?” Well, the unhappy fact is that, although these sweet, small animals look just like the cotton-stuffed acrylic toys in the store, that’s not what they are. They’re living, feeling, aware beings. They need daily care and attention. They need proper food and handling and medical attention. They (gasp!) *grow up!* And when all of this suddenly makes them seem like a lot less “fun” than they were in the beginning, far too many people decide to simply throw them away, in one fashion or another — just like shabby old toys that don’t belong in the nursery anymore.

## Use your Heart *and* your Head!

Look at the picture of “Easter,” an irresistible little lion-head dwarf bunny who was adopted from the Humane Society of Utah in the spring of 2012, and was turned back in to us nine months later. Actually, Easter was one of the lucky ones — after the novelty of “owning” such a charming creature wore off, she was brought to a responsible shelter and later re-adopted to a carefully-screened family. Many more aren’t so fortunate. These are the ones that get released outdoors, either in an empty field or the foothills of one of the canyons — hey, that’s where these guys were meant to be living anyway, right? Wrong. It’s a sure death sentence, and rarely an easy death, at that.



*This little blue-eyed beauty — a “lion-head” dwarf rabbit, so called because of the thick fur around her face and shoulders that resembles a lion’s mane — was adopted as a pet last Easter and returned to the shelter shortly after Christmas. Bunnies make wonderful companion animals, but people do need to remember that they’re not toys, but real, live animals with specialized needs.*

Cynthia Alex, a long-time HSU volunteer and our unofficial “Rabbit Expert,” was kind enough to provide us with the following information from the House Rabbit Society: “Rabbits are prey animals [that is, victims of predators] by nature. They are physically delicate and fragile, and require specialized veterinary care. Children are energetic and loving, but ‘loving’ to a small child usually means holding, cuddling, or carrying an animal around in whatever grip their small hands can manage — precisely the kinds of things that make most rabbits feel insecure and frightened. Rabbits handled in this way will often start to scratch or bite simply out of fear. Many rabbits are accidentally dropped, resulting in broken legs or backs. Those rabbits who survive the first few months quickly reach maturity. When they are no longer tiny and cute, kids often lose interest, and the rabbit, who has no voice to

*remind you he’s hungry or thirsty or needs his cage cleaned, is gradually neglected.”*

## Things to Remember

If you are thinking about acquiring a rabbit as a pet — at Easter or any other time — never do it on an impulse. Do your homework first, and always keep these facts in mind:

- ✓ Pet rabbits have a lifespan of seven to ten years. Are you prepared to assume responsibility for the animal’s proper care for that length of time?
- ✓ For the rabbit’s health and well-being, make sure that an adult will always be the primary caregiver and will always supervise any children in the household who are interacting with the rabbit.
- ✓ Both female and male rabbits should be surgically sterilized before they are brought home. (All of HSU’s rabbits are spayed or neutered before they’re ever put up for adoption. If the surgery is done by a private vet, the cost can be \$90 or more.)
- ✓ Unspayed females have a high chance of developing ovarian cancer and can die within two to three years.
- ✓ Both unspayed females and unneutered males can become aggressive. Females will act as if they’re guarding a “nest,” even if they aren’t pregnant. Males will behave as if they’re protecting their territory. Both males and females will spray, which makes an unpleasant odor.
- ✓ Rabbits’ nails need to be trimmed regularly, and if you aren’t able to do it yourself in a way that’s safe for both of you, a trip to a groomer or vet will be necessary.
- ✓ The best diet for a rabbit is unlimited hay and selected vegetables *only*, which can hike up your grocery bill when shopping in the produce section. You can safely add rabbit pellets to the menu, but this can also be pricey. *Never* try to feed rabbits cat or dog food.
- ✓ Rabbits can be trained to use a litter box, but do *not* use a clay-based cat litter. If they consume this material, the results can be fatal. The proper litter is one made of natural fibers (which can be more expensive).

Domestic rabbits are inquisitive, intelligent, and very social by nature, and they make delightful companion animals — as long as you know what will be required to care for them properly and treat them with the same personal attention and affection that you would provide for any other family member.

“Ears” to a very “hoppy” relationship! ♦

# Don't Miss This One!

## HSU's First Ever

# "Wags to Wishes" Gala

## Will Dazzle for Dogs, Frolic for Felines

In our last newsletter, we gave everyone a preview of the plans for the wonderful, first-time-ever formal dinner affair scheduled to take place this summer for the purpose of raising funds for maintaining the Humane Society of Utah's programs, which include — among many other things — providing food, shelter, medication, adoptions, low-cost sterilization surgeries and vaccinations, statewide investigation of animal cruelty and abuse. Since then, the Gala's organizer, Jamie Usry, has been hard at work polishing up all the details necessary to make this an absolutely unforgettable evening. Here's the lineup of everything you need to know, so please start getting ready now for our first "Wags to Wishes" night out!

**Date:** Friday, June 7th, 2013

**Place:** The Garden Place building  
"This is the Place" Heritage Park  
2601 E. Sunnyside Ave., Salt Lake City, UT 84108

**Attire:** Formal (white gloves and tails optional)

**Cost:** \$125 per seat, or \$1250 per table sponsorship

A Sponsored Table seats eight people. A placard will be placed on the table, and the sponsoring group will also be acknowledged in the printed program. (Both the placard and the program will feature a company logo, a name, or any other recognition of the sponsors' choice). Each guest at a Sponsored Table will also receive a special HSU gift bag.

All proceeds will directly benefit the unwanted and homeless animals at our shelter.

### Schedule of Events:

6:00 PM — Registration opens

6:30 PM — Open bar reception,  
silent auction, and  
music by Red Rock Hot Club

8:00 PM — Dinner, live auction, and program hosted  
by Dan Evans and Kerri Cronk of Fox 13 News

### Entree choices:

- ♦ Grilled Filet of Salmon with Papaya Mango Salsa
- ♦ Grilled Breast of Chicken with Apricot Cherry Chutney
- ♦ Vegetarian

Wine at the table. Bottles of white or red wine can be purchased in advance with your seat or table reservation at \$20 per bottle.

For the best seat assignment, please purchase your tickets now. Seats will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. Please call Jamie Usry at 801-261-2919, ex. 207 to purchase your tickets.

Corporate Sponsorship opportunities are also available; for information on sponsorship at this level, please e-mail Jamie Usry at [jamie@utahhumane.org](mailto:jamie@utahhumane.org). ♦



## What Ravens? What Forty-Niners? HSU Won the Really Big Game The "Su-Paw Bowl"!



*These bright posters were distributed all over town prior to the three-day Su-Paw Bowl competition between HSU and Salt Lake City Animal Services in late January. Best Friends Animal Society subsidized the event to help the competing teams make their animals available for adoption at super low prices!*

the community. Both organizations had jerseys made, each with its distinctive logo. The refreshment bar, appropriately enough, featured GatorAde® and Power Bars. Adoption staff wore shaggy two-tone wigs and painted their faces in the team colors. And when the clientele started pouring into both of the facilities, they were greeted with what the whole Su-Paw Bowl was about — the scores of beautiful, healthy, loving cats and dogs who needed to be given wonderful, forever homes of their very own.

All the animals had been vaccinated, surgically sterilized, and microchipped, and were being made available on this special occasion for the super price of only \$5 per cat or \$30 per dog — undeniably, an amazing deal for a lifetime of unconditional love, devotion, and endless fun. Overall, the aim was to get 300 of these adoptions successfully completed during the three-day run of the Bowl — 200 from HSU and 100 from SLCAS. And when it was all over, HSU went home with the winning trophy, having placed 71 of its cats and 96 dogs, or almost 85% of its total goal.

*Touchdown and game! Carlene Wall, left, and Kris Lamoreaux, who organized the details of the first ever Su-Paw Bowl, celebrate HSU's victory wearing wigs spray-painted in our official hues of sage green and purple.*

## Two Groups, One Goal: Save Homeless Pets

The fun started well before the actual face-off, with colorful posters and promotional materials being put on prominent display throughout

## Su-Paw Bowl II?

Everyone had such a good time with this activity, and the results were so successful for both teams, that Su-Paw Bowl may become a regular event, as eagerly anticipated (well, along the Wasatch Front, anyway) as that other game that gets so much attention at the beginning of the year.

Thanks so very much to all the sponsors, participants, and people who made a lot of cats and dogs happy new members of their families. Everybody was a winner here, paws down! ♦



# This is Real Courage:

## HSU Presents its First-ever “Humane Hero” Award to Tyler Broberg



“I would absolutely do the same thing all over again, award or not,” says Tyler, cuddling his best buddy Cash, for whom he risked his own life when a fire burst out in the Broberg apartment last winter. Thanks to Tyler’s compassionate and courageous actions, Cash was brought out of the blaze frightened but unharmed. Everything else belonging to the family was lost, but Tyler says, “That’s okay. My wife and I still have each other, and we both still have Cash. It’s times like this that make all your priorities suddenly come into focus.”

Just before Christmas last year, local television stations featured the dramatic story of a raging duplex fire that completely destroyed the entire structure; fortunately, the report announced, all residents escaped without injury — except for one man who had dashed back into the blaze in an attempt to save his dog, who was still in the apartment, and in so doing “suffered severe burns over 30% of his body.” That was the end of the news coverage about the event, and many viewers were left wondering, “So what happened to the dog?” The Humane Society of Utah went to work to find out.

### A Truly Humane Human

We located this extraordinary man — his name is Tyler Broberg — living with his wife in a new home while he recuperates from the severe injuries he sustained that day in December, and they were in the happy company of the third member of their family: Cash, the little terrier for whose life Tyler had risked his own. After hearing the full story from the Brobergs themselves, HSU officials were so deeply impressed by the selflessness, compassion, and sheer courage shown by Tyler during the catastrophe that they decided to do something that the Society had never done before. On January 20th, Tyler was presented with not only a check for \$1,000 to help cover his medical expenses, but also with an engraved plaque honoring him as a hero. When HSU Executive Director Gene Baierschmidt placed the award in Tyler’s hands, he said, “All of the Brobergs’ belongings were lost in that fire except their little dog Cash, whom Tyler valiantly rescued at great personal cost to himself. We hope that what he did will serve as an example and promote the humane treatment of animals everywhere.”

Tyler himself saw nothing unusual in his actions. “My dog’s my baby, he’s my kid,” he said, cuddling the bright-eyed two-year-old pup (who, thanks to his dad, came out of the inferno unscathed). “There was no second-guessing about whether I’d go back for him or not.” He described

crawling back into the house, which was “a complete fireball,” on his hands and knees and frantically searching in the smoke and flaming timbers for Cash. “When I spotted him, he was crouched against a baseboard, shaking all over. I called to him and he dashed right into my arms. I tucked him up close to my chest to shield him as best I could from everything that was going on around us, and somehow we eventually made it out into the clear air. My wife grabbed Cash from my arms, and a fireman threw a blanket over me and started spraying me with an extinguisher. I hadn’t even realized until that moment that my neck, shoulders, and lower back had caught fire while I was in there.”

### Well-Earned Recognition

It will be at least another two months before Tyler is able to go back to work, but he feels that any pain, loss, and trouble that resulted from his decision were all worth it. “I really, really appreciate this award,” he said, looking proudly at the HSU plaque. “It will always be a reminder to me of what the truly important things in life are. I wasn’t expecting any kind of recognition — Cash is my best friend, and thinking twice about doing everything in my power to save him was an option I never even considered — but it’s great to know that what I did mattered to other people, too.”



Tyler Broberg, right, accepts the Humane Society of Utah’s first-ever “Humane Hero” award from HSU Executive Director Gene Baierschmidt. Tyler, who suffered severe burns while rescuing his dog from their burning apartment, earned the Society’s recognition by “making the community more aware of the value of our animal companions, and of the special role they play in our lives,” said Mr. Baierschmidt.

Gene Baierschmidt was quick to assure him that his heroic actions mattered a great deal to a great many people: “You’re an example of what’s best in all of us,” he said, shaking Tyler’s hand. “To lay your own life on the line for the sake of another’s life — whether that life belonged to another human being or not — is just about the noblest thing anybody can do. You’ve made a big part of the community more aware of the value of our animal companions, and of the special role they play in our lives.”

At that point, Cash joined in the conversation by raising his muzzle and affectionately licking Tyler’s cheek. That was considered, by all parties involved, to be a most fitting conclusion to the entire ceremony. ❖

## Would you like to be a Miracle Worker?

Every day the Humane Society of Utah takes in cats and dogs with special needs of all kinds, and our Foster Department can always use help in providing the extra care and love that these “challenged” animals require to make them ready to be adopted to good new homes of their own. Temporary homes are in great demand in the following areas:

- Mother dogs or cats with litters that are still too young to be placed for adoption
- Kittens and puppies who have no mothers and require regular bottle feeding
- Motherless puppies and kittens who are old enough to have been weaned, but who are nevertheless still too young to be put up for adoption

- Adult animals with physical or emotional handicaps who must be given conscientious, one-on-one care and attention to help them learn to blend into a real family

Please make sure that, if you wish to foster, your own animals are current on their vaccinations, including bordetella to ward off kennel cough.

Time spent by animals in foster homes usually ranges from approximately ten days to two months; we ask that you be able to make a commitment to keep an animal for as long as it takes to ensure his or her good health and adoptability.

Fostering is fun, rewarding, and you’re helping to save lives! If you’d like to be a genuine miracle worker, please call 801-261-2919, ext. 215, or e-mail [bconrad@utahhumane.org](mailto:bconrad@utahhumane.org) ❖